

NORTH NIBLEY PARISH COUNCIL:

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013/14.

The Council is pleased to present its Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2014. The current Parish Council has just completed its third year. Details of your Councillors and all Parish Council activities can be found on the Parish Council website at: <http://community.stroud.gov.uk/northnibley>

Parish Council Activities. Your Parish Council has once again been active working on behalf of the Community this year:

The Parish Council:

- met monthly throughout the year;
- in April organised and was supported by many volunteers during the fourth “Village Clean–Up Day”;
- awarded 7 Grants, totalling £1,800, to support local organisations in providing services to people in the Parish;
- has continued to contribute to “On The Edge” as a means of keeping parishioners informed of the Council’s activities;
- worked with Gloucestershire Highways to ensure they repaired and maintained our road surfaces; repaired/maintained street lighting; brought into use new grit bins; replenished all existing grit bins during the winter;
- commented upon 19 Applications to Stroud District Council Planning;
- relentlessly pursued Stroud DC Enforcement Team to ensure that they enforced the Enforcement Notice on Bird Farm;.
- is planning to install a Parish Information Board in the Centre of the Village. The Parish Information Board will contain a map of the Parish, showing points of interest and key local services.
- worked with Gloucestershire Rights of Way team to maintain footpaths within the parish; and arrange for unstable trees on Wood Lane to be dealt with;
- liaised with Stroud DC Neighbourhood Warden to ensure that rubbish dumped on the roadside was collected;
- following Mrs Glancy’s resignation from the Parish Council, co-opted Mrs Jane Burton onto the Parish Council for the remainder of the Council’s term;
- made representations to Gloucestershire County Council regarding plans for the 311 ‘bus service.
- made representations to Stroud DC Environmental Health who confirmed that “the use of the Nibley Farm circuit for “motocross activities” is restricted to 4 days per calendar year;
- provided support to residents of New Road Cottages regarding their case for access & car parking.

Parish Council Property.

The Council owns land, throughout the Parish.

- 1) **Land at Nibley Knoll.** The Council's 6 acres at Nibley Knoll are continuing to be managed with the Nibley Knoll Trust to ensure the long term future of the Hill for the Community.
- 2) **Land at Breakheart Hill.** Following completion of the improvements to the Parish Council's 4 acres at Breakheart Hill, it has been leased for use by horses.
- 3) **The Cemetery.**
 - a) Further work has been carried out to maintain the Cemetery in accordance with the long term Maintenance Plan.
 - b) In 2012 the Council decided that it was essential to develop a new path to provide access to the "new" area of the Cemetery at the rear of the site. The plans for this work were explained at last year's Parish Meeting and in November 2013 the work was completed.
 - c) Treecreeper Arborists have carried out an assessment of the trees in accordance with the Council's Five Year Property Maintenance Plan. As a result maintenance work to a number of the trees has been commissioned for April/May 2014.
 - d) Following the severe storms in February the Council received a written report on the damage to trees in the Cemetery. The Clerk has instructed Treecreeper Arborists to carry out further work to ensure they are safe.
 - e) Thanks are appropriate to Mrs Palmer, Mrs Baxter and Mrs Bunn who have continued to work voluntarily in the Cemetery.
- 4) **Jubilee Recreation Field.** The Council through their representative on the Trust (Mr Keith Larkin) have continued to work with the Recreation Field Trust.
- 5) **The Closed Churchyard at St Martin's Church.** The Council received a letter from St Martin's PCC requesting that the Parish Council take on full responsibility for the Closed Churchyard at St. Martin's Church. (Local Government Act 1972 S 215 (2)). **The Churchyard continues to be the property of the Church**, but its maintenance is now the Parish Council's financial responsibility. Immediately following the transfer of responsibility a further area of the south side wall collapsed. The Council has agreed that the work should be carried out and instructed a contractor.

Parish Council Finances.

In 2013/14 the Council increased the Precept to £13,500, in order to carry out some essential works in the Cemetery. The Council funded most of this work from Council Reserves (£4,000) but had to increase the Precept by £1,500.

Looking ahead to 2014/15

- In 2014/15 the Council will maintain **Council Tax** at the previous year's level. In order to do this and in recognition of its additional financial responsibilities, the Council has had to reduce the amount it is spending on Grants in 2014 to £1250
- The Council agreed that the **2014 Village Clean-Up** event will be held on the morning of **Saturday 12 April 2014**. The Clerk has made the necessary arrangements
- **Wood Lane**. There have been a number of significant landslips and damage caused to the bank in Wood Lane. The Council is currently in discussion with County Council Rights of Way to help reduce future slippages and develop a long term solution.
- A representative of Gloucestershire Rural Council Community Council (GRCC) to attend the June Meeting to discuss **Affordable Housing & Rural Exception sites**.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend the monthly Council meetings held in the Village Hall.

Mr David Purnell.
Chairman of North Nibley Parish Council.