

Grandborough Parish Council Newsletter

May 2017

Parish Council Vacancy

The resignation of Chris Bilsborrow means that there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor which we wish to fill by co-option (if we do not do so a further election will be called, the whole cost of which would have to be paid from Parish Funds).

We would therefore ask you to consider putting yourself forward to serve on the Parish Council.

If you are interested please contact Kay Worrall no later than 5pm on Sunday 28th May

Chairman's Annual Report 2016 2017

Lodge Farm

The inclusion of Lodge Farm in the revision of Rugby Borough Council's proposals for development to meet projected housing need has obviously been a major feature of the Parish Council's discussions this year. We submitted a number of objections to the Rugby Borough Council Local Plan Publication Draft. The comments made reflected the opinions of parishioners voiced at public meetings, in discussion before Parish Council meetings, and comments made in returned Parish Plan questionnaires. Our comments were reproduced in full in the November Parish Council Newsletter, and published on our website.

Flooding

Another major item of discussion has been flooding in the Parish. We gained little from the 'Pathfinder' pilot project as neither of the arranged Multi-Agency meetings were attended by Severn Trent and thus an integrated approach proved unobtainable. However I am pleased that following lengthy exchanges with Warwickshire County Council we now have agreement over shared responsibilities for ditch clearing in the Sawbridge Road/Hill Road/Main Street area, and a regular programme of clearing is now in place.

Lengthsman

The WCC funding of the Lengthsman scheme has now ended, and given the positive response to the Scheme in the Parish Plan Questionnaire we have agreed to continue to employ the contractor on a modified, slightly reduced schedule of work. The work will include digging out blocked gulleys and verge grips, cleaning signs, clearing vegetation around signs, weed spraying path edges and kerbs, and so on.

War Memorial

Following the advice of the War Memorials Trust, we have agreed a contract with a local stonemason who will clean and repoint the Memorial, replace missing letters and paint all the letters. The work will commence shortly. We are grateful to Grandborough Broadband who have given us a substantial grant towards the cost of this work.

Minor works

We have placed flood depth markers along the roadside adjacent to the Causeway, and replaced the black and white posts on the triangle by the Church.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan 2017 was agreed at our January meeting and published on our website. The Plan will provide a basis for future Parish Council action. An extract of the Plan's action points appears over.

Council Meetings

The Council met on six occasions for its normal bi-monthly meetings. Additional meetings have been called to deal with Lodge Farm and other planning applications, audit procedures and tenders for contracts. A number of planning applications received between scheduled meetings were dealt with by using e-mail and the Rugby Borough Council Planning Portal. Representatives of the Council have attended meetings of the Rugby Area Committee of Local Councils and the Dunchurch Division Locality Panel; and a number of consultation meetings with Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. Public attendance at Parish Council meetings is usually small. We would encourage all electors to come along and observe your elected representatives in meetings. There is always an opportunity to raise any matter of concern at these meetings.

Finance

Expenditure in 2016 - 2017 was £10,365 (un-audited accounts). The budget for next year is based on expenditure of £9685. The Precept (our element of Council tax) remains unchanged from the previous year.

Management of Assets

The grass mowing contract has been renewed for this year, and we have agreed additional mowing of the Aikman Green Open Space for a one year trial. We continue to receive a sum from Rugby Borough Council in return for arranging the mowing of certain areas previously undertaken by the Borough Council. The Council is grateful to all residents who are able to tend the verges bounding their property. This helps to keep down the cost of mowing left to be done by the Parish Council, and thus helps minimise the Parish Rate.

We are very grateful for the contribution made by those villagers who plant and maintain the planters. I know they would welcome extra help if you are interested.

We are grateful for the efforts of those Parishioners who regularly litter pick as they walk the parish roads.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their contributions this year. It is with regret that we say au revoir to Chris Bilsborrow, who has tendered his resignation in order to devote more time to managing a charity. I am grateful for his support over the last five years, in particular for his work on footpaths and the series of circular walks. Finally, finally a special thank you to Kay, our clerk, who keeps us within the proper procedures, and does all the essential day to day work.

Parish Plan 2017

As noted above the Parish Council have agreed a new action plan. The plan in full is on our website. If you would like a hard copy contact Kay Worrall (details below).

The main action points within the plan are as follows:

Development and Housing

Look into the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan to shape future development within the Parish. Explore the possibility of combining with neighbouring Parishes to produce an integrated Neighbourhood Plan.

Roads, Bridleways and Footpaths

Carry out an up to date survey of all pavements, and press Warwickshire County Council for repairs as required. Push for signs for passing places on Hill Road and Grandborough Fields Road. Contact local cycling clubs, (including the two Rugby clubs, Daventry club, etc.) to seek their assistance in improving consideration for all road users. Encourage residents not to park on pavements and verges.

Amenities

Ensure regular ditch maintenance, particularly in areas liable to flood. Press for improved Mobile Telephone and Broadband connections.

Community Matters

Seek advice on appropriate play equipment from Rugby BC, assess costs and identify sources of finance. Encourage parents to form a Mother and Toddler group. Set up a meeting of parents and other interested parties to discuss additional youth provision. Arrange defibrillator training. Set up a meeting of potential weekday group members. Encourage the setting up of a register of occasional drivers for hospital visits, etc., with a coordinator.

See next column for next steps on the above six items

Explore the possibilities for provision of parking near the village hall. Community shop: start discussions with possible site owner and then set up a meeting of all those interested in this proposal. Newspaper delivery: start discussions with possible drop off site owner. Publicise the survey results relating to the Pub to all households. Forward relevant responses to representatives of Church and Chapel

Dates for your diary

If you are interested in any of the following items, please attend a meeting in the Village Hall, on the day and time set out below. If you are interested but are unable to attend contact Rod Hastie.

Mother (etc) and Toddler 11am Monday 22nd May

Youth provision 7:30pm Friday 26th May

Weekday Group 11am Tuesday 23rd May

Drivers for hospital visits etc. 7:45 pm Tuesday 23rd May

Gardening Club in addition to the above it has been suggested that there might be support for a gardening club, or at least a meeting to discuss the Flower and Produce Show (Scheduled for Saturday 2nd September). There will be a meeting for those interested in the Village Hall at **10am on Saturday 27nd May**

Defibrillator training if you are interested let Rod Hastie know which of the following dates and times you could attend :
Saturday June 3rd at 10am Saturday June 3rd at 2pm
Saturday June 10th at 10am Saturday June 10th at 2pm
Saturday July 1st at 10am Saturday July 1st at 2pm

Playground

We have done some initial fact finding, and had discussions with officers of Rugby BC. We now need a clearer understanding of who is likely to use any play facilities, and what play items would best suit our needs. The best source of this information is you, the parents of parish children - so we will hold a discussion meeting in the **Village Hall at 11am on Saturday 27th May**. Please come along and let us have your views.

Grandborough Trust

Trust Funds exist to help residents of Grandborough Parish with educational bursaries and emergency assistance. If you think you may be eligible for a bursary or assistance, or you know someone who needs assistance please contact Tracy Pawsey 810997 or Michelle Johns 812945. All approaches are dealt with in strict confidence.

Dates of Parish Council Meetings in 2017

Tuesday 4th July
Tuesday 5th September
Tuesday 7th November
All meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 7:45pm.

All meetings are open to the public, and there is an opportunity before the meeting starts for any observer to comment on any Parish issue of concern to them.

Parish Council Contact Details

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Deputy Chairman	Richard Lee	3, Meadow Cottages, Main Street	521452	patandrich@btinternet.com
Councillors:	Heather McBreen	Rose Cottage, Lower Green	07821 255016	heathermcBreen@yahoo.co.uk
	Matt Bullen	2, The Steeples	817628	MatthewBullen@aol.com
	Vacancy	see above		
Clerk	Kay Worrall	The Bungalow Main Street	811605	kay.worrall@grandborough.net