

The Parish Times

JUNE 2019

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

IMPORTANT: we will soon be coming under increasing pressure for development in the light of Swindon's land supply deficit and an imminent Local Plan review. Everyone should let their thoughts and opinions be known whether they be pro or anti-development – please email your comments to the Parish Council, and to Swindon Borough Council when the Local Plan consultation process begins this summer.

The last 12 months

The recent SHELAA consultation was the very first step in the Local Plan review process and the Parish Council has responded to this as set out in the Parish Times recently. All of the sites submitted will now be sieved by Swindon before a first draft of the new Local Plan is published. This is a critical time for us: Do we want our village to grow? Are we willing to accept more development perhaps in return for some community facilities – a small shop, a children's play area, affordable housing perhaps? Or do we feel that, as a Conservation village, our main priority should be to preserve the existing character? We intend to hold a drop-in session during July where Councillors will be on hand to discuss matters with you. Keep an eye on the Parish Times for updates.

As a matter of principle the Parish Council is committed to preserving the special character of our two Conservation Areas and it will continue to ensure that relevant planning policies are properly applied for the benefit of all concerned as well as for future generations. This does not mean that all development is unwelcome, far from it. We must allow our villages to evolve in an appropriate and sustainable manner and developments that are likely to contribute to their vitality should be welcomed.

We have also been keeping a close eye on proposals for Swindon's eastward expansion as we are desperate to ensure that any new developments do not lead to significant additional traffic in the form of "rat-running" through our villages. Works will be commencing on the Junction 15 improvements later this year followed by works at the White Hart roundabout and it will be interesting to see what impact the inevitable disruption might have on us - a taste of things to come perhaps, but let's hope not.

Littering of our verges continues to be a matter of great concern and our annual organised litter-pick was extremely well attended and a huge success again. A big thank you to all that turned out to help. We don't need to wait until next year however and everyone is encouraged to

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 last 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. The Village Hall Management Committee asks that residents remember that *'Skips should not be positioned in close proximity to the Hall structure'*.

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help keep our paths and verges tidy by doing their bit as and when they can. We now seem to have a small bunch of regular volunteers who organise their own days out and so a big thank you to them too. Contact the clerk if you want to be put in touch.

The state of our roads is always a matter of great concern and we are delighted, after years of nagging SBC, that something has finally been done about the awful state of New Road leading out of Bishopstone towards Bourton.

The School has given up its lease over a part of the island where it used to have its allotment. Whilst this is a shame we intend to encourage greater use of the island for all, including the school, and to that end we have had some tree-removal works done in an attempt to allow more light on to the island and to open up the views across the pond. The Lengthman will continue to keep the path around the island clear but we will need occasional volunteer groups to help clear undergrowth and to help keep things looking ship-shape.

As per last year, and for as long as I can remember now, the Parish Council's financial reserves remain healthy and again it has been possible to avoid an increase in the parish element of the Council Tax.

The next 12 months

Swindon Local Plan review – easily the most important issue ahead - for us all to engage with.

The Ridgeway – following the consultation undertaken last year there is a very clear majority (91%) in favour of banning

vehicles from the short section of this National Trail that passes through our parish. We suffer badly from fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviours which would all cease if vehicles were not allowed. Oxfordshire have banned motor vehicles from The Ridgeway as have Wiltshire for the most part and we can see no reason to keep such a short section of the path open to vehicles in this area. The Parish Council will continue to lobby for this.

Thank you...

I can only repeat what I said last year - the Parish Council would simply not function without the contribution made by our long-standing clerk, Lesley Drewett, whose experience of local matters and proper procedure is of immense value and is very much appreciated. Thank you Lesley.

And we continue to be blessed with a particularly pro-active and knowledgeable Parish Council that commits its valuable time and energy to doing its best for our villages. Thank you to all of you.

And finally, I have decided to stand down as Chair this year. The role is demanding and it is time someone else did their stint!

Parishioners are always welcome to attend and ask questions at the monthly meetings of the Parish Council. Contact details for all councillors are published monthly and any concerns should ideally be raised in the first instance with their most local representative.

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year 2018/19

- income was £18,959 vs an estimated £18,900
- Spending was £17,258 vs an estimate of £17,482
- Resulting in our reserves rising to over £31,400

During the year the council froze the parish element of the council tax for the 6th year running, and we now enjoy the second lowest tax out of the 20 Swindon parishes.

For the coming year

- - income £15,141 + any VAT rebate
- - spending £18,860
- - resulting in the reserves declining to around 29,000

The finance sub-committee would like to express their thanks to the Clerk, for her meticulous financial reports and book keeping and to Paul Bailey for auditing our accounts.

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Obscured Road Signs, your help is requested

Keeping our village roads safe is a priority for all of us. Ensuring road signs are visible and clear of vegetation is an important contribution to this effort. If you have a road sign on your property or even one near you, please could you ensure that it is clearly visible and not obscured by vegetation. THANK YOU for your efforts.

Reporting Problems to Swindon Borough Council

For the last several years the Parish Council has advocated the use of a third party website www.fixmystreet.com to report and track issues such as fly-tipping or pot-holes to SBC. There is now a service on SBC's website at www.swindon.gov.uk/my_account where residents can report these issues directly. Recent experience has shown there is a faster response to those issues reported directly.

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.'

Discreet 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.

Trees in conservation areas

The whole of Bishopstone and most of Hinton Parva lies within a Conservation Area and as such the legislation is similar to that relating to a Tree Preservation Order, including the financial penalties and tree replacement. If you want to carry out works to a tree you will need to submit a 'notice of intent' to Swindon Borough Council. If you have not heard back from them by the time the six weeks has expired then you may proceed with the works described in your letter.

You can complete the Swindon Borough Council Notification for Works on Protected Trees in a Conservation Area form online:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/forms/form/252/en/applicationnotification_for_works_on_protected_trees

You are not required to submit a notice for:

the cutting down, topping or lopping or uprooting of a tree whose diameter does not exceed 75 millimetres; or

the cutting down or uprooting of a tree, whose diameter does not exceed 100 millimetres, for the sole purpose of improving the growth of other trees (eg thinning as part of forestry operations).

In either case, the diameter of the tree is to be measured over the bark of the tree at 1.5 metres above ground level. These exemptions do not apply in circumstances where a tree has more than one stem at a point 1.5 metres above the natural ground level if any stem when measured over its bark at that point exceeds the relevant minimum.

And remember—anyone who cuts down, uproots, tops, lops, wilfully destroys or wilfully damages a tree in a conservation area or causes or permits such work, without giving notice is guilty of an offence, unless one of the exceptions above applies.

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BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)

Phone: 01488 71828

Fax: None

Email: Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

THE COUNCIL

Mr Julian Cooke

Councillor-jc@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mr Nigel Crisp

Councillor-nc@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mr Andrew Greenhalgh

Councillor-ag@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Dr Stuart McGuigan

Councillor-sm@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mr Doug Stevens

Councillor-ds@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mr Ian Thomas (Vice Chair)

Councillor-it@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mrs Val Brodin (Chair)

Councillor-vb@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mr Tom Green

Councillor-tg@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Mrs Gill May

Councillor-gm@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Please note the Clerk and Councillors new email addresses.

The Parish Council agreed a new privacy policy in May 2018 which is available on the website.

Useful Information

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

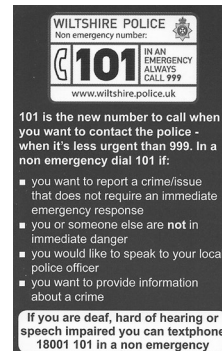
Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

General enquiries to Streetsmart 01793 445501

Borough Councillor: Gary Sumner - GSumner2@swindon.gov.uk

Key Responsibility	Representative Hinton Parva	Representative Bishopstone
Finance	Nigel Crisp (Chair) Julian Cooke	
Footpaths and Highways	Julian Cooke	Stuart McGuigan/Ian Thomas
Pond & Island Management Committee		Doug Stevens/Andy Greenhalgh
Hinton Parva Village Hall	Valerie Brodin	
Bishopstone Village Hall		Andy Greenhalgh/Tom Green
Hinton Parva Charities	Peter Cooke	
Bishopstone United Charities		Karolyn Tapper (Ex Cllr) Lesley Drewett (Clerk) Laurie Manktelow (Ex Cllr)
Tree Warden	Julian Cooke	Ian Thomas
Russley Park Liaison		Andy Greenhalgh/Tom Green
Responsible Financial Officer		Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
Planning		Ian Thomas/Tom Green
Website/IT	Nigel Crisp	



PLANNING UPDATE

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can be viewed at:

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 councillors 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.

PC Meetings

2019/2020

- 3 June 2019 Bishopstone
- 1 July 2019 Hinton Parva
- 5 August 2019 Bishopstone
- 2 September 2019 Hinton Parva
- 7 October 2019 Bishopstone
- 4 November 2019 Hinton Parva
- 2 December 2019 Bishopstone
- 6 January Hinton Parva
- 3 February Bishopstone
- 2 March Hinton Parva
- 6 April Bishopstone

11 May Bishopstone—Parish Assembly & AGM

All meetings begin at 7.30pm except the Parish Assembly which starts at 7:00pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parishcouncil/> and on the notice boards.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/HOU/19/0525—Erection of a two storey side and first floor rear extension—5 High Street, Bishopstone—Peter Korankye-Gyabong—466365 Before 17.5.19

S/19/0703—The construction of a new road to link the A419 Commonhead Roundabout to the proposed New Eastern Villages (NEV) development including improvements to the existing Commonhead Roundabout & Pack Hill, new junctions with Pack Hill, The Marsh & Wanborough Road, new footway/cycleway & associated earthworks, drainage works & landscaping—Land East of the A419, Between Commonhead Roundabout & Land north of Wanborough Road, Swindon—Edward Snook—466427—sbcdc@swindon.gov.uk—Before 4.6.19

GRANTED

NONE

REFUSED

NONE

For problems with Waste Collections call Streetsmart on:

Tel: 01793 445501 - Monday to Friday 8.00am-8.00pm; 01793 466453 at all other times.