

Hanslope Parish Council

December 2009 Newsletter

List of Councillors

Chairman	- Mr. J. Geary
Vice Chairman	- Mr. G. Lancaster
Councillor	- Mr. D. Cook
Councillor	- Mrs. D. Courtman
Councillor	- Mr. E. Dodworth
Councillor	- Mrs. C. Hayward
Councillor	- Mrs. L. Hetherington
Councillor	- Mrs. S. Mobley
Councillor	- Mr. K. Reynolds
Clerk	- Mr. A. McDonald
Ward Councillor	- Mr. A. Geary

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that the vacancy has been filled. We welcome Mrs. Carol Hayward to the Parish Council and wish her a pleasant term of office.

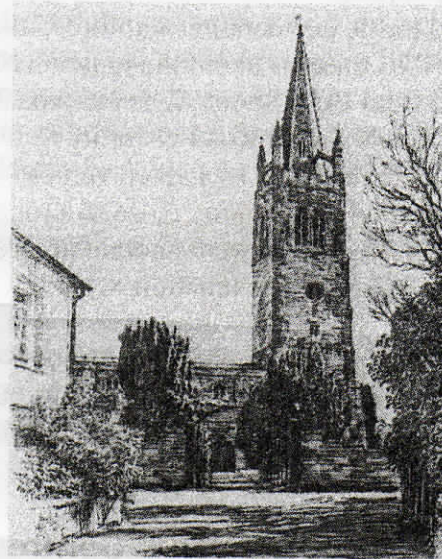
Obituary. Alderman Bert Tapp

It is with sadness that we learn of the sudden death of Alderman Bert Tapp of Castlethorpe.

To all who knew him, Bert was a giant amongst local councillors for many years. He represented the Hanslope Park Ward, formerly as a member of the Newport Pagnell Rural District Council, and from its inception, as the ward member of Milton Keynes Council until 2002. In recognition of his long service, he was awarded the office of Mayor of Milton Keynes.

Bert was a member of Castlethorpe Parish Council for many years and chairman for nearly thirty years. Much could be said of his involvement in local affairs but Bert's great legacy as a local councillor was the unique way in which he fought for the rural areas of the city. This was particularly so for the residents of Hanslope Park Ward, which he represented for so long and where he became a stalwart and champion of their cause. Many residents will know of the great work which Bert undertook for the parish as well as individual causes. It was perhaps fitting that he spent his last evening taking a full and active part in the Parish Council meeting.

We extend our sincere thoughts and condolences to Mrs. Tapp and her family at this time.



Parish Plan Issues

1. STREETCARE:

The Parish Council has a direct computer link to Milton Keynes Council, which is used to report defective street lighting, potholes, road and pavement surface defects, graffiti and overgrown hedges or trees. If you have noticed a problem, please telephone or e mail the Clerk who will deal with and keep a record of these issues.

2. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

All local employers are urged to advertise their companies future vacancies on the Village Website www.hanslope.org.uk and to offer 'APPRENTICESHIPS' to young people where possible.

3. 'VILLAGE APPEARANCE' AND 'GREEN' ISSUES;

The Parish Plan suggested setting up two teams of volunteers to look at and start improving the environment in the above areas. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to join or receive further information.

'Playbuilder' Scheme

The scheme which was introduced at the October Open Meeting is centrally funded with the aim of improving the village recreation facilities primarily for 8 to 13 year old children.

Discussion with the school and other interested parties is taking place.

A decision will then be made regarding where and on what the available money will be spent. The newsletter in March 2010 will include an update on this topic.

Parking Issues

A recent road traffic accident has reinforced the Parish Council's concerns about the junction of Newport Road and Gold Street. When approaching Gold Street from Newport Road visibility to the right is extremely impaired by parked vehicles. Please bear in mind that parking close to a junction is dangerous. Help us to prevent another accident by parking well clear of the junction.

Vehicles parking in Castlethorpe Road opposite the surgery are still causing problems. Please use the Recreation Ground car park as an alternative, if you are physically able.

Woodlands Children's Centre

Woodlands Children's Centre based at Hanslope Primary School is now running a Dads & Kids Group for children aged 0 -5 years on the 3rd Saturday of each month between 10am and 11.45am.

For more information on this and other sessions, please contact Michelle on 07534960124 or Jackie on 07947 316 370.

The next sessions are on the 16th January and the 20th February.

The Hanslope Harrier

Many parishioners will remember this excellent service and some have signed a petition or written to our Member of Parliament requesting that it be reinstated.

The service operated for a three year fixed period and whilst it was much appreciated by many users, it was for that period only. Despite much pressure from our Ward Councillor and the Parish Council, continued funding was not forthcoming.

Since the cessation of the Harrier, upgrades have been achieved to other services. The Plus Bus is also a good service available to anyone over eighty years of age or with a disability.

Whilst we understand the desirability of the Harrier being reinstated, we must be realistic and inform the parish that it will not happen. Our Member of Parliament may ask Milton Keynes Council to consider this on behalf of those who have written to him. Without severe disruption to the present services and particularly in the present economic climate, reinstating the Hanslope Harrier is unfortunately a non-starter – a fact which we have to accept.

Allotments

There has been a good uptake of allotments during the year. However, there are still some plots available. If interested, please contact the Clerk of the Council.

Bank Holiday – Waste Collection

Please remember the refuse/recycling collections are changed as follows.

Friday 25th collection on Tuesday 29th Dec.

Friday 1st collection on Tuesday 5th Jan.

Friday 8th collection on Monday 11th Jan.

Friday 15th collection on Saturday 16th Jan.

Please help us to keep our village tidy by putting out your bins and bags only on collection days.

Thank you.

Recreation Ground Vandalism

Sections of fencing have been deliberately broken. Every £1000 the Parish Council spends on vandalism, means that each household is paying over £1 as their contribution via the precept. Please help to minimise this ongoing waste of resources, by being vigilant in the recreation ground and reporting any incidents you see.

Christmas Fayre

The Parish Council wish to thank "The Friends of Hanslope" and all those involved in our Christmas Lights Event. An excellent occasion was enjoyed by all who attended.

Members of the Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



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