

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council



Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Annual Report 2010/11

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 £24.15 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.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Elected Parish Councillors as 5th May 2011

David Sullivan (Chairman) - Portfolio: Allotments

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

Nicholas Melhuish - Portfolio: Panning

Clayton Danks – Portfolio: TBC

Alan Highton - Portfolio: Highways and Transport

Debbie Miller - Portfolio: Upton and Environment

Test Valley District Councillor

Bourne Valley Mr Peter 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 or dennis.mutton@sky.com

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Parish Councillors' reports for 2010/11

Chairman's Report and Allotments report by Councillor David Sullivan

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

Planning and Village Website and Speed Limit Reminder reports by Councillor David Jopson

Upton Village and Environment reports by Councillor Debbie Miller

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

Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2011 by David Baker

Chairman's Report

I would like to express my thanks to the Councillors who have worked throughout the year on your behalf, in a manner of cooperation and goodwill that has made the Council meetings a matter of pleasure and not a chore. In particular, I would like to thank Fliss David and David Jopson who are standing down, for their contribution to the work we do together. We welcome Clayton Danks and Nicholas Melhuish in their places and thank them for coming forward. Special thanks must be made to our clerk, David Baker, who does the real work involved in administration and whose extra effort has given us the status of being a Quality Parish Council.

We appreciate too the support of Rupert Conder (AGAS), Tricia Andrews (Website) and Janet Coysh (parish magazine). Also input from Councillor Pam Mutton (Hampshire County Council) and Peter Giddings (Test Valley Borough Council) and finally Pc Martin Benton our police beat manager.

Our main project completed this year has been the replacement of the aerial runway on the King George V playing fields aided by supporting grants from TVBC and HCC.

Finally, may I encourage you to be more concerned about the quality of our community life and spirit in a village that is somewhat divided by the A343. It is a pity that we, the Council are returned unopposed, although it has saved election expenses to the parish. Also the Hurstbourne Tarrant

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

British Legion desperately needs greater footfall to sustain its future. It is not a club solely for the ex. Military but is open all residents and is a great village resource.

Support from a younger generation is needed if we are to have a new Community Centre, as the original initiators are now about 10 years older, but thanks to those who have worked hard raising funds. The primary school has had a tough year and it is the core of our community. I am pleased to welcome green shoots in the form of the proposed Nursery School (Little Lambs), thanks to the Revd David Keighley, and Tony and Pauline Harris.

Overall, the quality of life is so good in our village, let's keep it that way.

Allotments report:

All allotments are taken and there is a waiting list of thirteen people, eleven of whom are not living in the Hurstbourne Tarrant parish with two in the parish. Our policy is to give preference to parishioners. We also have been splitting the original large plots when they become vacant into two as the original plots were designed for larger families.

All the allotments are well kept and are a credit to the holders and a great asset to the community.

King George V Playing Fields, Pavilion and Primary School reports

The playing field and the children's play equipment are used a lot and the comparatively new aerial runway is very popular. The share tennis court and tarmac area arrangement between the school and the parish council operates very amicably, with the school using it during school time and the rest of the community at all other times. The pavilion continues to serve a purpose despite its age.

The primary school continues with around 112 children on role. They did their SATs tests last week and then we don't hear the results until the end of term. At the moment Mrs Johnson is seconded to the Diocesan Education Board and Mrs Kearney, the deputy head is in charge. However, it is business as usual and we are developing close links with Vernham Dean School and its staff. Now we have a male teacher in charge of year's 5 and 6, the sporting side is well to the fore. If anyone wants to ask any questions please don't hesitate!

Planning Report

Very little activity this past year on building development and extensions/alterations, but tree works still appear to dominate the application list. The resubmitted plans for the New Community Hall have been held back due to the suspected bat occupancy.

During the past year we have had a developer obtain approval for a replacement building, double the size and double the price, which gives rise to thinking what the Parish considers is needed to balance the developments that have taken place over recent years. This replacement building has grown from a 1930's 2 bedroom bungalow to a 5 bedroom house.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

We as a Parish Council have given consideration to Social Housing and have increased our stock to make us one of the largest providers in rural areas in north west Hampshire.

Many private dwellings have been enlarged to accommodate growing families.

However one area that appears not to cater for our residents is 2 or 3 bedroom properties for those that would like to down size because their children have left home or they might have lost a partner. There are examples of these types of developments in the area, one in St. Mary Bourne just beyond the Coronation Arms.

Perhaps the Parish Council would like to take this on board for the future.

Applications for work	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8
New/Replacement Buildings	2	6	5	8
Extensions/alterations	3	7	17	21
Treeworks	13	19	7	6
TPO	0	2	3	15
Demolition of Existing property	2			
Wall	1			
Planning Appeal	1			
Pedestrian Access	1			
Listed Internal Work	1			
Swimming Pool	1			
Variation of Planning Permission	1			
Total	26	34	32	50

www.hbt.org.uk

Parish website report

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.

A number of village clubs are also represented on the site, including The Book Club, The Historical Society, the Over 60's, The Royal British Legion, 10th Andover (Bourne Valley) Scouts, the School, the Church and local trades & services.

The running costs of the site have continued to be supported by various companies in the Parish. The site has had in excess of 7500 hits during the past 2 years.

Thanks must go to Trish Andrews who maintains the site on our behalf.

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

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Speed Limit Reminder (SLR)

This past year has seen Enham exit from the consortium of Parish Councils leaving Vernham and Tangle PC's with HbT sharing the costs. However Tangle have taken 2 shares as they have Wildhern within their Parish.

As reported last year we had problems with the units having functioning problems during the winter months. TVBC arranged for a meeting with the manufacturers along with the 3 parishes and it was felt that due to the extreme winter the batteries were unable to hold their charge for the week. TVBC were advised to change their battery charging method to insure a full charge was executed.

Upton Village & Environment report

Upton Village Report

Felicity Davis stepped down as the Upton village representative in February this year. We'd like to thank Fliss for all of her hard work and enthusiasm during her time on the Parish Council and wish her well in her continued role on the Upton Committee.

In October 2010 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 Soper's Farm by kind permission of the Millers'.

In December 2010 the village committee organised a Christmas Party which was a very popular event. This was held at Parsonage Farm by kind permission of John & Sarah Mills. This event was well supported. The now, traditional Christmas tree was again put up on the village triangle, this year kindly donated by John & Sarah Mills of Parsonage Farm.

In April 2011 the committee organised an Easter event which included an Egg Hunt & afternoon tea, hosted by kind permission of John and Sarah Mills. Adults and children attended - the children hunted for eggs whilst the adults drank tea and ate delicious homemade cakes and cream teas!

The long awaited opening of the Crown finally arrived on 18th April, which was well supported by local people. By Easter weekend the pub was serving food, and has since seen a steady number of visitors over the past month. Pub landlords, Julie and Mick who are originally from Essex are no strangers to the pub industry and recently ran the Royal Oak at Ecchinswell. To improve safety for children a new pub garden is being landscaped to the side of the restaurant, which has meant that one of the entrances has been permanently closed. The village pub quiz hopes to be resurrected soon.

Environment Report

Wildlife

After the long spell of warm spring sunshine we have experienced, it feels a very long time ago since we were struggling to get out of our driveways and generally having fun in the snow.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Although the cold snap was a real challenge for our wildlife, it also brought with it a return to a more 'traditional' weather pattern which helped our wildlife thrive during last year.

The cold, dry winter was generally of benefit to many hibernators, because they used less energy while hibernating, and were less likely to be disturbed and come out to look for food which wasn't there. The warm spring and early summer last year created ideal conditions for insects which led to bumper autumn berry crops in our woods and hedgerows. The RSPB did find that a number of country birds moved into residential areas in search of food due to the harsh winter and Barn owls were hit particularly hard due to extended periods of snow covered ground, which made it difficult to hunt successfully. However, number of voles has soared as a result and it is hoped that this abundance of prey will have a positive effect on barn owl numbers this year.

Dave Ellis continues to record the birds that he sees regularly in Hurstbourne Tarrant. I am pleased to report the long awaited return of the cuckoo to Upton this year – a sound that has become more absent in the village in recent years. I can also report raven, red kite, linnet, yellowhammer, stonechat, meadow pipit, lapwing, skylark, barn owl, bullfinch and woodcock all being recorded locally in and around Upton. A bird-watching friend of mine that travels widely recently told me that I was lucky enough to live in one of the best places in southern England for birds – the birds getting diverted along the downs and funnelled up and down the valley – so, next time Dave Ellis is organising a bird watching walk, grab your binoculars and see what you can see!

Bourne Valley Barn Owl Project

The Bourne Valley Barn Owl Project was launched in February 2011 by the Hampshire Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). The purpose of the Project is to secure and extend known populations of Barn Owl within the Bourne Valley. The project area runs from Vernham Dean to Hurstbourne Priors, following the river swift and rivulet along the river valley – extending approximately 1km either side of the river. The Project Launch saw over 30 landowners attend an event with another 20 unable to attend but committed to helping.

The aim of the project is to establish a continuous corridor of suitable barn owl hunting habitat along the entire length of the valley and to erect strategically positioned barn boxes. FWAG conservation advisers will be visiting landowners over the coming months, advising them on how to best manage their farms for barn owl, and giving away free barn owl boxes.

On 18th May a community event open to all, will be held at St Mary Bourne Village Hall at 7pm. This event will explain more about what barn owls need to survive and there will be an opportunity to hear about how local residents can get involved – from sponsoring a barn owl box to volunteering to help erect and monitor boxes.

The project is part funded by the North Wessex Downs AONB & Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council has also contributed a small donation. Some barn owl boxes have already been sponsored by Local businesses, schools and local individuals.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

AGAS REPORT TO THE AGM OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2011

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. I would again like to thank all those who have helped, particularly David Jopson and Ann Nash and from Hampshire County Council Councillor Pam Mutton and Paul Garrod Assistant Service Manager - Traffic Management (West).
2. Budget pressures are of course limiting the amount and extent of projects which HCC can undertake on our behalf, especially as the last two severe winters have put additional pressure on the road repair bill; however we have continued to make some progress in implementing new measures to mitigate the speed of traffic through the village.
3. The Megashed on Andover Airfield has now been handed over to the Co-operative. It is necessary to ensure that the Co-op complies, and continues to comply with the hard-fought for concessions in the "Section 106 Agreement", especially the barring the use of the A343 to Co-op Heavy Cargo Vehicles using the site as we are concerned that the system of monitoring this may not be fully effective. Please report the registration number, date, time and direction of travel of any Co-op HGVs using the A343 to me as soon as possible.
4. Safe Routes to School crossing of A343. You will recall that last year I reported 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 as the carriageway is a minimum width. Some HGVs have difficulty in negotiating the tight curves. Paul Garrod has agreed that the issue with children crossing at the bend will also be investigated to see if improvements can be made. We are now awaiting 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. The Bus Stop now has hard standing and HCC has agreed that a bollard be installed to provide some additional protection to those waiting there.
6. Outstanding Items. There were three outstanding items from last year report:
 - a. Extension of the Edge marking to the bus shelter and to the Post Office. The Edge marking has now been extended in both ends.
 - b. The Installation of three Gladiator bollards at the Upton Lane/A343 Junction. This has been put on hold whilst the Safe Routes to School Crossing is being investigated.
 - c. The installation of a timber bollard on the South East side of the school crossing. Although HCC acknowledge that this would enhance the safety of those waiting to cross the road, it was somehow left off the later plans. It has now been reinserted and will be implemented when the Safe Routes to School Crossing has been investigated.
7. Disabled Parking at the school.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

A Disabled Parking spot has been marked on the road outside the School.

8. Constructive suggestions made by residents last year.
 - a. 30 mph Roundel at North end of village. During the year a 30 mph roundel at the north end of the village has been marked on the road as suggested.
 - 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 will be further investigated by HCC to see if it can be implemented within the width of the bridge.
 - c. Yellow hatching on the narrow parts of Ibthorpe Road to discourage drivers from blocking the road has not yet been done, but drivers seem to be aware that they should not block the narrow parts of the road at that point, so such marking may be unnecessary.
 - d. Raised pavement edges in Ibthorpe Road to discourage drivers from mounting the kerb, thereby endangering pedestrians. Owing to the width of the road, some larger vehicles need to be able to mount the pavement; the over-run strip enables this and also allows two smaller vehicles to pass when turning in or out of the A343. HCC do not intend to alter the height of the pavement.
 - 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. The distance criteria at the North end of the village are significantly longer than the minimum visibility distance criteria for double white lines, so this will not be done.
9. Speed Limit Reminder Signs. Over the last 12 months, the SLR devices have been operating fairly normally although there have been some problems. They have a “calming effect” on the speed of many drivers.
10. Gates and a new village sign at North end of the village. The old blue and white village sign has now been replaced by a smart new sign designed by Paul Wimby which helps to define the extent of the more built up area and thereby to make drivers more aware of the need to reduce their speed. I am grateful to all those who submitted designs and to Pam Mutton for the funding.
11. Traffic Splitter Islands. We have proposed that two traffic splitter island be installed at the North end of the village. The aims of the traffic islands are to make:
 - a. A safer crossing place for school children and bus passengers crossing the road between the bus stops especially in the dark of the morning and evening.
 - b. Drivers more aware of school children and those waiting for the bus who stand virtually in the road on the bus stop outside Hawthorne House.
 - c. A focus for drivers that pedestrians are likely to be in the area.
 - d. A constraint on those drivers who insist on accelerating for Provost Hill when it comes into sight around the bend from the village centre.
 - e. An obstacle and deterrent for those drivers that insist on overtaking in that area which has led to several accidents in the recent past.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

- f. It safer for drivers heading in the direction of Newbury who would like to turn right into the lay-by opposite or into the garage.
- g. A constraint on vehicles entering the village at speed from Newbury.
- h. It safer for persons/cars exiting drives onto the A343.
Paul Garrod inspected the proposed sites and then compared them with the splitter islands in Highclere. He reported that in Highclere the road is approximately 30cm wider, which may make the difference as to whether the road would have to be widened in order to accommodate splitter island, which are too narrow for pedestrian use, where the speed limit starts and where the boundary sign is located. The road would have to be widened to fit in a pedestrian refuge island. He agreed to investigate it further.

- 12. The construction of a path from the Bus Shelter to the Garage/shop. Since the service station/garage has opened a larger shop, it has become quite popular for local residents to walk to. During dry weather, many residents walk across The Green, but during wet weather, most walk along the road. This is dangerous as the traffic is fast moving. HCC agreed that a pathway from the Bus Shelter to the Garage would reduce the danger significantly and would refer the request onto the Test Valley Highway Manager to see if it can be considered for our low cost capital programme. The programme for this year has been set but it may be possible for it to be considered for 2012/13. The budget is relatively modest though at £35k, and there are several other requests for footways across the Test Valley area.
- 13. Hampshire Community Anti-Speeding Scheme. HCC Police have launched a Community Anti-Speeding Scheme. This is being investigated further as the costs appear to be prohibitive.

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

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2011

The council's reserves stand at £13,718 at March 31 2011 (£17,682 at March 31st 2010). The reserves are maintained to produce investment income and to fund capital projects.

The Parish Council recorded a deficit of £3,964 for the year to March 31st 2011.

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

The precept this year (2011/12) has been frozen at £9,250 (a nil% increase) on a tax base of 382 dwellings.

The Band D levy for Hurstbourne Tarrant for 2011/12 has set at £24.15 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 2011			
Box		Last Year 09/10 £s	This Year 10/11 £s
1	Balances Brought Forward	16,896	17,682
2	(+) Annual Precept	8750	9250
3	(+) Total other receipts	3429	6772
4	(-) Staff Costs	-2,279	-2,386
5	(-) Loan interest capital repayments	0	0
6	(-) Total other payments	-9,113	-17,601
7	(=) Balances carried forward	17,682	13,718
8	Total Cash	17,682	13,718
9	Total Fixed Assets Includes long term investments (unit trust shareholding)	95,959	97,035
10	Total Borrowings	0	0

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Table 2

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council	Bank Reconciliation	
Prepared by: David Baker (Clerk /RFO)		
Approved by: David Sullivan (Chairman of the Parish Council)		
Financial Year ending 31 March 2011		
	2009/10	2010/11
Balance Treasurers Account (0730337) per Bank Statement	100.00	100.00
Balance Instant Access (7150069) per Bank Statement	9,920.17	6,533.81
Balance 30 Day Notice (7210851) per Bank Statement	7,681.87	7,685.75
Outstanding Cheques as at 31 March	-20.00	-601.90
Outstanding Credits as at 31 March		
Net bank balances 31 March	16,895.67	13,717.66
	Total cash and investments	
	16,895.67	13,717.66
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year as follows,		
Opening Balance	16,895.67	17,682.04
Less debtors		
Add creditors		
Add: Receipts in the year to 31 March	12,178.77	16,022.01
Less: Payments in the year to 31 March	-11,392.40	-19,986.39
Closing Balance per cash book as at 31 March	17,682.04	13,717.66
	Total Cash and Investments 31 March	
	17,682.04	13,717.66

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.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Base Budget Financial Year 2011/12

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Deficit
King George V Field	200.00	1,200.00	-1,000.00
King George V Pavilion	200.00	1,500.00	-1,300.00
Dene Green		180.00	-180.00
Tennis Court		50.00	-50.00
Allotments	131.00	80.00	51.00
Repairs & Maintenance		2,000.00	-2,000.00
Interest	700.00		
Wayleaves	90.00		
Sub-Total	1,321.00	5,010.00	-3,689.00
Administration			
Clerk		2,400.00	
Stationery		600.00	
Insurance		1,100.00	
Audit		150.00	
Other		650.00	
Sub Total Administration		4,900.00	-4,900.00
Grants & Donations		750.00	
Election Expenses		500.00	
Projects:			
Shared speed indicator device - annual charge		750.00	
Sub-Total		2,000.00	-2,000.00
Total Income / Expenditure	1,321.00	11,910.00	-10,589.00
VAT refund from 10/11	1,800.00		
Precept	9,250.00		
Total	12,371.00	11,910.00	461.00

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Dates for Parish Council meetings – Jan 2011 to Dec 2011

Date of meeting	Type of meeting	Venue and start time
17 January 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
21 February 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
21 March 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
18 April 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
16 May 2011	Annual Council Meeting Note: 1	Church Hall – 6.00 p.m.
16 May 2011	Annual Parish Meeting Note: 2	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
20 June 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
18 July 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
15 August 2011	Parish Council	No meeting planned
19 September 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
17 October 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
21 November 2011	Parish Council	Church Hall – 7.30 p.m.
19 December 2011	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
Clayton Danks	Councillor	01264 736697	claytondanks@hotmail.co.uk
Nicholas Melhuish	Councillor	01264 736443	Nicholas_melhuish@yahoo.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