

Latest News from the Parish Council

Recent meetings have been held online in accordance with guidelines set out by the Government for the duration of the Pandemic. It is a surprise that the finish date was not prolonged despite calls to do so in many quarters, but at the time of writing, May 6th remains the date after which there is an expectation for face-to-face gatherings to resume. New legislation may change this in due course.

This year the Annual Parish meeting – otherwise known as the open meeting for all residents—will take place at 19:00 on Tuesday 4th May 2021. It will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 19:30. Both meetings will be online, the joining details shown overleaf.

All Parishioners are welcome to join us. It would be useful if anyone has a particular issue they would like to raise, if the matter can be notified in advance to the Clerk to ensure a possibility of either researching the topic or preparing a response.

Village Green and Lengthsman

The green is showing an abundance of cowslips and other flora especially around the trees. It is being cut regularly, leaving the planting zones to see what grows this year. We have two extra trees to add to the flavour.



A new lengthsman, Carl Brassington, was engaged for the late part of last year and has been contracted for the coming twelve months. He aims to be in the village every second Tuesday to carry out whatever is required. If anyone notices a particular issue please let the Clerk know and we can ask him to address it where it falls within his remit. If he notices anything that requires attention adjacent to private property he may speak with householders to determine the best way to deal with the matter.

Finance Matters

The Annual Return was signed off at the meeting held on 13th April and the accounts are now with the internal auditor. Once returned, the statutory period for inspection will be announced and anyone wishing to ask questions or examine the accounts can do so making arrangements with the Clerk.

Planning

The Council continues to try and ensure that Planning Rules are followed and decisions upheld and the ongoing matter at Baughton Stud is now the subject of an appeal by the landowner against the refusal of his recent application for change of use and other elements.

The full original objection of the Parish Council can be seen on the Malvern Hills Planning Portal and a further submission will be made in relation to the appeal.

(Planning reference Ref. 20/01827/FUL)

The outcome could be a landmark as regards the use of fields in both Hill Croome, Earls Croome and beyond and the potential impact of inappropriate development should not be taken lightly.

Cotterill's Charity—No. 241526

This small local Charity was created following the sale of land in the village and was to be for the benefit of the people resident in the Parish of Hill Croome. The earliest bank records held on file go back to 1945 and the original purpose was to assist those in need with the purchase of coals.

The further sale of the almshouse in the early 1960's which stood on the corner of the green boosted the assets of the Charity and in 1995 a new Trust deed was created to satisfy the 'Charities Act 1993'. The Charity has three Trustees, one nominated by the Parish Council.

The new deed was intended to clarify the aims of the Charity and it states ' *The Trustees shall apply the clear income of the Charity for the relief of persons resident in the Parish of Hill Croome who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress either in gifts in kind or grants of money which may include grants to any almshouse or other charitable institution established for the benefit of persons qualified as aforesaid:*

Provided that income shall not be applied directly in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds but may be applied in supplementing relief or assistance provided out of public funds.'

During the pandemic it has not been possible for the Trustees to meet, but when able to do so, there is a proposal to discuss the future role of the Charity and how funds are used to satisfy the above aims. At the meeting it is expected that new Trustees will be welcomed to the Board.

If anyone requires further information about the Charity the details can be found on the Charity Commission website or send an email to cotterillscharity@gmail.com and I will do my best to answer any queries.

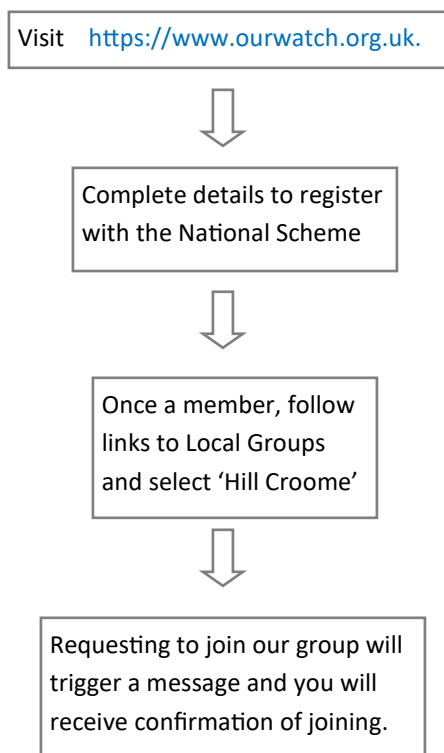
Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been slow to take off and we still only have two members signed up. This is a disappointment as the intention is to ensure the safety of us all by being aware of rural crime trends and the potential threat to our way of life.

There is no expectation of regular emails or notifications cluttering up your inbox, but to ensure we have a presence in the national scheme the numbers need to be boosted for us to be a recognised group. This would then protect our scheme for the area.

To join the National Scheme you need to go online and then follow the links to become a member of our local group.

The process is;



Speed of vehicles in the village

At the recent meeting the matter of speeding vehicles was again brought to the attention of Councillors. Whilst we have contacted a number of haulage firms and transport companies in recent months, vehicles continue to ignore the 30mph limit to the detriment of householders and pedestrians. The problem exists for both large vehicles, cars and motorcycles in equal measure making it dangerous to leave junctions and premises, never mind the risks for crossing the road.

There have been two speed surveys in the last few years, each returning statistics that would warrant enforcement action but this has been ruled out due to a lack of suitable locations.

The alternatives, and preferred actions, are education and then engineering before enforcement, but in our case we need a solution before it is too late.

Over the years there have been incidents, including property damage and the creation of the new bridge with the slope running down from the motorway is the main catalyst for the problems we now face.

It is proposed that once the upcoming elections are decided, the new County Councillor and the Police and Crime Commissioner will be written to, demanding that something be done.

It is accepted that many rural communities have a similar issue but why should we have to wait for another serious incident to happen before action is taken?

Anyone wishing to do so, can join us in this by contacting the same officials or our MP to reinforce the message.

Hill Croome Parish Council

The next meetings are due on:

Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.00pm

Annual Parish Meeting

(Open Meeting for Residents)

Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Everyone is welcome to join us using ZOOM

Code 207-127-1837 2kyDQy

Events at the Village Hall are still under review and new dates will be published once the advice permits such social gatherings.



For any correspondence or matters arising please contact

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