

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 12. Number 3

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

Source: Parish Council

Council and Parish elections were held in May 2012, at which both Rob Selbourne and Sarah Paye stood down from the old Parish Council. I would like to pay particular tribute to Rob, who had been a Councillor for over 20 years and brought a depth of local knowledge and common sense to our discussions, and to thank Sarah for her assistance throughout her three years as a Councillor. She was the first representative from Russley Park for a long time - if ever - and sadly we currently have no representation from Russley Park.

Apart from Rob and Sarah, all members of the old Council stood for re-election and we were joined by two new members - Andy Greenhalgh and Nigel Crisp. Our Ward Councillor Andrew Bennett was re-elected to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) for the Ridgeway Ward.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to all members of the Parish Council for the time they have put in, and for their attendance and input to our discussions over the last 12 months; the work is voluntary and we all live increasingly busy lives. I would like to thank Lesley Drewett, our Clerk, who has been in post since September 1999 - Lesley's experience and knowledge is crucial to us - and also Andrew Bennett, our Ward Councillor for his advice and intercessions with SBC on our behalf. I very much hope that we will all continue to work together for another year. I would also like to thank our Lengthman, Brian Martin, who goes about his business of keeping the Parish tidy unobtrusively but effectively.

The Parish Council undertakes its business on behalf of all of you - the parishioners of Bishopstone, Hinton Parva and Russley Park; we can only do this effectively if you tell us of your concerns and problems. There is more on the theme of communications later.

How did we do against the "action plan" for the past year?

I identified six points for the following year in my report in March 2012:

- Keep expenditure under control
- Work closely with SBC on all planning matters
- Monitor the developing new Swindon Core Strategy for its effect on the Parish
- Progress any relevant "Localism" matters
- Work with and for all residents of the Parish

FINANCE

The precept for 2011/12 was £13,480; we reduced this to £12,805 for 2012/13 and have made a further reduction to £12,670 for the forthcoming 2013/2014 year. We judged this to be in the best interests of parishioners at a difficult time financially, but these are not large sums of money; we have little flexibility or spare cash. There is further detail on the precept in the March 2013 edition of the Parish Times. No guarantees can be given at this time about future years.

The March 2013 edition of the Parish Times also contains an article contributed by SBC about their "Big Conversation". It will be no surprise that SBC, in common with the Government and all local authorities, faces big challenges in the next few years; funding is falling yet, for example, more children are being taken into care and the number of people living in residential care is set to rise dramatically. SBC are very keen to raise awareness and stimulate debate about these issues. Whilst increasing longevity may be welcomed, it brings challenges - it has been said (believe it or not) that the first child who is going to live to 150 has been born! The public sector is being asked to do more with less and SBC may well be looking to the private sector for assistance.

Local effects

In light of the current squeeze on resources, the Parish Council would always wish to be informed of anybody in the Parish who might need assistance. It could be that this might be taking us back to the idea of the Big Society, a buzz word from prior to the 2010 general election.

Road maintenance

SBC provide a working party twice per year to deal with minor road and other maintenance issues; more significant problems are reported to SBC as soon as they are brought to the attention of the Parish Council. The wet winter has damaged many roads and new problems should always be promptly reported to the Clerk.

Rural speed management

Under this somewhat ambiguous title, we were notified last summer that SBC had about £40,000 to spend on speed management problems in the Parish. We just had enough time, via a special issue of the Parish Times, to notify parishioners of a public consultation with SBC at the



Last year, the Games Makers were lauded as making a tremendous contribution to the success of the Olympics. On the river Thames, volunteers were making a similar impact helping boaters at the 45 locks along its length between Lechlade and Teddington.

The Environment Agency, which is navigation authority for the Thames, is now recruiting for the 2013 season and are looking for volunteers who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their hours with lock keepers but need to be available at least from 11 to 5. Volunteers are particularly needed along the river between Reading and Lechlade. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to find out more about the Thames, its history, wildlife and management. At the same time volunteers know that they are doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.

Our Volunteer Assistant Lock Keepers work alongside paid lock keepers. They help boats pass through the lock safely: taking ropes, directing traffic, and operating sluices and lock gates. They help maintain the site: painting, tidying and gardening. They provide information to visitors, be they on foot or afloat, so that they can make the best of their time on the river. Visitors really appreciate the local knowledge that volunteers can provide.

All applicants are invited to an assessment at a local lock. Here they will have the role explained to them and be shown what it involves in practical terms. They will also be assessed to decide which site may be most appropriate for them and to ensure that they have the physical capabilities required. After successful completion of the assessment, they attend an induction course which focuses on safety and preparing them for the lock side.

On the lock side the volunteers follow a documented training programme before being signed off to take charge of the lock on their own. This will only be for short periods, while the paid keeper is at lunch for example. The volunteers are there to augment the service provided by paid staff rather than to replace them.

Volunteers are provided with some uniform and can claim mileage for travel to and from their lock (subject to a daily maximum). They also receive a monthly newsletter which keeps them in touch with what is going on along the river and other activities of the Environment Agency.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering on the Thames and to receive an information pack and application form, please contact the Volunteer team on 01491 828360 or email thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk

September meeting and it was gratifying to see a large turnout. SBC presented their plans and a good discussion ensued; after further consultation with local farmers who were unable to attend the public meeting, the Parish Council approved the plans. These are for a number of measures to reduce speeding on the stretch of road from the top of Bodyhorse Hill to the eastern end of Bishopstone. At the time of writing, these improvements are sadly not quite complete, having been delayed as a result of the weather over the winter and by other problems experienced by the contractors. I believe this initiative will bring long term benefit to the Parish.

Bishopstone Pond & Island

This is under the Finance heading, as we are still, very slowly, trying to get to the bottom of some difficult maintenance issues regarding the Pond and the adjacent highway, following the purchase from the Church Commissioners in 2004.

It is however good to report that Bishopstone School will continue to use the Island and care for their allotments.

PLANNING

Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026

In December 2012, SBC published the consultation draft of their Local Plan, which is intended to cover the period to 2026. The consultation closed on 21 February. We have given this issue a lot of publicity in the Parish Times, as there are important implications for the Parish, and I hope that any parishioners who are concerned by the Local Plan will have taken the opportunity to make their comments to SBC. The Parish Council's own response is available on the web site.

The Local Plan consultation draft was published in advance of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Eastern Villages, which means another consultation will be required when that appears.

We continued to work with SBC and Wanborough Parish Council on this issue in the Wanborough Working Party, but, it has to be said, only on an occasional basis. But, a very successful joint public meeting was held with SBC and Wanborough on 14 January 2013.

One of the issues under discussion has been the need for some form of "rural buffer" to separate the rural areas of local villages from the new developments. We received an interesting presentation from the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust at our July meeting and are in support, with Wanborough Parish Council, of their attempt to define a route for the re-establishment of the Wilts & Berks Canal, from the Wychelstowe area to Acorn Bridge. Initially, this would be a foot path or cycle path with the intention of restoring the canal when funds permit. We hope the principle will be accepted by SBC and if so, this could be part of an effective rural buffer.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council shelved the idea of drafting a Parish Plan, but at the time of writing we are actively considering producing a Neighbourhood Plan. This concept stems from the Localism Act and the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

If our comments on Policy SD2 on the Local Plan are accepted, there will be a requirement for an additional 100 + homes to be built before

2026 in the rural areas of Swindon Borough Council. A Neighbourhood Plan would give us greater control over how our share of that total is distributed. If we go ahead, we will need to take account of the views of parishioners and other interested parties, so please discuss this with any member of the Parish Council.

OTHER LOCAL MATTERS

Village Clean-up

As stated last year, we live in a beautiful part of the country and many people are disgusted by the quantity of bottles, cans and far worse discarded beside our roads. In November 2012, we actually did something about this again with another successful clean-up day and over 30 bags of rubbish were collected; many thanks to those who helped. I hope that this will become an annual feature. In the meantime, you could try taking a shopping bag with you when you are walking and clean up as you go; there is usually plenty there.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Committee for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations organised a really successful street party in Bishopstone on Saturday 2 June, which was followed by a tea party in Hinton Parva, pig racing at the Royal Oak and a beacon on Charlbury Hill. It was a memorable weekend, although wet for a lot of it! The Parish Council gave a commemorative coin to all children in the Parish in full time education as at September 2012 and has purchased fruit trees for Bishopstone and Hinton Parva in memory of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Communications

We can only operate effectively as your Parish Council if you, the residents of the Parish, tell us of your concerns and problems. You can do that in a number of ways:

- Speak or write to a member of the Parish Council; their names and numbers are in every issue of the Parish Times
 - Use the web site - see below
 - Attend our monthly meetings. This is the best way to communicate any concerns to the Parish Council as a whole; we have to follow government procedures, but we will make it as easy and non-confrontational as possible to have an open and frank discussion.
- Although a number of parishioners have attended the "Public Question Time" item on the monthly agenda, there is a sense of disappointment amongst some members of the Parish Council at a general lack of interest, with the exception of the public meeting about the rural speed management initiative. I doubt that this actually means that everybody is satisfied with the work of the Parish Council - that would be complacent. However, if parishioners are not satisfied or have any ideas, concerns or worries You must tell us; we welcome your feedback

Village web site

The Parish Council operates in a democratic and collaborative way and it would be invidious to mention names, but I would like to thank Andy Greenhalgh publicly for his work on the new village web site:

- <http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/>

This is a brand new web site utilising modern technology; it is capable of further development and is good news for the Parish long term. It includes pages for local news, the Parochial

Church Council, the village halls, the Parish Council's records, Gardening Society and other local organisations. A Parish history section is currently under development.

If you have not visited it, please go there and contact Andy if you have any ideas or comments.

Action Plan for 2013 / 2014

I suggest the following, which is very much the same as last year; your ideas for additional points which the Parish Council might wish to address would be welcomed:

- Keep expenditure under control
- Work closely with SBC on all planning matters
- Monitor the developing Swindon Local Plan for its effect on the Parish
- Progress any relevant "Localism" matters
- Work with and for all residents of the Parish

Jubilee Apple Trees

Your Parish Council has planted two trees to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

These are varieties of apple tree local to Wiltshire. One, a Mary Barnett, has been planted on the Bishopstone island; the other, a Corsley Pippin, in Hinton Parva.

The provenance of the trees is as follows:

MARY BARNETT (late season dual purpose apple).

Mrs Mary Jane Barnett planted an apple pip on the day she married Mr Worthy Barnett of Steeple Ashton in 1920, and raised this late season dual purpose apple - as well as ten daughters and one son. The pip Mrs Barnett planted came from the fruit of a Lane Prince Albert tree, growing next to a Lady Sudeley apple tree, which may have cross-fertilised. The flavour is savoury, brisk and fruity; the flesh is crisp and juicy.

CORSLEY PIPPIN (eating apple).

Sweetly round and golden with a russet-like skin, this eating apple is found in the village of Corsley and is thought to have originated from trees planted at Corsley School, in the early twentieth century by headmaster, Mr Latham. Mr Latham was a keen advocate of gardening and woodwork classes for the senior boys. Several people who attended the school during his time there remember planting pips and grafting lessons. The County Inspector's report of 1912 remarks on the enthusiasm of the children, adding "nowhere have I seen gardening equal to that which I have seen here".

Both trees are small seedlings at present. When they have grown to a reasonable size, plaques recording the planting will be installed. It is hoped that, in due course, parishioners will pick and make good use of the apples.

For others wishing to plant local apple trees, these apple tree varieties and other local ones can be ordered from:

Barters Plant Centre
Chapmanslade
Westbury
Wiltshire BA13 4AL
Tel 01373 832694

INFORMATION	INTEGRITY	PERSPECTIVE	ISSUES	INFORMATION
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SMALL PRINT

Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character

and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on

the parish website and may be viewed by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is

clearly signed on the wall of the hall. Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall. Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated. The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history. Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area. Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six weeks written notice of their intention to do so.

*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.

Outside Lights

One of the things that makes the Parish so unique and wonderful is the lack of street lighting to blight the villages. Sadly more and more people are now erecting high wattage outside lights and leaving them on permanently. Please consider your neighbours who may not wish their rooms lit throughout the night especially bedrooms where sleep can be seriously disturbed.

Emma Marrington, CPRE's Rural Policy Campaigner said:

'Many lives are affected by light pollution. It can disturb sleep, disfigure the countryside and make the stars at night invisible to huge numbers of people.'

Discrete and considerate outside lighting that only comes on when needed is the best type to mount if lighting is considered necessary.

Everyone is becoming more aware how energy wastage is resulting in the earth's resources being diminished. Every light that is on when no one needs to use the light it casts is adding to this wastage.

So please look at your lighting needs and think of your neighbours as well as the planet and only light when needed.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
(Call anonymously with information about crime)

Domestic Violence 24hr National Helpline: 0808 2000 247

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00
(drug related)

Anti Social Behaviour: 01793 445500

Noise Nuisance: 01793 445500

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Swindon Community Safety Partnership: 01793 466506

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs. (NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

0800 456 1213

(Packs are subject to availability).

Police search website.

<http://www.police.uk/>

Meetings for the year

2012/13 Meeting Dates

8 April 2013 B (Changed owing to Easter Monday)
13 May 2013 HP (Changed from 1st Monday due to Bank Holiday).

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
2 Downs Close
Eastbury
Hungerford
RG17 7JW

Phone: 01488 71828
Fax: None

Email: lesley@tynash.com
website: http://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mr Julian Cooke

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

Mr Nigel Crisp

Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790035.

Mr Andrew Greenhalgh

Old Farm House, West End Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PX. 791469.

Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair)

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

Dr Stuart McGuigan

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

Mr Doug Stevens

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

Mr Ian Thomas

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

Mr Ian Thompson

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

Useful Information

101 new non Emergency Police Number

Police Headquarters
0845 408 7000
24hrs, 7 days a week

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

Borough Councillor

Andrew Bennett 01793 790563

Fly Tipping and other similar problems

Swindon Commercial Services
01793 463463

Keeping Swindon Safe

SBC 01793 445500
Police 0845 408 7000

Refurbiz - the Domestic Appliance Re-cycling Charity.

Refurbished appliances at affordable prices with warranty

Replacing your washing machine, dryer, fridge or electric cooker? Please donate your old machines to us so we can refurbish them for families in need. Wiltshire-wide collection and delivery service. Call us on (01380) 720200. Or visit our showroom at Hopton Park, Devizes www.refurbiz.org. Registered Charity Number 1107150.

Committee	Representative (Hinton Parva)	Representative (Bishopstone)
Finance (sub committee)	Ian Thompson (Chair) Julian Cooke	Karolyn Tapper Simon Jenkins
Footpaths & Highways	Julian Cooke	Stuart McGuigan Ian Thomas
Pond & Island Management Committee		Doug Stevens Andrew Greenhalgh
Hinton Village Hall	Ian Thompson	
Bishopstone Village Hall		Karolyn Tapper
Police & Media	Nigel Crisp (Media)	Simon Jenkins (Police)
Hinton Parva Charities	Peter Cooke	
Bishopstone United Charities		Karolyn Tapper Lesley Drewett Laurie Manktelow (Ex Cllr)
Tree Warden	Julian Cooke	Ian Thomas
Russley Park Liaison	Andrew Greenhalgh	
Responsible Financial Officer		Lesley Drewett

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting: www.swindon.gov.uk/planning.

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councilors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall.

Members of the public are always welcome.

Foxhill Motocross 2013 Calendar

No dates available at time of printing.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/LBC/13/0215SASM - Insertion of a duct - Titcheners Cottage, High Street, Bishopstone - Sarah Smith - 01793 466292, Before 12/3/13

S/LBC/13/0218HC - Replacement of 1 no front window and 1No bay window - Spring Cottage, Nell

Hill, Bishopstone - Heather Carlisle - 01793 466305, Before 20/3/13

S/13/0216KICO - Erection of a triple bay garage and car Port - Russley Park Cottage, Russley Park, Baydon - Kimberly Corps - 01793 466294, Before 20/3/13

GRANTED

S/12/1585RM - Erection of 1 no dwelling - Land to the North of Fortys Cottage, High Street, Bishopstone

REFUSED

None.

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website.