

## **Notes from the Parish Council meeting on 3 July 2017**

### **Recent thefts and incidents in the parish.**

Recently there have been several instances of vandalism and thefts around the village. Thefts have taken place from cars and from people's homes. Also included in these incidents was the spoiling of a number of the scarecrows that were so welcome in the village. The Parish Council deplores this type of behaviour and everyone is encouraged to contact the police on 101 to report all such incidents. This is particularly the case if you have an idea of who may be involved in some of these actions.

In the light of this recent behaviour, if anyone is interested in becoming another coordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme then please contact the Parish Council.

### **Devolution of responsibilities to Parish Councils**

West Berkshire Council is currently engaged in a 'Devolution' program which is encouraging Parish Councils to take additional responsibility for some local services.

There is some concern that parishes, which have limited and mostly voluntary resources, are being asked to take over services which the district is currently doing. The District Councillor believes that some services may be done better locally, especially some of the smaller activities. Parishioners do need reassurance that they will not end up paying for a service through their community charges and then again through the parish precept, especially during the roll-out of devolution. This topic is already under debate with respect to the library service.

The Parish Council will ask a representative from WBC to address a meeting later in the year on this topic.

### **Parish Plan Refresh**

Work is still in progress on the new questionnaire to cover topics raised during last year's Parish Plan Refresh. There is no news yet about the certificate of lawfulness for installing Youth Facilities on the Rec; a decision is due by the end of July. The Social Isolation group continues to look for further ways to help people in the community.

### **Community Room**

Maintenance activities have now started and the Parish Council is trying to identify a 'handy man' who could undertake general repair and maintenance tasks. It is hoped to get most of the current repairs completed during the school summer holidays.

Some of the tables used in the Community Room are in bad condition and need either to be replaced or repaired. Estimates are being sought and a decision about the best course of action will be made.

The school is managing the installation of a new boiler during the summer holidays; the same boiler generates the heating and hot water in the Community Room.

### **Planning Matters**

17/01609 and also 17/01613 both relating to Wessex Downs Golf development; the same comments/observations were made for these as for their previous certificate of lawfulness application.

The Veolia application for longer opening hours and for use by the general public for household waste disposal is not due for decision by WBC Planning Department yet.

### **Around the parish.**

The replacement of goal posts on The Rec is still in progress. Quotations are also being requested for the repair of the paths running around the outside of The Rec which can get muddy during wet weather – although not this summer!

Grundon will be cutting their hedge and making it look a lot tidier in September (along the road from the A4).

### **Your Parish Council**

Mr Graham Bowsher was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council. Mr. Graham Bragg and Mr. Peter McEwan were both co-opted to the Parish Council and welcomed to their new roles. The Council is now up to full numbers for the first time in many months.

**The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 31 July 2017 starting at 7.00pm in the Community Room. All parishioners are welcome to attend.**

### **Your Parish Councillors are:**

Graham Bowsher, Field Barn Farm	Tel. 07557967575
Jackie Johnson, Southdowns	Tel. 07922068646
Glynis Harman, The Six Bells	Tel: 9713368
Sadie Jones, 5 Shire Cottages	Tel: 07734314902
Tanya Bunce, 3 Bourne Cottages	Tel: 07962985592
Peter McEwen, The Vicarage, Picklepythe Lane	Tel: 07717718608
Graham Bragg, Puffins, Picklepythe Lane	Tel: 9713688

**Parish Clerk:** Lucy Rumens, 46 Maple Crescent, Newbury Tel. 01635 45487