

Hanslope Parish Council

March 2011 Newsletter

List of Councillors

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

Open Meeting

The next Open Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th April starting at the earlier time of 7.15 pm.

The agenda will start with an update regarding the Community/Sports Building being considered for the recreation ground.

This will be the last Open Meeting of this Parish Council so your contribution would be appreciated.

Parish Council Elections

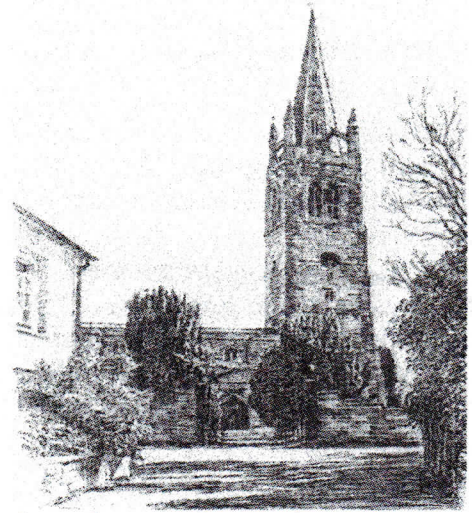
The current Parish Council is reaching the end of its term in office. Listed below are the arrangements for appointing a new Council.

The last day for interested parties to be nominated is Monday April 4th by 12 noon.

Polling day is Thursday 5th May 7.00 am to 10.00 pm.

Nomination packs are available from Milton Keynes Council Elections Team on 01908 252529 or from the Parish Clerk on 01908 290459.

For further information or an informal chat ring the Clerk on the number above.



Recreation Ground

Playbuilder

The Ward Councillor (Andrew Geary) together with the Parish Council has successfully managed to resurrect the 'Playbuilder' scheme which in the Autumn of last year seemed to be a lost cause. As a result the children's play area in the recreation ground has had a refurbishment and upgrading project completed. This involved repainting and repairing the existing equipment, replacing the see-saw and installing several new pieces of equipment. The funding for this scheme came from Central Government, Milton Keynes Council and Parish Council areas. The work was arranged and overseen by Milton Keynes Council. **An opening ceremony has been arranged for Saturday 26th March at 10.00 am when the Parish Council Chairman and the Major of Milton Keynes will jointly open the revitalised play area**

Community/Sports Building

When the Parish Plan was published one of the suggestions was that the Parish Council should investigate the possibility of a new Community/Sports Building in the recreation ground.

A Sub-Committee has been formed to consider this and as a first stage has contacted local groups and organisations in order to canvass opinions.

The response so far has been mostly in favour or interested in progressing the idea, with some groups being happy with their existing arrangements.

Please see the Open Meeting article for further information

Horticultural Show

Hanslope Village Hall is hoping to reinstate the Annual Horticultural Show this year thanks to Martin Palmer who has offered to organise it. We are trying to trace the Cups and Shields that were awarded at the last Show which took place over 10 years ago. If you won a Cup or Shield at that Show could you please return it to John Sorrell, Secretary, Hanslope Village Hall 01908 510747.

Dog Watch

Dog Owners of Milton Keynes can help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood by joining the new Dog Watch scheme. You can help make your community a better and safer place! Dog Watch members will be able to report back on incidents such as graffiti and Vandalism; fly tipping; damage to pavements and play equipment; faulty street lighting; untaxed and abandoned vehicles; dog fouling and littering; suspicious activity. A wallet sized card is provided so you know who to phone.

If you would like to sign up for community and dog related messages and to receive a dog watch pack please call Helen Sharratt on 01908 324626 or email

helen.sharratt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

We also have a website

www.dogwatchmk.co.uk.

Dog Fouling

HOTSPOT; Hartwell Road is a very bad area please scoop the poop. Please keep our village clean and tidy, clean up after your animals.

Allotments

The AGM in January was very well attended with a lively discussion taking place regarding the revised rules that were put forward. Thank you to the plot holders who attended and contributed on the night. If you are interested in an allotment please contact the Parish Clerk.

Volunteers Wanted



Lifeboats

The RNLI is a National Charity which receives no government funding. It provides lifeboats around the coast and lifeguards on the UK's popular beaches. In 2009 the lifeboats were launched over 9,000 times to rescue over 8,000 people !

There is a new fundraising group in Milton Keynes and our first target is to raise enough cash for an inshore jet ski used mainly for shoreline rescues.

Can you help spare a few hours a year and help us with our collections ? We desperately need some extra pairs of willing hands !!

See the website for further details

Thankyou

The Parish Council would like to thank the volunteers who cleared snow from footpaths during the bad weather in December.

Thanks also to the School Children who planted the spring flowers near the Village Sign.

Trading Standards Letter

Included with your newsletter is a letter produced by Trading Standards which is full of helpful advice, guidelines and contact details. The Parish Council hopes you will find it useful

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Telephone 01908 290459

E-mail: hanslopeparishcouncil@hotmail.com

Energy Companies

Many electricity and gas companies will visit you to try and get you change your provider. Some unscrupulous companies and sales people will use underhand tactics. Be wary when someone comes to read your meter, they will often use this as a method of getting into your home where the hard sell may start. Make sure you know who provides your gas and electricity and always check for identification and confirm with the company directly.

If you do want to change your supplier never sign anything straight away, discuss it with friends and family first. If you feel as though you are under pressure from the sales person, ask them to leave, if they do not then call the police as by not leaving they may have committed a criminal offence.

If you do sign a contract in your home for a new energy supplier you legally have the right to cancel the contract within 7 days. You should do this by writing to them at the address on the contract and send the letter with a Certificate of Posting (this can be provided by

the Post Office free of charge), also keep a copy of the letter.

Charity Doorstep Collections

Some people have reported that a minority of door to door charity collectors have been aggressive and more forceful with their collections.

It is your decision to give to charity so you should not feel pressured into handing over any money. If you feel that collectors are acting unreasonably then report them to the charity they represent and the Charity Commission.

The Charity Commission have provided the following advice for dealing with doorstep collectors.

Does the organisation state that it is a charity, or that it is collecting on behalf of a charity?

- An organisation can't call itself a charity if it isn't one.
- The needy in developing countries' and 'poor families in the Third World' are not specific charities – look for a charity name.

- Where the organisation states clearly that it is a charity, look for the charity number.
- Where a collection is for 'charitable purposes' or is 'on behalf of a charity', are you told which specific charity will benefit and how much of your donation will reach them?
- Ask if the charity has a formal agreement with the collector. If in doubt, you can give the charity a call.

Can the collector reassure you of their credentials?

- Be wary of ID that looks photocopied or home-made, or leaflets with no address or land line telephone number.
- Where a leaflet or envelope appears to be from a charity, check the contact details – it's been known for a charity's name to be falsely used with different addresses or telephone numbers.
- Some organisations make a small donation to charity and use the subsequent 'thank you' letter as proof of an agreement with the charity – it's not.

- If the organisation is reluctant to answer your questions or give you information, think twice about giving.

How can I check if the organisation is a charity?

- All charities registered in England and Wales can be checked on the Charity Commission's online register at www.charitycommission.gov.uk or call 0845 300 0218

Clothing Collection Bags

Clothing collections bags are put though our letterboxes on a regular basis. Some of the organisations are charities and will show their registered charity number on their leaflet. If the collection company only shows a company number then it is not a charity and will make money by selling on the items you donate. If you would like to donate to a charity make sure you read the leaflet accompanying the bag or drop your items off to a local charity shop or supermarket offering collection facilities (normally by using bins in the car park).

Cooling off Period

If you buy any goods or services that cost more than £35 and the contract was made in your home you may have this 7 days to cancel your contract.

By law the seller must give you written details of your right to cancel. If the trader does not do this then they may be committing a criminal offence and the contract could be unenforceable meaning you do not have to pay a penny, even for goods or services already supplied.

If you want the work to start before the end of your 7 day cooling off period (e.g. an emergency plumber), then the trader must ask you to sign to agree for the work to start immediately.

Some goods and services contracts are excluded from these rules:

- Insurance Contracts
- Contracts relating to food and drink supplied by regular roundsmen (not one off fish sellers)
- Contracts relating to shares and investments

- Contracts relating to construction, sale or rental of property

Buy With Confidence

If you are having work done in your home use a Buy with Confidence trader. These companies are independently checked by Trading Standards, helping you find a legitimate trader. Please contact **08454 04 05 06** for details or visit our website.

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/BWC

Door Step Callers

Beware, doorstep callers can be very persuasive to try and get into your home. They may use these types of lines.

"I've noticed there are a few loose tiles on your roof."

"This offer is only available for you today..."

"I'm in your area doing a survey..."

"We have just done some work for your neighbour..."

"We were doing a job in the area and we have some materials left over"

"We can give you a discount if you pay by cash"

A lot of these statements are criminal offences so if a doorstep caller use one of these lines please contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

The following numbers are provided so you can check that the caller is legitimate:

British Gas Sales - 0800 048 0202
BT - 0800 800 150
Npower -0845 071 4525
E-on - 0800 051 0760
Meter Plus - National Grid (formerly Transco) 0845 605 6677
Anglian Water Billing & General enquiries - 08457 91 91 55
Southern Electric - 0800 117 116