

The Gorge Parish Council

Annual Report

2009 – 2010.

No Tour of Britain Cycle race flashing past in 2009 but a year when the Gorge Parish Council has continued to consolidate and grow both in activity and influence. The Enterprise HQ in the John Rose building at Coalport has continued to attract the interest and membership of local small businesses and under the leadership of Fay Easton has maintained steady development as a small business hub for the area.

The Gorge Gazette has been published on a quarterly basis and is delivered to every home and business throughout the Gorge and is also placed in public areas such as the doctors' surgery and the Tourist Information Centre. The Parish Council website which is frequently up-dated has proved a useful communication tool and is well used by regular contributors e.g. The Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust, to keep local people as well as the world of tourism aware of the many attractions provide by the Museums of the Gorge.

Having taken up occupation of an office/meeting room in The Maws Craft Centre in November 2008 the Parish Council has been able to affirm its place at the heart of the community and provides the community with a place to meet its Councillors and to drop in to speak to the Clerk (and also collect dog waste bags). The space also provides a place where meetings with partners and community can go ahead with a local flavour.

Having been designated as a Borough Town in 2008, the Ironbridge Gorge Regeneration Partnership has reviewed its membership and has become a significant focus group - committed to the development of the local business community but using its wide network to call on resources from Borough and Regional organisations. The Partnership in which the vice chair is held by the Chair of the Parish Council meets regularly at Coalport.

The Parish Plan has finally been published and has done much to inform the Parish Council and the Borough Council of the priorities which are being set by people in the Gorge. Many of its recommendations have already been implemented or are being implemented at the present time. The Parish Council has recently taken a decision to annually review the Parish Plan and in so doing ensure its continuing relevance and validity.

With financial assistance from the Borough Towns Initiative the Christmas lights in the Gorge and particularly in the Ironbridge Square and Wharfage area were substantially upgraded for Christmas 2009. These improvements have been widely acclaimed and the Parish Council is committed to further improving the high standards which created such a delightful attraction. For the first time people from all over Telford and beyond were visiting just to see the lights. The fireworks display was undoubtedly the best ever and was funded entirely by the Parish Council.

At last years' meeting the issues around the erection of 'Brewery Cottage' were raised and the Parish Council responded swiftly to the complaints. Interestingly the appeal against the orders made by the Borough Council is being opened tomorrow (7th April).

Although the flood barriers were erected on one occasion as a precautionary measure we were glad that the river did not flood during this year. However the appalling weather over Christmas and the New Year created enormous problems for people living in the Gorge area when many roads were left untreated and, after the ice and snow had gone with many roads left badly damaged by water/ice action. The Parish Council through its clerk and members were able to access elected members and officers of the Borough Council to achieve a relatively speedy response to a large number of these problems and to develop appropriate plans to deal with these situations should similar exceptional weather be experienced in the future.

Parish Councillors recently attended their annual Strategy Day to plan for the coming years. With an election just round the corner it was agreed that the Gorge Gazette should carry an article encouraging residents of the Gorge to become involved with the work of the Parish Council by offering themselves for the elected office of Parish Councillor.

Keith Osmund-Smith

Chair, The Gorge Parish Council

6.4.10

The Gorge Parish Council 10
Receipts and Payments Summary to 31 March 2010

This Year				Last Year
	Opening Balances			
3030.82	Current	28463.51		
17100.00	Reserve	2429.88		
20130.82				30893.39
	Income			
	VAT on RECEIPTS			
1837.48	VAT repaid by HMCE	0.00		
1837.48			0.00	
	PRECEPT			
44000.00	Precept	45500.00		
44000.00			45500.00	
	OTHER INCOME			
1378.06	Interest received	42.81		
4267.00	Grants received	18633.00		
15.00	Miscellaneous income	145.49		
10116.29	Christmas Lights	0.00		
1156.00	Hanging Basket Scheme	978.00		
16932.35			19799.30	
	HM VAT			
1846.65	HM VAT	4290.68		
1846.65			4290.68	
64616.48				69589.98
	Expenditure			
	VAT on PAYMENTS			
1852.69	VAT paid	4206.78		
1852.69			4206.78	
	STAFF COSTS			
7941.09	Clerk's salary	6371.66		
1963.81	TAX, NI, superannuation	3809.81		
1152.39	Clerk's expenses	436.44		
2012.23	Pension	2164.79		
466.00	Training	344.50		
13535.52			13127.20	
	LOAN INTEREST/REPAYMENTS			
	ADMINISTRATION			
250.00	Rent/Room hire	0.00		
4391.77	Office expenses	6471.51		
426.20	Insurances	562.53		
460.00	Audit fees	440.00		
350.00	Courses, other training	423.30		
774.80	Subscriptions	200.00		
234.48	Planning & other fees	66.13		
180.00	Contingency	0.00		

115.00	advertising	0.00		
7182.25			8163.47	
	CIVIC			
250.00	Chairman's allowance	250.00		
852.02	chair's insignia	0.00		
1102.02			250.00	
	GRANTS			
2092.00	Grants - S137	3022.00		
1450.00	Grants - Other powers	2170.00		
3542.00				5192.00
	RUNNING COSTS			
3000.00	Environmental scheme	3000.00		
2224.75	Hanging Basket Scheme	2276.77		
2000.00	STROWP	6000.00		
2903.18	Christmas lights	25160.71		
2818.50	Newsletter	3321.47		
3998.00	Parish Plan	1180.00		
2937.00	Website	1102.50		
3230.00	Noticeboards	0.00		
0.00	WHS Festival	600.00		
23111.43			42641.45	
	Calendar			
3528.00	Calendar	0.00		
3528.00			0.00	
53853.91				73580.90
10762.57		Surplus/ (Deficit)		(3990.92)
	Closing Balances			
28463.51	Current	6965.35		
2429.88	Reserve	19937.12		
30893.39				26902.47

**The Gorge Parish Council 10 Spent vs. Budget
To Date: 29 April 2010**

	Last Year	Budget	Rec'd/Paid	Over/(Under) Budget	As %
RECEIPTS					
PRECEPT					
Precept	44000.00	45500.00	45500.00	0.00	100.0
	44000.00	45500.00	45500.00	0.00	100.0
OTHER INCOME					
Interest received	1378.06	200.00	42.81	(157.19)	21.4
Grants received	4267.00	0.00	18633.00	18633.00	
Miscellaneous income	15.00	0.00	145.49	145.49	
Christmas Lights	10116.29	32900.00	0.00	(32900.00)	
Hanging Basket Scheme	1156.00	1200.00	978.00	(222.00)	81.5
	16932.35	34300.00	19799.30	(14500.70)	57.7
HM VAT					
Total Receipts	60932.35	79800.00	65299.30	(14500.70)	81.8
PAYMENTS					
VAT on PAYMENTS					
VAT paid	1852.69	0.00	4206.78	4206.78	
	1852.69	0.00	4206.78	4206.78	
STAFF COSTS					
Clerk's salary	7941.09	11000.00	6371.66	(4628.34)	57.9
TAX, NI, superannuation	1963.81	0.00	3809.81	3809.81	
Clerks expenses	1152.39	400.00	436.44	36.44	109.1
Pension	2012.23	1500.00	2164.79	664.79	144.3
Training	466.00	500.00	344.50	(155.50)	68.9
	13535.52	13400.00	13127.20	(272.80)	98.0
LOAN INTEREST/REPAYMENTS					
ADMINISTRATION					
Rent/Room hire	250.00	100.00	0.00	(100.00)	
Office expenses	4391.77	3500.00	6471.51	2971.51	184.9
Insurances	426.20	500.00	562.53	62.53	112.5
Audit fees	460.00	330.00	440.00	110.00	133.3
Courses, other training	350.00	0.00	423.30	423.30	
Subscriptions	774.80	825.00	200.00	(625.00)	24.2
Planning & other fees	234.48	0.00	66.13	66.13	
Contingency	180.00	200.00	0.00	(200.00)	
Advertising	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Election costs	0.00	300.00	0.00	(300.00)	
	7182.25	5755.00	8163.47	2408.47	141.9
CIVIC					
Councillors expenses	0.00	250.00	0.00	(250.00)	
Chairman's allowance	250.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	
Chair's insignia	852.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	1102.02	250.00	250.00	0.00	100.0
GRANTS					
Grants - S137	2092.00	4400.00	3022.00	(1378.00)	68.7
Grants -Other powers	1450.00	0.00	2170.00	2170.00	
	3542.00	4400.00	5192.00	792.00	118.0
RUNNING COSTS					
Environmental scheme	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	0.00	100.0
Hanging Basket Scheme	2224.75	2500.00	2276.77	(223.23)	91.1
STROWP	2000.00	6000.00	6000.00	0.00	100.0
Christmas lights	2903.18	30000.00	25160.71	(4839.29)	83.9

Newsletter	2818.50	4500.00	3321.47	(1178.53)	73.8
Parish Plan	3998.00	2000.00	1180.00	(820.00)	59.0
Website	2937.00	0.00	1102.50	1102.50	
Noticeboards	3230.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
WHS Festival	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	
	23111.43	48000.00	42641.45	(5358.55)	88.8
Calendar					
Total Payments	50325.91	71805.00	73580.90	1775.90	102.5
Surplus/(Deficit)	10606.44	7995.00	(8281.60)	(16276.60)	(103.6)

Bank Reconciliation for The Gorge Parish Council Year Ended 31.3.10

	£
Balance brought forward 31.3.09	30893.39
Plus Receipts	69589.98
Total	100483.37
Less Payments	73580.90
Total	26902.47
Bank Balances as at 31.3.10	
Current account	2934.67
Savings account	19937.12
Total	22871.79
Plus unrepresented credits	4380.68
Total	27252.47
Less unrepresented chq	350.00
Total	26902.47
Asset Register Noticeboards	
Coalbrookdale	1.00
Ironbridge	1.00
Coalport	1.00
Jackfield	1.00
Office equipment	
IT laptop and printer	1000.00
office furniture desks, tables, chairs, carpet	1.00