

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council



Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Annual Report 2009/10

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Introduction

The parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant is located in the Bourne Valley in North Hampshire. It lies in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty and makes up part of the North Wessex Downs. There are three centres of population made up of the village of Hurstbourne Tarrant, the hamlet of Ibthorpe and approximately half the village of Upton. It is a small rural parish consisting of 382 dwellings with 633 parishioners on the electoral register. Although there are a number of local businesses, there is no major centre of employment. Public transport is very limited but the area contains beautiful scenery and offers many footpaths and bridleways. Most of the built areas within the parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant are designated a conservation area containing a high proportion of listed buildings including a number of thatched barns and cottages dating from the early to mid 17th century.

Some of main parish facilities include:

- Village Church and church hall
- Primary school – approximately 110 pupils
- King George V playing fields and pavilion and public car park
- Village shop/post office
- Petrol station and garage shop
- Village public house

The parish council is a small body made up of 6 councillors and it meets every month. The parish council comes under jurisdiction of Test Valley Borough Council which in turn is part of Hampshire County Council.

The council levies a precept of £9,250 pa (equivalent to £24.21 pa/household at band D rating) and on average year has an expenditure of approximately £11,500 pa. The council employs one person – a part time Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

The parish council does not operate any system of committees, given its small size, all business is transacted by the parish council and occasionally working parties may be established to carry out project work. Each councillor has a portfolio of responsibilities which are assigned at the annual parish council meeting each May.

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Elected Parish Councillors

David Sullivan (Chairman) - Portfolio: Allotments

Dinah Murdoch (Vice-chairman) - Portfolio: King George V Playing Field, Pavilion and Hurstbourne Tarrant Primary School

Fliss Davis - Portfolio: Upton Village

Alan Highton - Portfolio: Highways and Transport

David Jopson - Portfolio: Planning Applications and Village Website

Debbie Miller - Portfolio: Environment

Test Valley District Councillor

Bourne Valley Mr P Giddings, 16 Shepherds Rise Vernham Dean Andover SP11 0HD –
01264 737647, mobile 07721 051832, Email: cllrpgiddings@testvalley.gov.uk

Hampshire County Councillor

Andover North – Councillor Pam Mutton – Conservative, 156 Old Winton Road, Andover, Hants,
SP10 2DS Home Telephone: 01264 396756, Mobile: 07903 201518
Email: pam.mutton@hants.gov.uk , Dennis.mutton@sky.com

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Chairman's Report and Allotments by Councillor David Sullivan

All allotments are tenanted and the standard of cultivation is very good. We have decided, as allotments become vacant that consideration is given to splitting plots in half as we have a growing waiting list of would be tenants. Originally, allotments were designed to feed large families of rural workers, while the emphasis today is on lifestyle choice and smaller family units.

King George V Playing Fields, Pavilion and Primary School reports by Councillor Dinah Murdoch

Pavilion and King George V Playing Fields

Unfortunately, the Boys' Football Club has split up and they are now playing in a variety of different clubs in Andover and other villages around. The British Legion Football Club still plays on Sundays.

Meanwhile, the Playing Field is used a lot for fetes, venues for fund raising and of course by the School. The grass is cut by Test Valley Borough Council under contract. The Pavilion is still used by the Cubs and Scouts and summer parties. It is pretty run down but it is being repainted on the outside and a window replaced to keep it going until we are ready to build a new hall.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Primary School

At the moment there are 110 pupils on roll, although we have lost 2 or 3 pupils recently, we have had 3 new children in this term. We had an Ofsted inspection 2 weeks ago and we will hear the result today. There are now 4 Bands – Outstanding / Good / Satisfactory / Adequate and I will tell you the result this evening (at the Annual Parish meeting). Last week the Year 6 did their S.A.T.S. and Year 2 had their assessments.

Meanwhile, we are singing at the O2 building again this year and we continue to play a lot of sport. Next term we have appointed a man to teach Years 5/6 and help our sport at the school.

Upton Village report by Councillor Fliss Davis

In October 2009 the village committee organised a Halloween Spooky walk for the children of Upton which was very well attended. They enjoyed a walk in the dark followed by a party in the barn at Sopers Farm by kind permission of the Millers.

The Christmas tree made its annual appearance of the on the village triangle.

Once again on Easter Sunday the committee organised an Easter event which also included an Egg Hunt by kind permission of John and Sarah Mills at Parsonage Farm. There was a fabulous

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attendance and the children hunted for eggs whilst it gave the adults time to drink tea/coffee and eat delicious home made cakes!

The village annual summer event is hoping to be in June which we are hoping to be a picnic combined with a Scarecrow competition!

Highways and Transport report by Councillor Alan Haighton

I would like to thank Rupert Condor for all his continued hard work regarding the roads on our behalf.

The roads have taken a battering due to the bad winter and have developed pot holes that require attention but hopefully we will not experience a flooding issue this year.

Police continue to set up speed traps in the village sporadically & we also have a 30mph reminder sign.

Action Group Against Speeding (AGAS) report by Rupert Condor.

1. During the last 12 months, the Action Group Against Speeding has continued to represent the interests of the village by aiming to reduce the danger of traffic speed and limiting the size of some of the vehicles coming through it. I would again like to thank all those who have helped, particularly David Jopson and Ann Nash.

2 It now seems a long time ago that we were discussing the Megashed. Planning permission was granted and work has started on the project, but we managed to ensure that Hurstbourne Tarrant's main interests were incorporated into the "Section 106 Agreement" by barring the use of the A343 to Heavy Cargo Vehicles using the site. We are still concerned that the system of monitoring this may not be fully effective.

3 Hampshire Action Team (HAT), which plans all major road improvements in the county, confirmed that actions planned for the financial year ending 5 April 2009, which had not yet been completed, would be implemented by June last year. Two of those listed have been completed, namely: the replacement of anti-skid surface and a 30 mph roundel near the village nameplate on the A343 and the revised road markings on the A343 north of the Post Office to Bladen Cottage. This has improved safety by giving more separation between pedestrians and vehicles along the A343 and has also given better visibility for residents exiting their drives. However the bollards at Upton Lane junction with the A343 have still not been installed.

4 **Safe Routes to School crossing of A343.** HCC stated that any increase in the width of the pavement on the south east side of the A343 would have to be balanced by an adjustment to the kerb line on the opposite side of the road, which would reduce the visibility for pedestrians on that side. We accept that the carriageway was a minimum width and that some of the larger vehicles which use this road have difficulty in negotiating the tight curves, but the visibility improvement on pushing out the south side by a foot would be significantly greater than the loss of

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visibility from the other side of the road. We have requested and await a HCC Highways Safety Survey to see if, by implementing an adjustment, the safety of the Safe Routes to School crossing could be improved.

5 Bus Stop opposite the Bus Shelter on the A343. HCC has agreed that a safety survey of the Bus Stop on the A343 opposite the Bus Shelter would be done at the earliest opportunity and is included in the 2010/11 Traffic Management programme,

6. Outstanding Items. HCC agreed to follow up three outstanding items at the earliest opportunity.

- a. Extension of the Edge marking to the bus shelter and to the Post Office.
- b. The Installation of three Gladiator bollards at the Upton Lane/A343 Junction.
- c. HCC Installation of a timber bollard on the South East side of the school crossing.

7. Installation of Speed Camera signs. Although HCC has agreed to provide Speed Camera Signs, the Police and Safer Roads Partnership need to be further consulted to confirm if Hurstbourne Tarrant is one of their enforcement sites, Enham already has such signs.

8 Disabled Parking at the school. The track to the pavilion is not a public highway but is a Right of Way 'footpath'. When HCC have established ownership, the School will request that a Disable Parking place be marked.

9. Constructive suggestions made by residents.

a. 30 mph Roundel at North end of village. The provision of a 30 mph roundel at the north end of the village will be considered subject to the outcome of current County-wide review of the speed limits on the entire A & B road network. HCC have suggested introducing a 40 mph buffer zone and reducing the extent of the 30 mph limit. HCC has asked for the view of the Parish Council on these suggested speed limit changes.

b. **The construction of a pavement on the A343 bridge over the River Swift** to provide greater safety for pedestrians and create a much needed pinch point to slow vehicles coming down the hill. HCC has added our suggestion for a footway on the bridge over the River Swift to the Community Aspirations database.

c. **Yellow hatching on the narrow parts of Ibthorpe Road to discourage drivers from blocking the road.** HCC said that there are no proposals at present to introduce a priority working system in Ibthorpe Lane. However a previous proposal for a Keep Clear marking was developed for this section of road. This matter was discussed with local residents and the Parish Council but at the time it was considered that the road marking alone would not address all of the issues. Such a road marking is likely to discourage drivers from blocking the road and I would be happy to provide the marking if the proposal was supported by the Parish Council.

d. **Raised pavement edges in Ibthorpe Road to discourage drivers from mounting the kerb,** thereby endangering pedestrians. Pedestrian safety was improved by providing a pavement.

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An over-run strip allows larger vehicles to access the lane and enables two smaller vehicles to pass when turning in or out of the A343. HCC claim that there was extensive consultation with the school, residents and the PC prior to the scheme being implemented.

e. Double white lines extended to the end of the 30 mph zone at the North End of the village to discourage drivers from accelerating to, often, 60 mph or more to overtake whilst still inside the 30 mph zone. Double white lines are subject to strict criteria and are used to prevent overtaking where visibility is severely restricted. The distance criteria at the North end of the village are significantly longer than the minimum visibility distance criteria for double white lines.

10. Speed Limit Reminder Signs. Over the last 12 months, two new posts have been erected in the village for the SLR devices. The syndicate of 4 parishes is continuing to run the two SLRs. There have been serious problems with the batteries which are being investigated. When operating properly, they do have a “calming effect” on the speed of most cars. I am most grateful to David Jopson for the work he continues to put in to this project on behalf of HBT and to Pam Mutton and TVBC for their support.

11 Gates and a new village sign at North end of the village. The old blue and white village sign is now fairly worn and no longer enhances the appearance of our village. The Parish Council decided that there should be a new village sign at the North End of the village which should be shown and approval sought at the AGM. The aim is to better define the extent of the more built up area and thereby to make drivers more aware of the need to reduce their speed. Similar illustrative signs reflecting the activities of communities are now fairly widespread.

I am most grateful to the two local artists who submitted their designs. The Council also asked me to put together a combined design. The chosen design will be mounted on a gate and the suggested wording below the picture will say “HURSTBOURNE TARRANT” and below it “Be aware - Children and Horses on the road”.

I would welcome any comments or constructive suggestions...

I will ask for quotations as those already approached cannot give one without more detail. There should be no cost to the village.

I would welcome any constructive ideas to make the village safer and to reduce the speed of traffic through it.

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Planning Applications, Parish Website and SLR reports 2009/10 by Councillor David Jopson

Planning Applications:

Very little activity this past year on building development and extensions/alterations but an upsurge in tree works. The planners refused four developments, but two have been resubmitted.

Applications for work	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8
New/Replacement Buildings	6	5	8
Extensions/alterations	7	17	21
Treeworks	19	7	6
TPO	2	3	15
Total	34	32	50

Parish Website:

www.hbt.org.uk

The Parish web-site, which is supported by the Parish Council, has continued to supply updated information on Parish events including Parish Council minutes, the new community centre fund-raising events including online entry forms for the Hurstbourne 5 mile multi-terrain race in Doles Wood. This has attracted entries from a number of individuals and running clubs from a large area of the southern half of the country.

The running costs of the site have continued to be supported by various businesses in the Parish.

Should any parishioners have suggestions to add additional sources or links for further information please e-mail to info@hbt.org.uk

The Parish Council would like to thank Tricia Andrews for keeping the site up to date and sorting out the odd technical problem from time to time.

Speed Limit Reminder (SLR):

This past year has been disappointing for the four parishes that share the SLR. Since the autumn of 2009 the two units have invariably given intermittent service due mainly to the batteries either not holding their charge other than 3-4 days or the units not calculating the 30mph speed setting. The batteries are changed once a week, by TVBC, and should hold their charge for 7000 triggers. On average the units trigger 3 to 4 thousand times in our area. The batteries have been replaced but without improvement.

A meeting has been set up at the end of April with the four parishes, TVBC and the manufacturers, Westcotec, to try overcoming this problem.

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Environment report by Councillor Debbie Miller

WILDLIFE

Although the wet summers of 2007 and 2008 had a severe impact on the parish's wildlife last year, the dry sunny weather during April, May, June and September during 2009, helped to repair the damage. Butterfly numbers in particular saw an increase compared to last year due the sunny weather conditions. However, July brought with it the wettest July on record since 1914, which meant that for some of our late breeding bird species and for species attempting a second brood, breeding success was significantly affected.

December saw the start of the UK's longest cold snap since 1981 with snow appearing towards the end of the month and then heavy snowfall and sharp frosts occurring during January and February. This inevitably has had an impact on our Parish wildlife – many birds were not able to find adequate food during the cold snap and as a result it is predicted that this will have a knock on affect for our breeding birds this spring.

Birds of particular interest that I have noted in the parish over the year include lapwing, yellowhammer, linnet, skylark, bullfinch, barn owl, red kite and raven; winter visitors include fieldfare, redwing & brambling; and summer visitors include willow warbler, blackcap, garden warbler– to name but a few.

The re-appearance of raven and red kite in recent years is particularly welcomed as is the remarkable recovery of the barn owl which seems to be doing well through the river valley.

BOURNE VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

The Bourne Valley Wildlife Group continues to be open to anyone who has an interest in learning more about wildlife. A Wildflower & Butterfly Walk was held in May last year and if demand warrants, further wildlife interest walks can be organised for parishioners. For more information contact Peter Billingham.

PARISH FOOTPATH & INFORMATION BOARD

The Parish Council received some funding from HCC last year to assist in producing an information board, highlighting the parishes' footpaths and places of interest. The finished information board has now been completed and was erected in the Parish Car Park

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Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2010 by the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer David Baker

The council's reserves stand at £17,682 at March 31 2010 (£16,896 at March 31st 2009). The reserves are maintained to produce investment income and to fund capital projects.

The Parish Council recorded a surplus of £786 for the year to March 31st 2010.

See Table 1 Statement of Accounts and Table 2 Bank Reconciliation for details.

The precept this year (2010/11) has been raised by £500.00 to £9,250 (a 2.4% increase) on a tax base of 382 dwellings. The Band D levy for Hurstbourne Tarrant for 2010/11 has been raised by £0.56 to £24.21 per household and this remains approximately 20% below the average Band D precept levied by parish councils in Hampshire.

Table 1.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council			
Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2010			
Box		Last Year 08/09	This Year 09/10
1	Balances Brought Forward	13,796	16,896
2	(+) Annual Precept	8000	8750
3	(+) Total other receipts	8819	3429
4	(-) Staff Costs	-1,200	-2,279
5	(-) Loan interest capital repayments	0	0
6	(-) Total other payments	-12,519	-9,113
7	(=) Balances carried forward	16,896	17,682
8	Total Cash	16,896	17,682
9	Total Fixed Assets Includes long term investments (unit trust share holding valued at 31 March)	91,529	95,959
10	Total Borrowings	0	0

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Table 2

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Bank Reconciliation

Prepared by: David Baker (Clerk /RFO)

Date: 31 March 2010

Approved by: David Sullivan

Date: 31 March 2010

(Chairman of the Parish Council)

Financial Year ending 31 March 2010

	<u>2008/09</u>		<u>2009/10</u>
Balance Treasurers Account (0730337) per Bank Statement	190.00		100.00
Balance Instant Access (7150069) per Bank Statement	13,547.41		9,920.17
Balance 30 Day Notice (7210851) per Bank Statement	7,677.63		7,681.87
Outstanding Cheques as at 31 March	-4,519.37		-20.00
Outstanding Credits as at 31 March			
 Nett bank balances 31 March	 <u>16,895.67</u>		 <u>17,682.04</u>
 Add: Value of short term investments	 0.00	Note 1	 0.00
Total cash	16,895.67		17,682.04

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year as follows,

Opening Balance	<u>13,795.78</u>		<u>16,895.67</u>
Less debtors			
Add creditors			
Add: Receipts in the year to 31 March	16,819.27		12,178.77
Less: Payments in the year to 31 March	-13,719.38		-11,392.40
 Closing Balance per cash book as at 31 March	 <u>16,895.67</u>		 <u>17,682.04</u>

Accounts have been approved by our internal auditor Tammy King and will be reviewed by the Audit Commission (external auditor) later in the current year.

NOTE 1. Following guidance provided by the Audit Commission made in September 2009 the parish council's holding 34603 unit trust shares are to be treated as an asset/long term investment and will not be shown on the Bank Reconciliation statement.

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Budget for Financial Year 2010/11

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Deficit
King George V Field	250.00	1,000.00	-750.00
King George V Pavilion	450.00	1,300.00	-850.00
Dene Green		250.00	-250.00
Tennis Court		50.00	-50.00
Allotments	131.00	120.00	11.00
Repairs & Maintenance		1,500.00	-1,500.00
Interest	700.00		
Wayleaves	90.00		
Sub-Total	1,621.00	4,220.00	-2,599.00
Administration			
Clerk		2,400.00	
Stationery		150.00	
Insurance		1,100.00	
Audit		150.00	
Other		500.00	
Sub Total Administration		4,300.00	-4,300.00
Grants & Donations		650.00	
Election Expenses		n/a	
New projects:			
Speed Indicator Device annual charges		1,000.00	
Website new facilities		800.00	
Sub-Total		2,450.00	-2,245.00
Total Income / Expenditure	1,621.00	10,970.00	-9,349.00
VAT refund from 09/10	600.00		
Precept	9,250.00		
Total	11,471.00	10,970.00	501.00

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Dates for Parish Council meetings – Jan 2010 to Dec 2010

Date of meeting	Type of meeting	Venue and start time
18 January 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
15 February 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
15 March 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
19 April 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
17 May 2010	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Church Hall – 6.30 p.m.
17 May 2010	Annual Parish Meeting	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
14 June 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
19 July 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
16 August 2010	Parish Council	No meeting planned
20 September 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
18 October 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
15 November 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
20 December 2010	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.

Contact details for Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

David Sullivan	Chairman	01264 736514	horseshoelane2@btinternet.com
Dinah Murdoch	Vice-Chairman	01264 736251	N/A
Debbie Miller	Councillor	01264 736268	debbie.miller@fwag.org.uk
Fliss Davis	Councillor	01264 736515	fliss100@hotmail.com
David Jopson	Councillor	01264 736577	djopson@btinternet.com
Alan Haighton	Councillor	01264 736373	amandahaighton@btinternet.com
David Baker	Clerk	01264 736436	theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk
Village and parish council website			www.hbt.org.uk

Any correspondence for the Parish Council should be addressed to
 The Clerk, Deben House, Horseshoe Lane, Ibthorpe, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 0BY
 E-mail address: theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk

End of report