



# EAST HUNTSPILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish  
**Bruce Poole**  
BA (Hons); Fellow ILCM CMC

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

### CHAIRMAN

I should like to welcome you all to this meeting. There has been a number of changes have occurred in the last twelve months. Sadly Ray Puddy passed away. He will greatly missed by one and all.

In last years report I indicated that the Pre-School Alliance was likely to close but as things have turned out subsequently it has not been the case. A few more children enrolled and fund raising has been such that the Pre-School has been able to remain open.

The new style Committees such as Planning Open Spaces and Finance & Personnel has kept the members busy this year by having to attend a greater number of meetings the outcome of which will be reported elsewhere.

We have continued to receive the support of our District Councillors and PC Sheila Dickenson. Also I am delighted to report that our clerk and his wife Ann had the privilege of attending a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June. We have also welcomed two new Councillors following the elections in May namely Mrs Liz Birt and Mr Rob Prowton. Because of a vacancy following the election Mrs Heather Dixon was subsequently selected. All three have made a very much welcomed contribution to the work of the council.

The Parish Council was pleased to be able to convince Sedgemoor District Council to change its decision on the naming of the new affordable Housing Development in Church Road. The Parish Council is pleased to note that this development has been concluded to a very high standard. The Parish Council has also taken a keen interest in the proposed sports pavilion recently given Planning Permission for it to be erected on the Playing Field. The Parish Council has also made great progress through the work of Councillor Rob Prowton and Councillor Heather Dixon to bring itself into the modern technological age by setting up a dedicated web site with a Facebook page. This has been further enhanced by the recent installation of Broadband in the Village Hall. This together with the Screen and Projector and Lap Top will allow the Parish Council to fully take part as a pilot Parish Council to undertake paperless planning application on behalf of Sedgemoor District Council.

Again during the year the Parish Council has appointed a Village Ranger who works in the village for 10 hours per week. It is clear for all to see that his work to date has had an impact within the village. Great progress has been made with further issues of the Village Magazine which also appear on the web site. Several village organisations are “gearing up” to put on various social activities to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

Finally I wish to thank the Councillors for all their hard work and of that of the Parish Clerk Mr Bruce Poole.

MRS T J SALWAY - Chairman

## ROADS & TRANSPORT

Matters arising during the year

- a. The traffic calming scheme has I believe reduced the overall speed through the village and as local people become familiar to the pinch gates, they will drive slower.
- b. The “Slow” speed sign in Church Road at the north side of the village has significantly reduced the speed of traffic entering the village from the north.
- c. It has been noted by parishioners that the numbers of HGV’s using the village on a 24 hour basis has increased after the Temporary Weight Restriction order finished.
- d. Motor bikes are continuing to speed through the village, the police have been informed.
- e. Minor works to the highway have been put into next year’s budget due to limited funds.
- f. Some road signs that have been demolished by accidents have not yet been replaced.

Changes to the current weight restriction

After numerous discussions with SCC and Woolavington Parish Council the idea of extending the weight restriction from Woolavington to Watchfield Corner or the Brue River Bridge was put forward. This would mean that any delivery to East Huntspill parishioners would be accepted and this was considered to be the best option. Any HGV that could not prove that they were delivering to East Huntspill could be prosecuted by the police This was then dismissed by SCC!

After the Parish Council was given no option by SCC, but to agree to an exemption system, the Parish Council has spent a lot of time in the last year arranging the exemption certificates for the parishioners. The Parish Council felt that every parishioner should be given the opportunity to apply for an exemption certificate as this could affect their business or increase delivery cost to their properties. The Parish Council advertised this in the new Parish Magazine “EH”, made sure that the local farms had all applied and made it generally known that this order was permanent with no changes.

However, SCC only wanted a few exemptions to be arranged in order that the police could enforce the new order, but it was felt by the Parish Council that this would disadvantage some small businesses and increase costs of deliveries to East Huntspill parishioners. Eventually 150 exemptions were sent to SCC. The police said that they could not enforce this system due to the number of exemptions. This system was then also dismissed by SCC.

In March 2012 SCC sent a letter stating that an 18 tonne weight restriction is now the only pragmatic option. This was the first mention of this 18 tonne weight restriction. No explanation has been provided by SCC as to why it should be 18 tonne!

We were told by SCC that they could not guarantee that the funding would be available after 1st April 2012. Alternatively, we could put a scheme forward for consideration in the next LTP round 2012/13.

After a meeting with Woolavington Parish Council it was reluctantly agreed (with a mandate from East Huntspill Parish Council) that both parish Councils would accept the 18 Tonne limit as this was better than nothing and monitor what happens in the next year.

NIGEL LITTON - Road & Transport

## COMMUNICATIONS

### “EH” MAGAZINE & FACEBOOK

After over fifteen years of living in East Huntspill, I decided to become a Parish Councillor; there were many reasons for my decision. The main reason was because I wanted to be a part of the place where I live and to radically assist in the communications within our village.

In May 2011, three of the Parish Council got together brainstorming lots of ideas how we could communicate to 1100 people of all different ages on a frequent basis.

'EH' was born – The new Parish Magazine of East Huntspill.

Lots of discussions, reporting ideas, who, when, how and what. In August 2011 the edition of 'EH' was produced and delivered to 550 properties within the boundaries East Huntspill, Bason Bridge, Hackness & Cote.



first  
of

In March 2012, I edited and produced Edition 4, themed 'Getting Smart in the Village'. The magazine goes from strength to strength, with print runs now totalling 600 copies on a bi-monthly basis. Some copies even being sent to the far corners of the Earth to past residents of East Huntspill.

The Magazine contains regular local entries from organisations and residents alike, culminating in The December Edition being fully sponsored by The South West Housing Association

We have now linked up with Pulse FM and 'Quaywest' Online Radio Stations that advertise village events identified within 'EH'.

Advertising revenue is expected to increase by 400% in the financial year 2012/2013, giving the magazine investment to improve and grow.

I believe 'EH' is the formal voice of East Huntspill; it reaches everyone with news and views of what is going on. Future plans involve expansion of the Team to include Village Residents; this I believe will truly endorse 'EH' as a village communication device

'EH' has been nominated for 'Village Magazine of the Year 2012' – 'EH' is designed & produced by volunteers using their own time and equipment, we have never used Artwork Design Professionals in its design or production.

Our Facebook Page, *easthuntspilvillage*, set up in June 2011 now boasts 116\* members, generating a staggering 5100 'Hits' over the last 9 months. In comparison, a similar Social Media site with the boundaries of the M25, generated less than 4000 hits with the same given time period. Reports suggest that where Councils have set up Social Media as a means of communications, usually they have to be administered by their author. However, in East Huntspill, this is not the case.



Almost daily, someone within the group adds a Post, Comment or event. A successful Facebook page literally run by its members, for the benefit of the village, with instant up to date communications that matter to residents of the village.

Facebook gives a voice that sometimes cannot be heard, be it good, bad or indifferent, it is still a voice of Village Communication (\*April 2012)

ROB PROWTON - Editor & Facebook Manager

## WEBSITE

In May I was asked to help to broaden the communication methods of East Huntspill Parish Council, contributing ideas to the village magazine. Alongside this, I was asked to set up the Parish Website, which was first approved back in May 2009. I was formally elected onto the Council in July and by then I had gathered enough information to launch the website at approximately the same time as the first published 'eh' magazine.

My brief for the website was to help provide an openness and transparency of data which would deliver good communications and community involvement within the parish which should provide at the minimum a list of contact details and accessibility of reports, policies and minutes. This will help enable the Council to attain the benchmark for a Quality Parish Council.

In August I requested the .gov.uk, which is the official ending for local government departments – this website [www.easthuntspillparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.easthuntspillparishcouncil.gov.uk) was confirmed in October 2011, which meant search engines such as google and also government depts such as Sedgemoor would be able to give everyone access via their web sites. The numbers of hits have increased, first recorded in December as 165 and latest in March as 235 per month which are encouraging.

The main categories of the website are:

1. Parish Councillors - contacts and their photos
2. About the Parish - numerous
3. About the Village – numerous
4. Policies – all available in pdf format for public inspection
5. Meetings - Uploaded ALL past Minutes from 2003 and latest Agenda
6. Planning – Minutes, Agendas and all Planning Applications from 2011
7. Newsletter – attached electronic copies
8. Events – Current and Regular - numerous
9. Local Information- Services, Facilities, Refuse Collection and Recycling Calendar, Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Local Businesses, Grants Available, Useful Links

I created a new logo “The Hun” (which was formally adopted by the Council in January 2012, and will be now used on all communications from the Council.



## EAST HUNTSPILL PARISH COUNCIL

The website is still on-going with the latest pages being: Jubilee Celebrations, Local Organisations, Neighbourhood Watch and Family Announcements.

I am still implementing the emailing of interested parties with either updated or new pages on the website.

HEATHER DIXON – Website Manager

### PLAYING FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES

#### PLAYING FIELD

In the last 12 months the new play area has become established. The initial teething problem of bare grass areas has been resolved and the protective matting put in place has meant that the grass has been able to grow without being worn away. All the trees are now growing and this will only in time enhance the look of the area

There have been no further problems with vandalism to the site following the Parish Councils initiative and the letter that was sent to all parishioners from the Chair of the Parish Council which is excellent news. I know that when the site was reviewed by Harley Cook from SDC and the contractors they both commented on how good the site looked compared to other sites they had installed where they had experienced various degrees of vandalism.

The site has been well maintained throughout the year. The only negative comments received by the council are the continuing problem of dog fouling on the playing field. We can only encourage parishioner's police this as much as possible by reporting any incidents to the Sedgemoor Dog Warden as well as parish councillors. There were also a couple of incidents where liquids of some sort had been dumped in the hedgerow/rhyne but this was quickly sorted and cleaned up.

The Council are going ahead with installing further pieces of play equipment, following request from parishioners, for some play equipment for the under 5's as this was not part of the remit of the initial installation. The council are happy at anytime to receive request from parishioners to improve the area

The council are very pleased to say that following a few teething problems planning permission has now been granted for the new Sports Pavilion which is excellent news. A working committee has been formed and plans are moving along well. This is going to be a really good facility for the village and will hopefully increase the use of the playing field for sporting activities.

The field is currently used by:-  
Crown Football Club  
East Huntspill Cricket Club  
The Village Ladies Rounder's Team  
East Huntspill Primary School

It is hoped in the next 12 months the council can move ahead with their plans to install a Family Inclusive Sports Area which will provide activities for the older children as well as family and older members of the community.

Once all these facilities have been completed I think the village will be able to pride itself on having one of the best playing field facilities for their community in the area.

### OPEN SPACES

The other open spaces within the parish have no doubt benefited from having our new village ranger who has been able to keep the village tidy of litter, repainting tired notice boards repainting areas that had suffered with graffiti, planting yet more bulbs and generally improving the appearance of our village.

KATHRYN COOKE – Open Spaces Committee Chairman

### P.A.C.T

The P.A.C.T.is always held prior to the Costal Cluster Group Meeting and Roger Tolley is usually the reporting officer.

This year the main problems in the Costal Cluster Group area is Speeding and Drugs although statistics are given quarterly for all other crimes. It would seem it is the same villages and Burnham sea front that are the targets for speeding. Some of the villages take it upon themselves to monitor and record the number of cars involved, reporting their findings to the police. Police Traffic Officers move from area to

area with their equipment in order that official action can be taken. Electronic posts which record the rate of which the car is traveling are shown in large red figures has proven to have an effect.

Drug problems during the year have mainly been in Highbridge and Burnham, but that is not to say the Villages are drug free, the problem moves about, when Police action takes place some of the areas involved find drug crimes reduce greatly.

Other crimes such as Burglary, violent and malicious damage do occur; the number and the success percentages are given also the more serious crimes.

The recent crime in East Huntspill, coming under serious crimes.

The police email me as to what is happening; enabling me to pass on that information, at the moment tension is very high in that part of our village.

### **THE COSTAL CLUSTER GROUP**

During this year several villages have applied to the Costal Cluster Group for funding from the RLT 3 fund, East Huntspill applied for such funding for the proposed Sports Pavilion to be sited on our Playing Field I am happy to say there application was successful, work should start in the near future.

PlayInnovation gave a presentation to the group of the planed MUGA, to which we are awaiting planning permission; the MUGA will include STREET SNOOKER AND STREET POOL. Street Snooker has been available for approximately 2 years, a national league is already in existence, training will be given to a local person willing to coach youngsters in the sport.

Street Pool is very new and we are likely to be the first in the world to have the games included in the MUGA, with America being keen on Pool it is hoped this will be exported to the USA.

Each Quarter up dates are give for the National Grid Giant Pylon, Hinckley C and the Large development taking place of the A38 at Bridgwater, and how this development will bring a much needed boost to increase employment .

### **NATIONAL GRID GIANT PYLONS**

Information and Data are being gathered as to the best way of transporting electricity, this project will be 'BIG NEWS' at the end of the of the year. At the moment a lot of technical work is being carried out, the question is, will it be by cable, under the sea or over land?

### **HINCKLEY C**

The New Nuclear Project, a Local Impact Report was given and is to be published on line for all to read. Sir Michael Pit Planning Inspectorate is to address the meeting with the, Local Impact Report regarding local Parish points being raised, roads, transport and the By Pass through Cannington which will separate Brymore College from the grazing fields use by their cattle and also the village. There will be a Core Strategy in place for Sedgemoor, EDF have submitted new information. An Open Floor Meeting will take place on the 3rd May 2012 at Cannington.

A full council meeting was held on the 18th April in Bridgwater, members of the public were invited to attend. It is understood that all Cluster Groups will be updated as soon as possible after that date.

## LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The Cluster group discussed whether there is an interest from other Parishes within the area and how to proceed toward the provision of a Lengthman service across the area. Cheddar has one in place and East Huntspill's Village Ranger is operating in a similar way. A meeting is to be arranged by Burnham Without Parish Council; Councillor Gordon Boyer offered to take on the organizing and will contact all Parishes with the Coastal Cluster Group.

## QUEENS JUBILEE

Brent Knoll will be lighting a beacon in celebration of the event on Monday June 4th, the beacon will be lit at 10.30, spectators are requested to arrive at 10pm to join in with the singing that is planned.

VALERIE SHELLARD – Parish Council Vice Chairman – Coastal Cluster Group Representative

## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

### PRE-SCHOOL

The Pre School is going from strength to strength. It has a very enthusiastic committee, chaired by Rachael Nicholls, who are very forward looking and always looking of new ways to raise money. They have kept the Pre School running when the number of children dropped. The number of children now attending has risen and they are now looking at extending their opening hours. Considering the Pre School was about to close last year, this is a remarkable turnaround.

The parish council have donated £400.00 and will continue to encourage and support their endeavours.

### VILLAGE HALL

The village Hall is doing extremely well. It is run by a very enthusiastic and dedicated Committee chaired by Mary Puddy. The Bookings are up and all their loans have all been settled.

All events undertaken have proved to be successful; Bingo and the Flea Market are both doing well.

Plans are afoot for a Jubilee celebration, along with the new clock. Hopefully these plans will be announced soon.

The Parish Council have donated £400.00 to the village hall to help towards the Security Lighting and will continue to support the Village Hall and wish them continued success.

### EAST HUNTSPILL SPORTS PAVILION

This project is going very well thanks to the very enthusiastic members of the Committee admirably chaired by Roy Stenning.

They have secured funding from Viridor and The Coastal Parish Cluster Group, also a handsome donation from Joe Bird. They are now ready, having chosen their Builder, to proceed with the project.

Well done to everyone including Roy, Alan, Kirsty, Rob, Ian to mention just a few, for your forward thinking and enthusiasm for this project which when it finished will be an asset and benefit the whole Village.

The Parish Council applaud this project and have donated £450.00. to help with funding and will continue to support the project.

LIZ BIRT – Parish Council’s Representative

## FOOTPATHS

We now have footpath BW1312/1313 which starts at the bridge by Bason Bridge and runs along the Brue to the A38 in Highbridge. The section that was closed going over the railway line has been re-routed to go underneath by the river. A few odd jobs are necessary: new gateposts and a new stile will need to be fitted at some stage, but the whole footpath is relatively easy to negotiate.

BW1322 from The Crown Stores is partly reopened and although some of it has been fenced for security and safety reasons this does not affect it.

I have walked some of the footpaths clearing brambles and made notes of stiles in need of replacement, and as per normal these things are perpetual.

As usual there are complaints from landowners as well as other footpath users regarding dog faeces not being cleared away by their owners. May I remind you that you have a duty to clean up after your dogs and policy from Sedgemoor District Council is to prosecute if offenders are caught?

GORDON BOYER – Parish Footpaths Officer

## PLANNING

Although I have only been Chairman of the Planning Committee for a short period the main difficulty with planning applications is understanding the rules and regulations laid down by Sedgemoor District Council. We are only part-time councillors and have not studied for this particular role so do our best to appreciate the feelings of the majority of the people, hence why sometimes East Huntspill Parish Planning decision conflicts with Sedgemoor’s as my predecessor, the late Ray Puddy, often commented.

Having said that, 2011 saw some thirty-five planning applications handled, of which twenty-four were approved, four were refused and the rest were withdrawn.

We endeavour to learn and understand more in order to do our best for parishioners.

East Huntspill Attendance 2011-2012														
	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr			
Birt E V	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	
Boyer G	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	
Cooke K	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	A	A	A	7	11	
Dixon H			1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	8	9	
Kidner F	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	A	A	8	11	
Litton N	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	11	
Prowton R	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	
Salway J	1	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	8	11	
Shellard V	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	11	
	8	7	7	9	8	8	9	9	6	7	7	85	85	97





**East Huntspill Parish Council 2011-2012**

**Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2012**

Last Year Ended 31st March 2011		Current Year Ended 31st March 2012
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
23,150.00	General Income	24,999.40
1,915.15	Other Income	1,264.48
1,898.03	VAT Data	686.26
<u>26,963.18</u>		<u>26,950.14</u>
	Total Receipts	
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
0.00	Other Income	0.00
6,769.24	Staff Costs	8,505.89
6,262.97	Administration	10,611.68
106.60	Civic	344.43
4,000.00	Grants	3,950.00
4,039.26	Open Spaces	3,248.55
686.26	VAT Data	851.36
<u>21,864.33</u>		<u>27,511.91</u>
	Total Payments	
	<b>Receipts and Payments Summary</b>	
0.00	Opening Balance	12,830.74
26,963.18	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	26,950.14
26,963.18		39,780.88
21,864.33	Less Total Payments(As Above)	27,511.91
<u>5,098.85</u>	Closing Balance	<u>12,268.97</u>
	<b>These cumulative funds are represented by :</b>	
0.00	Current Account	12,268.97
<u>0.00</u>		<u>12,268.97</u>
	<b>Reserve Balances are represented by :</b>	
5,098.85	Current Year Fund	-561.77
0.00	General Reserves	10,830.74
0.00	EMR - Employment Contingency	1,000.00
0.00	EMR - Village Newsletter	1,000.00
<u>5,098.85</u>		<u>12,268.97</u>

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_ (RFO)

## ATTENDANCE

	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr			
<b>East Huntspill</b>														
Birt E V	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		11	11
Boyer G	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		11	11
Cooke K	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	A	A	A		7	11
Dixon H			1	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1		8	9
Kidner F	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	A	A		8	11
Litton N	1	1	1	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1		10	11
Prowton R	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		11	11
Salway J	1	A	A	1	1	1	1	1	A	1	1		8	11
Shellard V	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		11	11
	8	7	7	9	8	8	9	9	6	7	7		85	85
													97	

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2012

East Huntspill Parish Council - Meeting Schedule 2012			
Month	Parish	Planning	Finance
<b>January</b>	16th	5th-16th	
<b>February</b>	20th	2nd-20th	
<b>March</b>	19th	1st-19th	19th
<b>April</b>	16th (APM)	5th-16th	
<b>May</b>	21st (AMPC)	3rd-21st	
<b>June</b>	18th	7th-18th	
<b>July</b>	16th	5th-16th	
<b>August</b>	No Meeting	2nd-20th	20th
<b>September</b>	17th	6th-17th	
<b>October</b>	15th	4th-15th	
<b>November</b>	19th	1st-19th	19th
<b>December</b>	17th	6th-17th	