

Hanslope Parish Council

Newsletter

December 2012

ENGAGING WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council exists to serve the community of Hanslope but in order to do this effectively it is important that we understand the concerns and issues that residents have. While the two Open Meetings we hold in the Spring and Autumn of each year provide a forum for residents to discuss matters of concern, residents can also contact the Parish Council about any matters that concern them at any time.

There are a number of ways this can be done;

1) Parish Councillors can be contacted directly to raise such matters.

2) Alternatively contact the Clerk to the Council with full details in writing (Bert McDonald 14 Winemar, Close, or e mail:

hanslopeparishcouncil@hotmail.com,

if you have any matters you would like to put on the agenda at the next meeting (the Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month, except in August). The agenda is published on the Monday before the meeting and is on display on the Parish Council notice boards.

3) All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. Residents have no right to speak, except if it is already agreed as an agenda item.

4) Starting from the first meeting in the New Year we plan to hold a **15 minute open forum** at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting to allow residents to air more immediate concerns, rather than go through the formality of writing letters.

In order to maintain some procedural order, any questions from residents will need to be raised with the Clerk, 3 days before the meeting.

PARISH PLAN

Following a great deal of work by many residents working with Parish Councillors, a Parish Plan was published in 2009. While many of the issues and strategies that are high lighted in this plan are still relevant, time has moved on, and actions have been taken on some of the points.

It would be sensible to update the existing plan, identify where action has been taken and the results. However, rather than producing another published document perhaps a 'live' document that is maintained on the **village web site** and updated regularly would be more suitable.

If any resident would be interested in helping with this they are asked to contact the Clerk of the Council.

ASH TREES IN THE VILLAGE

As you will no doubt be aware there appears to be a serious disease threatening the ash trees in our countryside. As a large number of the mature trees that define the Hanslope village landscape are ash, this is of some concern.

Unfortunately it would appear that all we can do is to monitor the situation. Ash die back disease, is according to the arboriculture experts we have consulted, difficult to diagnose on ash trees through observation in the winter months, as all ash trees are losing their leaves. So it will not be until late spring 2013 that the size of the problem we may face becomes clearer.

If you are concerned there are a number of web sites you can look at (e.g. in MK the Parks Trust) that will give you more information. MK Environmental Services only have a responsibility to inspect trees on public land. Please remember that the mature trees in the village conservation area are protected and no action can be taken without permission of the Parish and MK Council.

In addition the Forestry Commission has an overarching role to monitor the situation and can also provide advice and they can be reached directly on 0131 314 6414 or by email at plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

DIAMOND JUBILEE TREES

As announced in the previous newsletter the village has been successful in its bid to receive 100 saplings from the Woodland Trust to celebrate the Queens Diamond jubilee – this includes one 'royal oak' from the Queens estates.

These will be planted in four main locations, these are: along the hedge line in the recreation ground, at the edge of one of the wide verges on Newport Rd, on the wide verge on the Castlethorpe road entrance to the village, plus a few select trees in special locations.

They will be planted by various members of the village community aided by the Scouts, and we would urge all villagers to keep a watchful eye on them so that they can grow to maturity. The trees are a mixture of rowan, beech, birch, dogwood, hawthorn, chestnut and cherry, to provide year round colour.

LEAD THEFTS FROM THE CHURCH ROOF

It will also have come to the notice of many villagers that a large quantity of lead was stolen from the church roof in early November, causing major internal damage as the theft coincided with heavy rainfall. Unfortunately Hanslope was not the only village to suffer, and lead was also stolen from nearby churches in Haversham and Broughton, as well as from some others in the area.

This is a despicable anti social crime and one where because of the recent frequency of incidents insurance will not cover.

Villagers are urged to keep vigilant and to report anything that looks suspicious at any time of the day or night. The chances are that if they get away with it, they will at some time be back – and it could be the lead on the roof of your property they target next!

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

Following the decision to put any further work on the new community centre on hold for the foreseeable future, the Committee met with parties from the existing Village Hall, Scout Hall (Baden Lodge) and the Sports Pavillion, to discuss how the funds that are available could be used instead to improve the existing facilities.

This will be progressed in the next few months with precedence being given in the first instance to improving the Sports Pavillion and Baden Lodge.

ALLOTMENTS

Following the assessment that was made of the usage of the existing allotments over the summer, a number of the existing allotment holders have given up their tenancies, leaving a number of plots available for new tenants.

If any villager would like to take on an allotment, please in the first instance contact the Clerk to the Council

PLEASE KEEP DOGS ON A LEASH IN THE REC

Villagers are reminded that the Parish Council by laws governing the usage of the recreation ground stipulate that dogs should be kept on a leash. A number of unfortunate incidents where this has not occurred have been brought to our attention recently, and we urge all village dog owners to abide by the rules for the good of all and the well being of their and other dogs.

The bylaw also stipulate that motorised vehicles are also not allowed without prior permission.

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