

# Kelsall Parish Council

## Annual Report 2010/11, presented by Cllr John Leather, Parish Council Chairman

Welcome to the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Kelsall Parish Council.

Prior to elections next month, we look back on four very productive years with two large community projects completed, Kelsall's Parish Landscape and Design Statement published in December 2007, and the completion last month of the play area on Kelsall Green after three years of hard work. I congratulate all those involved in both these projects that will have a long term influence on the quality of life in Kelsall; in particular those members of the Recreation Committee who received awards from the Parish Council at a ceremony on Saturday for their outstanding contributions to the new play area, namely Natalie Read, Ian Lowden, Sharon Grover, Tara Edelman, Edward Nixon, Sharon Harley and Noel Dutton. Our Design Statement has been cited as a model of good practice for community projects.

Once again we have fared well in community awards, being "Highly Commended" in the Cheshire "Community Spirit" competition. Our first "Societies Day" on Saturday was very well attended and demonstrates the health of clubs, societies and institutions in our small community. Once again, I take the opportunity to pay tribute to all those who give their time to running these organisations, clubs and societies for the benefit of others. I also welcome the success of the more recent initiatives such as Kelsall's second Beer Festival!

I should also pay tribute to the clever ladies of the Women's Institute for winning the County Quiz this year.

Among the volunteers within the community, I thank our Tree Wardens, Anita Powell and Maureen Caney for their advice during the year, and John Hammond for the many long hours he devotes to the management and maintenance of our much admired community website [www.kelsall.org.uk](http://www.kelsall.org.uk).

Chester, and new warding arrangements come into force at the forthcoming elections; our new ward is called Tarvin & Kelsall and includes Willington, Oakmere, Duddon, Clotton Hoofield and Delamere parishes.

Looking to the future, the government's Localisation initiative will give parish and town councils more opportunity to influence the way that their communities develop. This will require communities to develop a broadly supported strategic view on issues such as housing, I hope this Council will take a lead on these issues by, for instance, the completion and extension of the Kelsall Parish Plan. Other shared aspirations that I hope will be pursued include the installation of power to Kelsall Green for lighting and for use at the Folk Festival, and the purchase of suitable land for a parish graveyard.

For some of us, this will be our last meeting as Kelsall parish councillors; I thank them and those who continue for their service to this community. In particular, I thank Ann Lacey whose service of over 30 years may well be the longest in the entire history of this Council. I thank our vice-chair, Noel Dutton for his support over the past 4 years and our Clerk Natalie, whose contributions to the smooth running of the community are above and beyond the call of duty.

I hope that the achievements of this Council will encourage other residents to put forward their names for consideration as parish councillors. I would especially encourage younger members of our community to take an interest, with the assurance that training can be obtained in most of the areas in which parish councillors work.

It has been a privilege to lead this Council over the past 4 years; I wish those who follow every success.

## Kelsall Parish Council

### Finance Report 2010/11, presented by Natalie Read, Parish Council Clerk

The Parish Council began the financial year with a balance of £9,576.62.

Once again it has been a busy year with large sums coming and going for the playground but now work is at last complete the councils bank accounts should now go back to normal.

This year the finance committee recommended a precept of £28,298.00 an increase of £2,258.00. The increase is mainly due to the new street cleaning arrangements with Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Parish Council no longer receive a grant to employ Mr McKee with Streetscene taking over the cleaning of our streets. Unfortunately this does not include private land and therefore Kelsall Green. The Parish Council made the decision to employ Mr McKee to keep the Green and other small pockets of unadopted areas clean. It was also agreed to set aside £1,000.00 for the Kelsall Day Centre if needed after they lost the funding from Age Concern.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee were agreed by the Parish Council during the meeting in January.

We finish the year with £18,183.52 in the accounts and this figure is broken down into the following:-

General Fund	12,034.53
Recreation Fund	63.00
VDS/PP	4,085.99
Kelsall Day Centre	2,000.00
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	£18,183.52

The £2,000 Kelsall Day Centre fund is a grant awarded by Cheshire West and Chester Council to the Day Centre which we are holding for them. The reason why we look so healthy in the general fund is because we received the VAT reclaim for 2010/2011 for £6,109.57 just before the end of the financial year.