

PARISH COUNCILLORS AS AT JUNE 2014

Name	Ward	Contact No.	2013/14 Council meetings attended (total poss. – 13)
Brian Whatling (Chair)	U	547437	13
Miranda Clifton	U	545512	13
Tina Bouttle	U	Contact office	8
Keith Scott	U	543643	10*
Dennis Andrewartha	L	547251	12
Nigel Ledoux	L	548443	9
Pauline Dutfield	L	547716	8
Scott Shirreff	L	Contact office	3*****
Brian Tipper	C	542262	9
Darren Jones	C	543703	7
Clive Webber	C	07597333345	6**
Fiona Poulter	C	542801	0***
David Pritchard	W	543994	10
Julie Sherman	W	549648	12
Barbara Powell	W	Contact office	11
Wendy Bevan	W	544473	9****

L = Lower, C = Central, U = Upper, W = Woodfield

* Co-opted June 2013, hence attendance out of a possible 10 meetings

**Co-opted October 2013, hence attendance out of a possible 7 meetings

***Co-opted May 2014 hence no meetings in 2013/14

**** Co-opted September 2013, hence attendance out of a possible 9 meetings

*****Co-opted January 2014, hence attendance out of a possible 3 meetings

CAM PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL POSITION

INCOME	2012/13	2013/14	EXPENDITURE	2012/13	2013/14
Precept	172,690	182,022	Community	18,801	33,039
Recreation & Leisure (inc. allotment and rents etc)	15,244	3049	Improvement Premises	18,905	18,367
Interest & Misc.	5067	1909			
Premises	4,930	13,717	Recreation/Leisure	24,310	29,216
Community Improvement		2,557	Resource Centre	2,373	2,373
Support Services		573	Development		
		144	Service Support	9,192	13,260
			Staff Costs	59,331	60,270
			Miscellaneous	4,135	
			Use of Reserves	65,444	26,597
TOTALS	197,931	201,414		202,491	180,749

For more information on anything in this Newsletter, or on the work of the Parish Council in general, please contact the Parish Clerk, Sue Hanman, on 01453 548884, email clerk@camparishcouncil.gov.uk Office: 4 Noel Lee Way, Cam, Glos, GL11 5PS (open 9.30am – 1pm Monday – Thursday, 9.30am – 12 noon Friday)

cam

parish newsletter



July 2014

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www.camparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chair's Report as presented to The Annual Parish Assembly on 15th May 2014



Welcome to the 2014 Annual Report of Cam Parish Council. As Chairman of Cam Parish Council I have the responsibility of presenting this Annual Report for the first time. Following my election as Chairman in November 2013 I have been privileged to work with and have support from my fellow friendly knowledgeable Councillors and

Staff, without whose help the job would have been much less pleasurable. It very soon became apparent how busy this position can be - within days came the Remembrance day occasion closely followed by the Christmas activities; occasions such as these form part of the Chairman's responsibilities, as does attendance at numerous outside meetings. In addition I have chaired numerous meetings within Council. A massive vote of thanks must go to the Council Clerk and Deputy Clerk who plan and organise virtually everything that takes place within Council; my position as Chairman and that of our Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs and Councillors rely almost entirely on the guidance, support and directives from this Office.

As with many organisations, members leave and members join, accordingly my thanks and appreciation for their work goes to those who for various reasons have recently left the Council, (John Fowles, Mark Stephens, Shaun Watson, and Doina Cornell), and to the newcomers welcome to the Council team, (Cllrs Wendy Bevan, Keith Scott, and Scott Shirreff).

Cam Parish Council has a responsibility to its Community, which we take very seriously. Items within our remit are vast and range widely, the list being far too long for this report. To deal with these requirements we have several Committees each with its own responsibility. The Finance and General Purposes Committee deals with financial matters, with operational management of financial activities remaining with our Council Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer. Each year the various budgets and the parish precept are set, any additional funds remaining in a reserve. This Committee discusses all matters in

respect to income and expenditure, with any changes reported back to the full council for approval. Suffice to say it can be extremely busy at times.

Planning and Highways Committee works hard to support the area and maintain the infrastructure of Cam, a vast number of planning applications pass through this committee. They are dealt with using local knowledge and a whole raft of conditions appropriate to the application, including public comments or objections, road safety, and many more criteria, however above all comes the law on which all decisions are ultimately based, our comments are then forwarded to Stroud District Council who then make a final decision on the application.

With Government demands for more and more housing, P&H are concentrating on discussions regarding the proposed development of around 450 dwellings in North East Cam; without a doubt changes of this magnitude will in time impact on the infrastructure of Cam itself - Roads, Rail services and Public Transport etc. This development with others in our area forms a major concern, however an equally important factor in our view is the lack of local employment and the need for many residents to commute daily to work elsewhere. We are therefore discussing this problem with developers in the hope of making it conditional that allocated employment land will form part of this overall development, thus bringing the much needed work to our area.

The District Council will soon be building new social housing on land at Chapel Street and as part of this scheme we are endeavouring to make a few changes to the car parking layout in the area outside the Resources Centre and Cafe. We feel confident that these changes if approved will further enhance the appeal of the centre of Cam.

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- Parish Council Building
- Lazy Dog Owners



Box Road, Elstub Lane, Coaley Junction, Rock Road and many smaller areas have or are waiting for planning permission, each with its challenge to our community. Fortunately we now have some support after the recent introduction of a government supported Neighbourhood Development Plan process. The Plan, once adopted, gives the Council and community the opportunity to put in place some ground rules in respect to what we might expect from developers and the development itself. It will be a comprehensive consultative document and form an integral part of any future planning applications. Unfortunately it will have no powers to reject any proposed development application, but will be able to shape this to address the needs of the community. With this opportunity and with financial support from this Parish Council, a Steering Group has been formed, comprising Councillors, local residents and traders. It is now working hard to develop this plan, which will take time and needs a great deal of help and support from numerous sources. This is a long term plan and once adopted will go far towards the protection of the most vulnerable areas of

our countryside.

One development that has the full support of this Council, is the result of efforts from another committee, Recreation and Leisure, which has responsibility for outside areas. A very big thank you must go to all concerned in the submission of a grant application to Sport England, for funds to help provide suitable changing facilities on the Jubilee Playing Field, this committee has now confirmed that this bid was successful, with a £50,000 grant to this Council. This is great news for our area, especially for those who regularly use the field for football matches etc. Incidentally for those who have not recently visited the Jubilee Fields I suggest this as an evening's walk with the children, you will be pleasantly surprised at the changes to this area.

Our R&L Committee have a number of additional responsibilities which include Allotments, Play areas, the Skatepark, climbing wall, football pitches and many open recreational areas - this also includes all the associated safety and inspection conditions. It's fair to say that Councillors on the R&L committee are kept very busy.

We are proud and pleased that with the start of its third year our Resource Centre has now become a focal point of this area and despite the early setbacks it now represents a visible sign of many years of persistent dedication and teamwork by Parish Councillors. More information about services and activities provided there can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. To close this report please remember that we need your input to allow us to get things done, and that all meetings are open to the public, tell us if you have a problem we will do our best to resolve it for you. If you want further information on any subject please contact the Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Office Staff or any Councillor who will be pleased to assist.

Cllr B.J. Whatling Chairman Cam Parish Council

Parish Council Building is focus for the Community



The building in Noel Lee Way is now 2 years old and its use is going from strength to strength. Now that we are in a much more prominent position, far more local people (and some not so local!) are calling in to get information, use the public computer – and yes, sometimes, to make complaints about local government services. As well as taking any necessary action on matters that are in control of the Parish Council, staff are happy to pass on queries and complaints to the District and County Councils and do their best to find out information

on any number of issues. We can also look up bus and train timetables, do small amounts of photocopying (small charge made to cover costs), take bookings for the Memorial and Methodist Church Halls as well as rooms in the Council's own building, assist with using Gloucestershire Homeseeker for people looking for Council housing and help with applications for bus passes. We are also a drop-off point for donations for the Food Bank and we have a small 'bring and share' library. The building is also used by a number of other organisations and community groups. In particular, on Wednesdays we are very pleased to have both the Credit Union (10am – 11.30am) and the Citizens Advice Bureau (1.30pm – 4pm) operating from the building. The Credit Union operates under the Title 'Save 'n' Borrow' and operates a savings scheme which then gives access to low cost loans, thus avoiding the hugely expensive pay-day loan companies.



Citizens Advice have advisors who can help with a whole range of issues – the Cam branch is an Outreach service that can if necessary refer people on for more detailed advice. They are very friendly and approachable and all enquiries are completely confidential. The Wednesday sessions are drop-in, so you do not need an appointment – just call in any time between 1.30 and 4pm

Another service we hope to be able to provide shortly is housing advice, so that those of you who are looking for council or other social housing in the area can talk to someone from the District Council and discuss your needs and problems. A pilot for this service will take place on Thursday 7th August from 10am – 12noon, when there will be a Housing Advisor

and hopefully a Benefits Advisor here at the office to help you.

Other groups using the building include Slimming World, a fitness class, WI and an arts group. The main meeting room and small consulting room are available for hire at very reasonable rates – please contact the Council for details.

A Wake Up Call to lazy dog owners from your Neighbourhood Warden Andy Murray and Dog Warden Alex Davies

Dog owners of Cam Parish please wake up to your responsibilities, we know the majority are responsible but there are few that are spoiling things for many people in this community.

OFFENDING DOG OWNERS RISK PROSECUTION WITH A POSSIBLE MAXIMUM FINE OF £1,000

They require dog owners to:

- Clear up when dogs have fouled
- Keep dogs on leads in designated areas.
- Put and keep dogs on leads when asked to by a District council Officer
- Exclude dogs from children's play areas

The law allows Local Authorities to designate specific areas where dog controls can be applied. After a public consultation, Stroud District Council decided to adopt four dog control orders.

What are the new requirements?

Each order applies to different specified areas in the Stroud District and in Summary requires dog owners to:

1. Clean up after their dog has fouled
2. Keep a dog on a lead on allotments, tow paths, cycle tracks, cemeteries and footpaths used along school routes
3. Put a dog on a lead when directed to by an authorised officer.
4. Keep dogs out of enclosed children's play areas

If an order is breached then an offence would be committed. The Council then has the option to serve a fixed penalty notice. This is a penalty 'ticket' that would cost the offender £75 (reduced to £50 if paid within ten days). Alternatively the offender may be prosecuted; this could result in a fine of up to £1000. (Persons using a guide assistance dogs are exempt)



We are stepping up patrols in the Cam area and any irresponsible dog owners will be caught and prosecuted.

We urge everyone to be responsible at all times and always clean up after their dog, fouling is both unpleasant and a health risk, particularly to children.

Please always carry a poop scoop and be prepared to use it!

If you have any dog related queries there are people who can help and are happy to give advice or if you have information regarding offending owners please contact us. We need your help to solve this problem.

Alex Davies
Animal Welfare Officer: 01453 754497

Josie Oak
Environmental Enforcement Officer: 01453 754490

Andy Murray
Neighbourhood Warden: 01453 754512