

“Parish Council ~ Chairman’s October 2021”

Hello everyone.

Still lots going on around the village and how nice to have some sunshine in September to help things along.

Firstly, I wanted to say how delighted we are to welcome Hollie Stone on to the Parish Council. Hollie joined us in September and with her local knowledge and business experience will be a valued addition to the team.

Second, I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped with our village Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which has now proceeded to the referendum stage, voting information will be delivered to all residents and referendum day will be the 28th October 2021. Well done everyone!

Parish Council meetings are now fully back to normal on the first Thursday of each month at the village hall and here are a few of the topics we have either concluded or are ongoing:

Benches Project: Plaques have now been fitted to 3 of the 4 new benches and there are plans for some formal photographs to be taken over the coming few weeks so these can be displayed on the village website.

The Clerk will be writing to neighbouring properties and apply for the appropriate licences with regard the plans to further extend benches around the village as detailed in previous publications and on the village website. Anyone interested in sponsoring a bench should contact the Clerk.

Church: We are delighted that services have now fully resumed at St Michaels & All Angels and across neighbouring villages. Service details can be found on the village website.

Community Garden: This will now be discussed at the October meeting as we await feedback from Charnwood BC on the idea to develop a three-part community garden (Remembrance, Reflection, and the Queens Platinum anniversary). Further details will be issued as they become available.

Conker Field: The PC is still in discussions with Brooksby College regarding support in managing the spinney and the addition of new conker trees in the field.

Dog Poo: Dog walkers, please watch your dog, pick up its poo, bag it, bin it, it is your responsibility! Remember, report dog fouling direct to Charnwood BC at www.charnwood.gov.uk or 01509 634564.

Grass Verge on Melton Road: Many residents will be aware of the ongoing problems with the verge overgrowing the path on Melton Road near the school entrance. Following discussions with LCC we are pleased to confirm they have agreed to add this to their regular cutting program so hopefully the problem will no longer be an issue.

Litter Picking: Thank you again to everyone who continues to help to keep our village tidy, it is very much appreciated by so many people. We have noticed certain areas of the village have been used by individuals for the taking of substances or inhaling nitrous oxide gas (little silver gas cannisters), the Police have been made aware of these areas and will monitor them.

Planning: We were extremely saddened by the decision to allow the Gladman development of 270 houses to go forward, I would like to express our thanks to Councillor James Poland for his work in opposing the plans. We now await formal planning from a developer to see exactly what they intend to do.

At the time of writing the Gaddesby lane development still has not been formally submitted.

Also, at the time of writing the planning issue over land to the rear of William Everard Close adjacent to the track from Mill Lane is still to be resolved, we are aware that planning applications have been submitted but have been rejected requiring further information.

Playing Field: The PC is still investigating possibly installing a permanent grind rail for skaters next to the halfpipe as the temporary ones are being removed due to health & safety concerns. To date we have had no feedback from parents whose children use the area so we are still debating it is worthwhile installing new equipment.

We are also continuing investigations into costs and interest in installing an outdoor table tennis table on the field.

Play Park: During August we experienced the disappointing defacing of play equipment on the play park by individuals who clearly have little regard for community / village property or the importance the park has in the community. Fortunately, we were able to get it cleaned by our local maintenance person, but it is still disappointing to think this can happen in our village. We have consulted with the local Police as we believe this could be potentially criminal damage and ask everyone to be vigilant when around the village and report anything suspicious to the Police.

Queens Platinum Anniversary: The PC would be interested in ideas for village celebrations for the Queens Platinum Anniversary in June 2022.

Speeding in the Village: Random Police speed checks were carried out in August with some individuals being written to by the Police regarding their speed and a few issued with fix penalties. More checks are expected over the coming weeks.

Tree Project: The PC are continuing with the proposed tree program for the village agreed in earlier in the year and the Clerk has written to LCC regarding suggested sites for trees not on Parish Council owned land, these include Mill Lane Brook bank (3 Willows), Station Road / Wreake Drive (3 trees pocket orchard), Verge on Wreake Drive (Small pocket orchard) & Gaddesby Lane hedgerow down to the bypass (Oak, Conker and Elm).

Wardens: We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Dale Clarke as our new tree warden. Dale is a qualified and experience tree surgeon and moved into the village earlier this year, he will initially be supporting us with ideas on our tree project and the Conker field.

We still currently have vacancies for a Heritage Warden, Snow Warden, and a second Flood Warden to support Paul Matts. If you are interested in learning more about one of these important roles and possibly becoming a Village Warden, please contact the Clerk.

Website: If you have any information you would like us to add please let us know via email councillor5.rearsbypc@btconnect.com or councillor2.rearsbypc@btconnect.com

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall for more information see the village website or the PC notice board next to the Packhorse bridge.

Thank you & please KEEP SAFE ~ Martin Cooke (Parish Council Chair)