

Brockworth Parish Council

Annual Report 2014/2015

Welcome to the Annual Report 2014/15 on the activities of the Council. You will find details of how the Council spent its money in 2014/15 and how the Council funds this expenditure.

The Parish Council consists of 17 councillors who represent an electorate of approximately 6,500. Elections are held once in every four years, the last one was uncontested in May 2015. We currently have 12 councillors and 5 vacancies following the election process. Elected councillors received an allowance of £150 each during the year; the allowance covers the cost of printing council papers at home, making phone calls on council business and travel expenses within the parish.

The Parish Council has a number of responsibilities in the village including: Playing fields and play areas, burial ground, notice boards, bus shelters, litter bins and dog bins, grass cutting of the parish owned open spaces (playing fields, Rowan Gardens, Cross Hands Meadow, and various verges and roundabouts on behalf of Gloucestershire Highways), summer play scheme, Community Centre.

The Parish Council employs 3 part-time members of staff to manage Council matters, and 1 full time and 4 part-time members of staff to manage the Community Centre.

The Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Community Centre at Brockworth. Agendas are displayed on notice boards throughout the village and on the website – www.brockworth-pc.gov.uk. The public are welcome to attend these meetings and raise questions during the 15 minute public forum at the start of the meeting.

We keep residents updated on parish matters through our website, parish magazine and you can also follow us on Twitter (@BrockworthPC).

Contact details:

Brockworth Community Centre, Court Road, Brockworth, GL3 4ET
Tel: 01452 863123 Email: clerk@brockworth-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors as at 7th May 2015

Jim Hunt, 863705

Frank Green, 863428

Carol Green, 863428

Fiona Miles, 864345

Ron Furolo, 864042

Carole Neal, 862257

Harry Turbyfield, 614730

Ruth Hatton, 614730

Mike Hobden, 538803

Edward Buxton, 07968 899136

John Clarke, 862767

Susan Neal

Message from the Chairman – Councillor Jim Hunt

We've had another busy year in Brockworth. The community centre continues to increase bookings and we've had our best year so far in terms of room bookings.

We hope you enjoying reading about the council's work during this past year and if you have any suggestions or comments please send them to the Parish Clerk. I would like to once again thank all the Councillors who give a lot of their time in helping to run the Community Building and also to all the staff.

Planning

Brockworth Parish Council considered 53 planning applications during the past year. There are always difficulties and difference of opinion when considering planning applications, particularly in areas covered by Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Parish Council is always concerned about the impact future housing developments have on Brockworth roads and other services. The development at Kennel Lane is occupied, and 199 houses on the old Invista site are in the process of being built with some already occupied. The application for 1500 houses alongside the A417 will be going to public inquiry on 28th July 2015 after being "called-in" for review by the Secretary of State.

Parks and Open Spaces

The new play areas and outdoor gym are being thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and it's lovely to see families enjoying the parks together. The Parish Council was fortunate to be awarded an "Active Together" grant from Gloucestershire County Council for a supernova to be installed at the Mill Lane Playing Field in April 2015.

Public Rights of Way

The Parish Council is always looking to ensure Rights of Way are kept clear, notifying Gloucestershire Highways of potholes in roads and pavements and ensuring that litter and dog waste bins are kept emptied and in good condition. Doggie waste bags are available from the Community Centre, 50p per pack (maximum 2 packs per customer).

Residents are requested to help keep footpaths and pavements clear of vegetation by making sure your hedges and trees are regularly cut. Pavements should have a minimum 1m width and 2m height clear of vegetation at all times. The parish council arranged for weed spraying of kerbs in Brockworth which was done twice during the year.

Library

The council is pleased that the library remains a useful asset in Brockworth. The Parish Council provided £10,000 of funding in 2014/15 towards the running costs of the Brockworth community library, and has committed £3,000 of grant funding for the library during 2015/16.

Youth Centre

The Parish Council continues to commission Brockworth Community Project to run the Youth Centre on our behalf and it has been very successful. The Parish Council has committed to continue funding the youth centre for 2015/16.

Donations for local groups

The Parish Council has a small donations budget and has been able to support other groups and initiatives during the past year.

Welcome Club
Brockworth Day Centre
Castle Hill School
Brockfest 2014

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Brockworth Allotments Association
Millbrook Academy

Citizens Advice Bureau Service

The Parish Council subsidises the weekly advice service that the Citizen Advice Bureau provide from the Community Centre on Tuesday afternoons. The service is very popular with local residents and appointments can be made through the Community Centre reception. We apologise, but due to the funding restrictions, only Brockworth Parish residents can make use of this free service.

Community Centre and Coffee Shop

The building has been open for eight years and bookings for the main hall and other rooms have increased. The Parish Council subsidised the running costs of the community centre by £10,832 in 2014/15.

Brockworth Magazine and Website

The Parish Council continues to write a number of pages for the bi-monthly Parish Magazine which is printed by The Copy Shop. The 29th Gloucester (Brockworth) Scout Group deliver the magazines to every household in Brockworth on our behalf. The pages that the Parish Council writes are available on the Parish Council's website – www.brockworth-pc.gov.uk.

Community Bus

We were able to continue the Community Bus for one day per week which cost £7,470 for the past year. Unfortunately, the funding for the bus ended on 31 March 2015, and has been replaced with a Taxi Voucher Scheme. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

Volunteers

The Parish Council is very fortunate to have a number of volunteers helping with a wide range of activities, such as the weekly lunch club, looking at the nature reserve, regular community litter picks, to name a few. If you would like to become a volunteer, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Finance

	2014/2015	2013/2014
Income		
Precept	156,460.00	145,155.00
Council Tax Support Grant	12,200.00	20,076.00
Investment Income	907.23	973.96
Burial Ground	8,187.00	4,130.00
Hall and Other Lettings	33,448.90	29,830.98
Office Hire	15,664.02	23,402.54
Parish fete		
Catering Income	31,270.49	27,448.64
Sec 106 Grants - Tesco Community Bus	3,877.00	5,992.49
Youth Centre Lease	3,403.23	2,880.94
Other Grants		
Miscellaneous Income	4,402.89	4,541.74
Youth Centre Repair Costs		
Playground Refurbishment Project Grants	13,255.00	28,129.25
Total Income	£283,075.76	292,561.54
Expenditure		
Staff Costs	102,114.38	102,911.76
General administration incl Audit costs	22,693.10	30,779.09
Sec.137 and Other Grants	13,625.00	5,795.00
Members Allowance	2,143.27	2,119.90
Burial Ground General Maintenance	1,096.96	1,576.00
P & OS Various	23,048.05	10,382.47
RoW Various	1,760.00	2,625.60
Community Bus	7,470.00	7,600.00
Community Building	38,082.92	40,411.21
Catering Expenditure	7,166.81	8,105.06
Agency Costs	4,398.25	3,388.01
Grass Cutting	9,659.00	9,120.00
Parish Fete	145.00	
Horsbere Brook Project	466.00	3,502.50
Insurance	1,915.37	1,825.42
Training	672.00	1,064.20
Advertising and Publicity	1,643.00	50.00
Youth Provision	10,000.00	12,000.00
Playground Refurbishment Project	24,982.00	49,761.24
Contingency budget	2,021.11	
Total Expenditure	£275,102.22	£293,017.46