



The Dragon



facebook

Find the Parish
Council on
Facebook!

Its been a very busy few months for councillors, with several changes within the Council. We said goodbyes and a huge thank you to Chairman David Lloyd, who served on the Parish Council for 6 years, and to Chris Bucknell who after 8 years as Parish Clerk, also decided to retire. We are still looking for a Parish Clerk, if you are interested please email Cllr Mel Preedy on melpreedy@hotmail.co.uk.

We have also welcomed two new members – Euan Grant and Marcus Billig. We still have two vacancies on the Council – if you want to find out more about what a Parish Council does, please see inside. At the Annual Parish Council meeting Julia Cotton was elected as Chairman and Mike Jones as Vice-Chairman.

We have a pot of money which we would like your input on spending – using your priorities we will put together a Parish Council Plan to guide our activities over the coming months and years. What is important to you and your family? See back page for more information.

The Queens Jubilee next year provides an opportunity for our community to come together – what events would you attend? Street party, time capsule, group picnic, outdoor film? Get in touch with your ideas, join our working group or let us know about plans other local groups have.

Conrad Energy have proposed a Solar Farm extending between Dormington substation and Larport Lane; the proposed site will provide low carbon power for more than 10,000 homes each year. More details can be found inside this edition.

Full details of our meetings can be found here:

<https://dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk/> and up to date news or local events can be found on our Facebook page.

Meet the Parish Council

Parish Councillor Rob Cannings

Although not from Dormington and Mordiford I grew up on Aylestone Hill spending quite a bit of time on the Lugg Meadows as a youngster.

After leaving school I studied Agriculture at Wye College and then initially working for UK agricultural companies covering this area. Following company mergers I ended up as part of a management buyout to create one of the major suppliers of product into the Home Garden and Amenity markets. During this time we continued to live in South Herefordshire and raise our four children.



A few years later uprooted to the USA and while in California 12 years ago shifted my career to green agricultural technology. With this knowledge our family moved back to the UK 7 years ago and have worked for number of small UK green agricultural start-ups as well as pre-Brexit advising the EU Commission.

I have been lucky to have a career which allowed us to live in Herefordshire and work partly from home. We moved to Mordiford almost 1 year ago and as part of the move I am keen to experiment and embrace new greener technologies in transport and at home.

Herefordshire is a great place to live and we need to work as a community to shape our future and ensure the provision of the services and environment we aspire to. The Parish Council is our local voice and influence with in the county. I look forward to being an active member of the Parish Council and helping to make a difference.

Litter Pick

Thanks to everyone who helped with the two Litter Picks held across the parishes in April and May. It was a wet one in Mordiford and Checkley, but we still managed to collect around 10 bags of rubbish.

Dormington collected a large haul in April too.

The Mordiford Dragons even managed to brave the rain and collect rubbish from the village.



Facebook Group – Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council

Have you joined the other 404 members on the Facebook group? This is a private group where members can ask questions, invite discussion and receive local information.



News from Mordiford School

We are nearing the end of another very busy, albeit very different academic year. There have been challenges along the way, non-more so than the Lockdown in January when the school had to close its doors to all but key worker children and vulnerable pupils for the second time in under a year.

Despite this disruption the children have been amazingly resilient and achieved many highs. It has been lovely that during the summer term things have become a little more normal and so we have been able to hold familiar events such as Sports Day and resume trips. A particular highlight has been that our Y6 pupils enjoyed a wonderful week on residential at PGL, where they displayed great courage when facing personal challenges and had so much fun along the way.

We are pleased to report that numbers at the school are very healthy with 163 children on roll and the school is thriving. We are looking forward to meeting the new Reception children before they start in September and wish a very fond farewell to our Y6 as they prepare to make the move to high school.

On a personal note, after seven happy years at Mordiford, it is time for me to move on. I am relocating to the south of England with my family over the summer. I would like to thank the local community for all the support that I have received over the course of my Headship, I shall miss the school, its wonderful children and this beautiful area very much. We also say goodbye to Mr. Richard Foster our Deputy Head. We wish Mr. Foster every success when he begins his Headship at Lugwardine Academy in September.

Mrs. Sue Warmington has been appointed as my replacement and will take up the role of Head teacher of Mordiford CE Primary School in September. Mrs. Warmington is returning to the county after working as the Head of Primary at an International school in Bratislava. I know that she is keen to make links with the local community and I am sure she will be made to feel very welcome.

Kerry Finney, Head Teacher

Update – from the Parish Council's Footpath Officer

There is still a significant rise in footfall due to the Pandemic. Routine maintenance is now back to normal and we endeavour to keep the paths as clear as possible for all to enjoy.

We have replaced 10 rotten waymarker posts and two gate latches. I have requested a footbridge to cross the Penteloe Brook in Bears Wood Checkley and repairs to be done to the steps on the footpath in Sufton Lane.

I am also looking to add an additional picnic bench to Checkley Barn Picnic site and an extra seating bench for Swardon Quarry.

Please can we again remind people to close any gates on the footpaths and to keep dogs under control as there are livestock and we wouldn't want to disturb them.





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Call Stu on 07867 675939

Email info@tolleyhomeservices.co.uk

Website tolleyhomeservices.co.uk

The West Mercia Local Policing Team provided the Parish Council with details of their Local Policing Charter. The main points are below with more detail on the PC Facebook page. Below highlights their key priorities and also provides an opportunity for us to flag our community concerns e.g. theft, fly tipping or something else. ***Please contact our Clerk with your concerns and we will submit our community priorities to the team.***

West Mercia will continue to focus on three key priorities of **Safer Homes, Safer Roads and Safer People**. These priorities are driven by six key themes:

Visibility & accessibility: The team are keen to be seen and engage with the community. Being able to listen to your concerns is important and they will reiterate their commitment to attend Parish meetings.

Responding to communities: The team will respond to concerns raised by Parish Councils as well as those raised by individuals. As part of this they are asking PCs to tell them what the top three concerns they have for your area. They will then review and come up with a plan of how to tackle these plans with an agreed timeframe.

Prevention: They are committed to tackling recurrent and connected problems and will work proactively with communities and partner agencies to prevent issues taking hold.

Vulnerability: The team are trained to identify vulnerable individuals and where identified ensure that they offer the correct support and signposting to support agencies.

Relationships: Being connected to our communities is the key to being successful. They will be open and honest with the community about what can be expected of them.

Partnerships: They want to work closely with our community to provide the most cohesive and effective response to issues whenever and wherever the opportunities arise. Community schemes such as Community Speedwatch and Neighbourhood Watch have their full support and they will link in and take part where possible.

Hereford Rural North SNT | Josh KITCHEN: 07773053436
PCSO Adam WESTLAKE: 07773052580
Team email: herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

MEET THE MAGISTRATES



Applications open from 1st August until 10th
September for magistrates to sit in Herefordshire
contact swmjco@justice.gov.uk for details

We're all ordinary people.
Anyone aged between 18-70
can sit as a magistrate and you
don't need any formal qualifications
as full training is provided.

Travel and subsistence is paid
and if you are employed you are
legally entitled to take time off
for the role.



Ministry
of Justice



JUDICIAL OFFICE

**Could you offer
14 or more days a year?**

Find out more at
GOV.UK/become-magistrate

What is a Parish Council?



It's not this!

We have vacancies for two Parish Councillors, but what does a Parish Council do?

Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council meets 10 times a year to discuss and agree a range of topics:

- 1) Comment on all Planning Applications in the parish
- 2) Agree and organise work to the Rights of Way
- 3) Discuss ways of making our roads safer
- 4) Consider how we could improve our environmental impact
- 5) Represent the views of parishioners
- 6) We manage the allotments at Shepherds Orchard
- 7) We also manage the Burial Ground and the maintenance of the Closed Churchyard in Mordiford.

As a Parish Council we have wide ranging powers to provide services to benefit the community e.g. youth activities, tree planting, highway safety, street lighting, renewable energy projects, encourage tourism.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact:

clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk for more information.

If you don't want to serve as a Parish Councillor but would still like to be involved, you could join a working group instead. For example, we have started a working group focused on local Jubilee events. Get in touch to find out more.

Mordiford Dragon Project

We had some excellent news this month – we have now secured full funding for the Dragon Trail. Thank you to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Wye Valley AONB and the Parish Council.

We have instructed our sculpture to start making the wooden sculptures which will form part of the walking trail telling the story of the Mordiford Dragon. We hope to have a grand opening celebration in the autumn, watch this space....

The Dragoneers

Community First's oil buying group

**Great value and
convenience**



Community First is a long established charity, in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, with aims to support strong and vibrant rural communities. In 2013, we set up a bulk buying group for heating oil for anyone in the two counties. The scheme keeps money in the local economy, builds a greater sense of community and cooperation and helps tackle fuel poverty. Over the years, with hundreds of members, we have saved many thousands of pounds across both counties.

How does it work?

At the end of each month we collate orders placed by our members and negotiate with a number of suppliers. Our savings are often between 2p and 4p a litre against the average English price and can be much more against local individual quotes. Our prices are the same for 500 as for 1500 which is good for spreading your costs.

To register your interest or ask a question please contact info@comfirst.org.uk or ring Richard on 07515 881231.

Membership costs £20 per year. We are very happy to work with established local groups too for instance by sharing good practice and energy efficiency tips. More details can be found at www.comfirst.org.uk

Ecochurch Initiative and Caring for Gods Acre

Like many other churches in the Hereford Diocese, St. Peter's, Dormington is beginning to participate in the national 'Ecochurch' initiative. The project asks churches to examine how they are caring for the planet by using an online survey looking at five areas of church and community life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of buildings
- Management of land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyles

As they work to develop their responses churches can move through Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards with the emphasis very much on the **process** and improvement. P.C.Cs are encouraged to engage with their wider parish communities so that we all try to achieve more environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

One area that we have started looking at is our churchyard. Two local botanists have recently carried out a survey, which shows considerable biodiversity, particularly in the older, lower part of the churchyard near the main road. We have a loyal and hard working group of mowers and will now adjust our mowing regime so that areas with recent graves and pathways are mown regularly, while others are mown much less frequently to allow wild flowers and insects to flourish. We have



also recently switched to a supplier using renewable energy for our electricity. *Two small steps.....but a start. Watch this space!*

Steve Chandler, Church warden of St. Peters Church

Checkley Church Development Update

Following the successful granting of planning permission in January 2020 for the proposed small extension to provide a kitchen and disabled toilet for St Nicholas Church Checkley, there had been a public meeting planned for 20th March 2020 which unfortunately had to be cancelled.

The meeting has now been re-arranged to **Wednesday 22nd September 2021**. We would encourage all local residents and interested parties to attend to discuss the next phase of this local village project which hopefully will become a valued community asset.

The proposal can be viewed on Hereford Council Planning Portal under reference P191199/F.

Mordiford 200 Club

The 200 club is a village Lottery, set up several years ago to raise funds for Mordiford Church. There is nothing you have to do to be in it, except purchase a number for 50p a week - payable in one sum of £26.00 for the year.

There are no other commitments and no meetings to attend (unless of course you wish to come along to any of the draws and see if your number comes out!). From 1st Aug the prizes every month will be:

1st Prize £100.00

2nd Prize £60.00

3rd Prize £30.00

4th Prize £15.00

The draw takes place on 1st of every month (See various posters for venues). The draw on New Years Day & 1st July includes a few extra prizes

The winners are published in the County section of the Hereford Times, The Beneficial. **Anyone interested in having their own number can contact Sue Day on 01432 850375; email sueday14@btinternet.com**

SOLAR FARM PLANNING PROPOSAL - LARPORT

Last month many of us living near the Dormington to Mordiford Road received a hand-delivered brochure from Conrad Energy, outlining a proposal to create a 120-acre solar farm on the floodplain in fields behind the Dormington electricity sub-station and extending to Larport Lane.

It included a rough plan, the reasons why the intended site was selected, and that the proposed site will provide low carbon power for more than 10,000 homes each year.

Conrad is actively seeking feedback from residents before they finalise the design and submit the planning application to Herefordshire Council at the end of July. For those who did not receive a brochure, there is a list of FAQs on the Conrad Energy web site conradenergy.co.uk/projects/solar/larport-solar-farm/ and you can also sign up to receive regular updates from the project team, or email them directly at larportsolarfarm@conradenergy.co.uk

If you have not received the brochure, and do not have access to the internet, you may ring the Conrad main office 01235 427490. There will be an opportunity for you to put your questions and concerns directly to the local team. This should take place on 21st July between 4-7pm (Conrad will advertise the venue location).

The Parish Council made a site visit to the proposed development area and heard more about the plans including for additional hedgerows to screen the site from the hill above; the flood impact risk assessment, and the creation of grazing for sheep under the panels.

The consultation and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will help inform the planning application to Herefordshire Council at the end of July.

After this, residents can either access the planning portal to look at the plans and object or support the application, or write directly to: Herefordshire Council's Planning Department by post:

Planning Services, PO Box 230, Hereford HR1 2ZB, phone 01432 2603 or email planning_enquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk.



Perton Lane Community Fibre Partnership (CFP) - update



Lockdown highlighted our dependence on good broadband.

Last September one of the PC Councillors applied for a CFP with Openreach. This utilised the Government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and will deliver fibre to the residents and businesses, along Perton Lane. After gaining enough voucher pledges, we signed a contract with Openreach on the 13 Jun 21.

Openreach is contracted to deliver fibre to the premises within 12 months, although we're expecting work to start this winter.

In return those who pledged just need to connect to a fibre provider of their choice.



The Little Green Hut at Mordiford Green

Some of you may wonder about the small green corrugated iron hut on Mordiford Green. This article, written by ex-Councillor Brian Dukes for the Dragon issue of January 2014, explains:



“The Little Green Hut lies on the banks of the Pentoloe River, near the Moon Pub, and opposite the burial ground on the Woolhope Road. A telephone kiosk lies nearby. Constructed from timber and corrugated iron, the hut housed a weighbridge, used to weigh all manner of things. Limestone, for building work and road making, and quicklime, for lime mortar and agricultural use, came from Scutterdine as well as other quarries in the area. Timber and charcoal, used as a fuel and for industrial purposes, were brought down from Haugh Wood. Much of the timber was

harvested for pit props and used in the coalmines of South Wales. A few were transported by road, but most were put on railway trucks at Holme Lacy. Bark, a source of tannin, was removed from oak and transported to the Midlands for use in the leather industry. The remaining timber from Haugh Wood was used for building and firewood.

Cider fruit, harvested from the surrounding orchards, was weighed at the Green Hut and transported to the new Bulmers' Cider factory, in Ryelands Street.

Cattle and sheep were weighed on their way to the new Hereford Cattle Market in Blueschool Street.

Herefordshire County Council (HCC) operated the weighbridge. The fees charged were dependant on the weight and the product being weighed. Higher fees were charged for the more valuable products such as livestock and fruit.

The weighbridge was removed long ago but HCC used it as a lengths-man's store. Lengths-men were responsible for maintaining rural roads. Our lengths-man left his wheelbarrow, pick and shovel in the hut overnight, and used it as a place of refuge in bad weather, and a place to sit and eat his breakfast. When needed, he borrowed a hand operated coal-fired furnace to melt tar for sealing repairs to potholes. The furnace, coal and tar he also stored in the Little Green Hut. When the County Council employed centrally deployed gangs to carry out road repairs, the Little Green Hut was left empty. Soon the lock disappeared, and it became available for other purposes

Brian went on to outline villagers' stories relating to the hut; including use as a bus stop, a rain shelter, a bike store, a place for schoolkids to have a crafty fag, and to change into school shoes and leave their muddy boots before walking home through the woods. It was used as an emergency shelter for those who had a few too many pints at the Moon, and as a nesting site for ducks and robins.

By 2014, the little hut was only used to dump rubbish, and its shutter as an unofficial notice board. After damage from repeated flooding and in danger of falling into the Pentoloe River, it was decided to move it to the Green and use it to display local information. A happy retirement home!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

In 2011, we celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Now we want your ideas on how to celebrate this next one (see front page). Below is an excerpt from the October 2011 edition of The Dragon, edited by Cllr Mel Preedy, who continues to do a great job to this very day!

Suggested Programme to Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee: Dormington and Mordiford Group of Parishes

Christmas 2011

A special raffle will be held to raise funds to purchase commemorative items for children of the parish

Friday June 1st 2012

Children of Mordiford School will seal their Time Capsule and bury it on a prepared site near the boundary of the school playing field.

Children will be presented with a souvenir and scroll to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Saturday June 2nd 2012

Teams will compete for a commemorative emblem with a knock out (pull in) tug o' war across the River Lugg near Mordiford Bridge.

A concert given by Hereford Police Choir will be held in Mordiford Church of the Holy Rood during the evening. Refreshments will be provided in the school hall.

Sunday June 3rd 2012

A flotilla of canoes will leave Badgers Crossing just upstream of The Bunch of Carrots and paddle down the River Wye and up the River Lugg to disembark at Garlands Farm. Participants can then make their way through the churchyard to Mordiford School Playing Field to continue with their celebrations.

At midday an Oak tree will be planted by a special guest at the site where the time capsule was buried. A plaque, with suitable text, will be erected at the foot of the tree.

A Sunday Lunch, in the form of either a hog roast with salads or a vegetarian alternative, will be served on the school playing fields.

During the afternoon special fun events will be arranged for everyone.

At 6.00pm, after tea and cakes, a live concert will be held. Performers will be parish residents and their friends.

On Monday, at 10.30 pm a beacon will be lit at Swarton Quarry. Rockets will be fired.

The above, is only a suggested programme. If you have other ideas please let us know, straight away. Any offers of help to organise these events will be greatly appreciated.

To help with the planning of the celebrations we need to know the number of children living in the parish who do not attend Mordiford School or Mordiford Dragons. If your child is 16 years or under and falls into this category, please let us have details of his/hers name, age, address and their school (if any).

It would also be helpful to know which of the events you would like to attend. Charges will be made for some, but as there is no profit element, these will be kept to a minimum. Please let us know if you would like to join the flotilla, attend the concert or partake in Sunday lunch. If you or your friends wish to take part in the live concert, please let us know what you have to offer. All information should be sent to the Parish Clerk and it will be used solely for planning our celebrations.

Your Parish Council

What are your priorities?



Let us know what you think:

- email the PC Clerk or contact one of your councillors**
- come along to a PC meeting**
- or join a PC working group**

Email: clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk