

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Cllr. Janet French (Chairman)	01952 770 677	janet@terncrafts.co.uk
Cllr. Brian Ashton	01952 770 156	c/o the clerk see below
Cllr. Claire Broderick	01952 770 636	mclaieb@btinternet.com
Cllr. David Johnson (Vice Chair)	01952 770 577	dave.johnson@t2enterprises.co.uk
Cllr. Liz Tudor	01952 770 348	lizzie.tudor@virgin.net
Cllr. Tim Osborne	01952 770 801	opsi@direct.shawburyigs.raf.mod.uk
Cllr. John Perkin	01952 771 261	nikrep@dsl.pipex.com
Borough Councillors		
Cllr. Jacqueline Seymour	01952 506 790	jacqui.seymour@telford.gov.uk
Cllr. Derek Kiernan		

Want to make the Council aware of a situation then write, email or call;

The Clerk; Alison Hinks, 7 The Roseway, Wellington, TF1 1JA
Tel. 01952 272365

Email; the-clerk@rodingtonpc.org.uk

Dates for your diary:

Event	Day	Date	Time	Venue
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	3rd Sep. 2008	19.30	Rodington Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	1st Oct. 2008	19.30	Longdon Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	5th Nov. 2008	19.00	Rodington Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	3rd Dec 2008	19.30	Longdon Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	7th Jan. 2009	19.30	Rodington Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	4th Feb 2009	19.30	Longdon Village Hall
Monthly Council Meeting	Wed	4th Mar 2009	19.30	Rodington Village Hall

Members always welcome to attend particularly if they have issues of concern to bring to the Council's attention

RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER — July 2008

Change of Heart

Rodington PC in line with the Parish survey and all Parishes along the old Shrewsbury-Newport canal route have felt T & W have for several years failed to show true support for the restoration cause. Whilst the Mayors of Newport and Shrewsbury made a point of attending



The Shrewsbury-Newport Canal Trust AGM each year representation from T & W was lacking. However following the recent local elections the change of leadership has seen a change from a very urban centred approach to one that includes

the whole Borough, Urban and Rural.

The new approach has seen investment promised not only for Telford town Centre but a fair share for District Centres to enrich the area as a whole. Also the Council Cabinet agreed to inject a six figure sum into the Canal project to purchase the wharf buildings at Wappenshall basin. (continued P.2)

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Rodington Village Hall

Important News Update



The next phase of building improvements is now underway with the following in the main room:

- New outer roof with improved heat insulation.
 - Plaster board inner roof lining with decoration including roof trusses.
 - New low-energy, dimmable lighting.
 - New low surface temperature heating radiators.
- New basic 'drama lighting'.

This work cost in excess of £27,000 with important grants from SITA Trust (the Waste Management Group) and £3,000 from Rodington Parish Council. The balance has been raised by the fundraising efforts of the Management and Fund-Raising Committees and the 200 Club.

We did not receive the full amount from SITA Trust that we applied for and the grant application to Awards For All (National Lottery) was not approved. This means that further proposed work to replace doors, improve the flooring and staging will now have to wait.

By Brian Richards.

Rodi's Entertainments. (Preview) (2008/9 Winter Season)

Fri 3rd October	The Sundial Theatre.
Fri 7th November	Hadley Orpheus Male Voice Choir.
Fri 12th December	Rodi's Christmas Show.
Fri 9th January	Showcase
Fri 6th February	The Shrewsbury Light Orchestra
Fri 6th March	Of One Accord
Fri 3rd April	The Jackfield Elcock Delsen Band.

The plan yet to be finalised would facilitate the Trust leasing the wharf buildings as an HQ, Museum and heritage centre. Trust Chairman Chris Chambers said "Its wonderful. We have been fighting since 1968 to make this a reality and now, after all these years to get something tangible with Telford & Wrekin onboard is super".

Supporters of the restoration plan hope this first step will act as a catalyst to unlock further funding from various sources to link the canal from Newport through to Shrewsbury



Rodington

Post Office & Stores

Situated at the Village Hall Rodington. Tel. 01952 770035

Open 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri

Sat 9.00 am to Noon

Parents Take Note

'Children and young people in the Parish of Rodington will be applying for primary and secondary school places between September and December 2008.

If you are about to apply for a school place and want to check if you are entitled to free transport to your chosen school, please contact the Admissions and Transport Officer at Telford & Wrekin Council on telephone number 01952 380902'

T & W Appoints Rural Officer

In a move to improve relations and communication with Rural Parishes T & W have appointed Carolyn Oaks, as Telford & Wrekin Council's Rural Officer. We have asked her to the Parish Council meeting at 7.00 pm on 1 October 2008. This meeting will be held at Longdon upon Tern Village Hall. The aim of her visit is to discuss rural transport, footpaths, the closure of rural post offices and planning in rural areas. All welcome to attend.

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So apparently if you have a rural derelict building suitable for restoration as a home (desperately needed according to central government) unless it's in one the pro-scribed villages it will be rejected so save planning application fees and leave it be, derelict and an eyesore. How does this situation come about? Well it's all in the LDF (Local Development Plan) reducing 100's of pages to layman's terms T & W is required to build 21,000 new homes by 2016. The Government is threatening another 10,000 on top. So the LDF says the houses should be sited near employment, facilities, shops schools etc, and urban space. Logical of course and a serious drive to reduce travel miles to reduce carbon emissions. So development is restricted to Telford, Newport and the three villages of Tibberton, High Ercall and Waters Upton. The previous LDF that finished March 2008 was similar in that rural develop-

was restricted to in-fill and renovations that were sympathetic to the original buildings and ambiance of the locality or in other words planning with common sense. Now the Planning department having written this wonderful document "The Core Strategy" find themselves strictly bound by its terms that forgot that all villages are living environments and exceptions and need for regeneration abound. Based on the current tunnel vision the rural areas in terms of building are on hold until 2016. Almost as practical as saying to government you cannot increase taxes from now to 2016

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LONGDON-UPON-TERN VILLAGE
HALL REGULAR EVENTS

Pathway People, Alternate Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00pm (Doreen Brown 541395 or Rosalie Wheeldon 770247). Restarts Sept. School term.

Line Dancing, Tuesdays 7:30pm (Janet French 770677).

Canine Conundrums, Wednesdays. Contact Carole 01952 410964

Report to Annual Parish Meeting, 2nd April 2008

By Janet French

As the minutes are now on the website every month and the newsletter carries such good reports of our activities I shall keep this report fairly brief. At the last Annual Parish Meeting in May 2007 I was looking forward to a smoother year with an established Clerk but unfortunately that was too much to hope for. Michael Gledhill moved on to full time work with Great Dawley Parish Council last June and we recruited Michael Ward to the Clerk's post. He has been an excellent Clerk and learned the job quickly and achieved a great deal for us. As a result he received a better offer with Albrighton Council. Our experience is that we will find suitable candidates for the job but each time we take an unqualified Clerk that puts us farther away from our goal of becoming a Quality Council. It is rare that qualified Clerks look for a post with such a small Coun-

cil but we will keep trying. The website has been kept out of the Clerk's hands for the last year and so has the newsletter because they are too much to take on while a Clerk learns the job but both are in safe hands with the work being done by Councillors, mostly the Vice Chair, Councillor Johnson, and we all appreciate the work he takes on for the Council. The Council's finances have been in a buoyant state over the last year. Each time we have planned expenditure the Clerk has found a way to get the work either partly or completely funded by the Borough. The bulbs in Rodington Cemetery and by the roadsides were bought by us but planted by T & W Council. We paid for the new bench in the Cemetery but the T & W has paid for the concrete base and the fixing. We had money at the end of last year for road safety works but as the work was done by T & W we were able to make substantial grants to both Village Halls. The Parish Council has remained committed to supporting the Village Halls as the best way to put money

directly into the heart of the community. As usual we have spent much of the year complaining about pot holes in the roads and examining Planning Applications. The potholes come and go but we have promises from the new administration at T & W that money will be spent on road improvements and are keen to see the result. It is no credit to the Borough or the Parish when some of the roads through our villages would look bad in a third world country. As far as Planning goes we wish that the Borough Planning Officers sometimes paid more attention to the local knowledge that we can offer. The duty to consult us does not go with a duty to take notice of what we say and the Planners' views are often based on an urban outlook. Only too often we see a first application that we know will be followed by more for the same site. The individual small applications are all comparatively reasonable but if they had been all put in at once the total large development would not have got permission. During the next year, recruitment of Clerk permitting, I would like to

invite a Planning Officer to explain how they examine Applications and advise us on the best ways to explain our reservations so that our views are considered. We have lost a Borough Councillor this year who was an expert in planning matters but our remaining Councillor has done her best for us and continued to support and advise us. A draft version of the accounts has been distributed that give a potted version of what we have done over the year. We have raised the precept for the new year, again roughly in line with the increase in the Council Tax. The largest regular expenditure is salary and expenses for the Clerk. That is increased every year in line with local government pay rates and is not in our control so we have to keep increasing the precept to stay still. As usual we welcome suggestions as to where we can invest money for the well being of the Parish.

Planning..... For status quo of decay or common sense.

By Dave Johnson

People in Rodington living close to the derelict property known as the Piggeries behind St. Georges Church were generally pleased the owners had submitted a planning application to renovate and turn the building into a modest one bedroom dwelling. All planning applications are seen by the Parish Council who whilst not having any say in the decision are expected to pass comment objectively based on their local knowledge and understanding of Planning regulations. Having seen the application and knowing the current eyesore the building currently presents the Parish Council warmly recommended the application and these comment were passed to Telford & Wrekin Council. Imagine everyone's surprise when the application was rejected, particularly when Longdon within past twelve months has seen old barn buildings transformed into four homes

and the Old Mill sympathetically restored and converted into six flats and a brand new bungalow squeezed into a small plot. Having searched the website for the minutes of the Plans Board where the decision was made one finds no minutes lodged. Virtually all other meeting minutes lodged for public scrutiny but at time of writing they were not available. However a call to the planning department on July 11th revealed the plan was rejected as the development was outside the prescribed rural locations for development namely not in Tibberton, High Erccall or Waters Upton and it did not provide affordable social housing. I did not like to point out all the recent renovations in the Parish had a price well over £300,000 each which does not seem to be social affordable housing to me .

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