

Newsletter



WARNDON PARISH COUNCIL



Spring 2019

Financial Matters

In our previous Newsletter, it was indicated that any increase in the “parish precept” - the portion of Council Tax relating to Parish Council expenditure, would be kept in line with inflation, “unless something unexpected occurs”. Well, as it turned out something unexpected did occur..... a parish by- election.



It has been past practice for us and other Parish councils to co-opt a replacement councillor particularly if the time remaining to a full election is short. In this case it was just five months to the May 2019 elections when all councillors will be up for election. Under the co-option scheme the prospective candidates would have been interviewed by all the existing members of the council and a suitable replacement chosen for the remaining term of office. However, on this occasion, ten residents called for an election and a by-election was held. Under Election Law, the number of electors needed to call an election is just 10, whether the parish is a small village of 200 people or Warndon Parish North which has approx. 4500 adult residents. The price of democracy is sometimes very high!

The cost of this by-election is understood to be between £5,000 and £10,000 - although the City Council has yet to finally confirm this figure. Given that this was unplanned expenditure, the cost of the by-election is being met from the Parish Council's financial balances. Consequently, in order to restore financial balances to their recommended level, the Parish Council has decided that it should increase the parish precept by 7% for 2019/20-instead of the originally anticipated 3% inflationary increase. While this might sound a “large” increase, it should be borne in mind that Parish Council element will still be only about 1.5% of the average Council Tax bill.”

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Survey Feedback

We had a fantastic response to the Neighbourhood Plan survey, back in October/November. Over **600** households took the time to complete the questionnaire and provide us with extremely valuable feedback...

...and for this, we are very grateful!

The feedback from the survey will ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is focussed on the right things for the parish. In addition, this feedback will potentially influence the priorities of the Parish Council - and hopefully the City and County Councils! - for some years to come.

After initial analysis of the feedback, these are just a few of the headline issues:

1. **There were overwhelming majorities in favour of:**

- **Protecting the various elements that make up the Green Network.** These include the Significant Gap, Nature Reserves, play areas, pathways and other areas of green space.
- **Retaining the existing range of community facilities, shops, etc, available within the parish.**
- **The draft vision and objectives put forward by the working group.**

2. **There were overwhelming majorities against:**

- **Allocating any more land for employment development**
- **Allocating any more land for housing development**



Neighbourhood Plan Update

3. Best things about living in the parish

- Access to countryside /green space
- Access to Worcester
- Access to motorway
- Pleasant physical environment
- Quiet location

4. Greatest concerns:

- Loss of green space to development
- Anti social behavior
- Parking
- Crime
- Traffic speed

5. Words to describe the parish in 15 years time:

- Safe
- Green/leafy
- Friendly
- Attractive
- Quiet

So, some pretty strong and consistent messages coming across there
.....loud and clear!



Neighbourhood Plan Update

We also asked for your comments and suggestions on community issues that are important to **you** or **your** household. There are far too many to include them all here, but they have been captured and will be properly considered as part of the process.

Next steps

As we develop the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, we are currently working on an audit of the various green spaces within the parish. This will allow us to assess their suitability for “Local Green Space” designation - which would add extra protection against unwarranted development in the future. The strength of feeling shown by the survey feedback provides a clear mandate for such consideration!

We will keep you informed of further developments as they arise.

Once again...

Thank you!!

...for all your support

For a fuller analysis of the survey feedback, please check out the Neighbourhood Plan website: <http://warndonpcnp.org.uk>



Parish Allotments

Allotments Update

We now have 26 plots in full operation and that means we can satisfy the needs of 47 gardeners (some have full plots, most have half plots.)

Soon it will be time to invoice the next year's rent and water costs from last year. At this time last year, we lost a lot of plot holders and with that and the new extension open we managed to clear our Waiting List.

Currently there is just one person on our Waiting List for immediate plot ownership and a few others who have asked for plots in a couple of years' time.

We plan to put in a permanent water supply to the allotment's extension by April 2019, this will replace the temporary hose which was in use last year.

Residents of the parish who would like to go on our Waiting List or have questions should email allotments@warndonparishcouncil.org, subject to residency and receipt of a £10.00 charge you will put on the list immediately.



Parish Defibrillators

Defibrillators in the Villages

As many of you will know we have three defibrillators positioned in the Villages for the use of the general public 24/7 should the need arise.

We remain extremely grateful to the sites hosting the three units at **Tesco Express, Lyppard Hub** and the **resident in Fowler Avenue**.

We hope that you never have to use one of these units for anyone but if you do don't be alarmed because they are very simple to use. Just follow the instruction given by the unit. It's impossible to shock a patient who doesn't need it because the machine will stop it taking place.

It's suggested that you familiarise yourself with the location of these three units just in case you ever need them. The units are locked using a coded pad but on receipt of a 999 call they will be able to supply you with the code. Alternately you can call 112 from a mobile, that enables the operator to track your whereabouts.

We have so far conducted three training sessions in the use of the defibrillator but if enough people are interested, we can do further one. Just email us at -

defibrillators@warndonparishcouncil.org

if you would like to be trained and we will see what can be arranged.



Elections 2nd May 2019

The Parish Council is a statutory body, the first tier of local government. It is run on strictly non-political and non-religious principles. Elections to the council are on a 4-year cycle, with term of office being 4 years.



For elections purposes only, the parish is divided into two wards, North and South. (The boundary line being the end of the gardens of the houses in Middle Hollow and Trotshell Lanes).

This division does not affect the working of the Council in any way and prospective members can choose to represent either Ward.

To be able to stand as a candidate at a local government election in England and Wales you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union, and meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - a. You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the local authority area in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - b. You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
 - c. Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the local authority area.
 - d. You have lived in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of the election

Elections 2nd May 2019

Disqualifications:

Apart from meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified.

There will be 8 seats available in this parish. If there are more candidates than seats for the particular Ward/Parish, then there will need to be a poll which will be held alongside the City elections.

If there are the same number or fewer candidates than seats for that particular ward, those candidates will be elected unopposed. Any remaining vacant seats, will be filled by co-option.

For further information see: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Or contact **Worcester City Electoral Services Team** at:

electoralservices@worcester.gov.uk

Parish Council Annual Open Meeting

will be held on

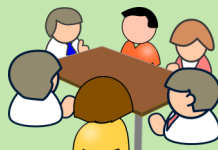
Monday 15th May 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

at the

Lyppard HUB

- Come along and meet your new Parish Councillors
- Find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the last 12 months.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Parish Matters

Gateways on Plantation Drive

Our intention to install “Village Gateways” on the bypass end of Plantation Drive has been well known for some. The use of the VAS speed monitor has been successful over the past in helping the average speed of motorists on Plantation Drive to reduce from 52% of motorists over 35mph down to 14% but we wanted to try and bring that down further after several complaints about speed and noise.

The way had been prepared for this to happen and we had received a license from the County Council to proceed. Just three days prior to work starting our permission was revoked! The gates and our contractor were ready but everything was stopped. We now await a further discussion about possible compromises to our proposals and whether the project will be able to go ahead after all ?



Gates shown are for illustrative purposes only.

Parish Council Facebook Page is now live!

Your Parish Council has a Facebook Page!

Please like us and follow us to keep in touch with what we are doing for you! Find us at -

<https://www.facebook.com/warndonparishcouncil>



Parish Warden News



Dear residents, Since the start of the year the team and I have been fully immersed in the winter works schedule in the Villages, with major hedge reductions and felling operations being completed with weekly regularity. The programme to reduce several of the heavily overgrown shrubs and trees bordering our wonderful path network will all have been completed by the end of March. One such project was at White Castle, the path in question had completely collapsed during last summer, due to the weight of vegetation overhanging the path. This project will ensure consistent and safe access along our path network; this is essential to keep the excellent infrastructure in our area in tiptop condition. It may look severe but reducing a hedge to 5ft allows it to thicken from the base and will in time enable easier maintenance, offer increased stability and where the hedge acts as a barrier, improved security.

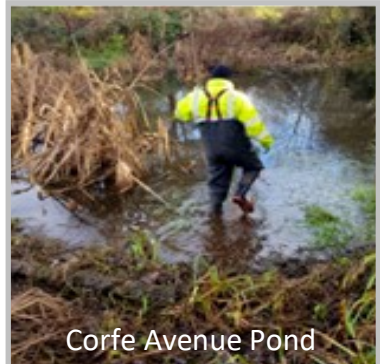


Over the last few months volunteers have worked with us to complete the project to install a new section of path including a boardwalk at Mabs Allotments and made improvements to the walk around the green space. This is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when a local authority works in unison with volunteers. There's still more work to be done at Mabs so please keep an eye out for opportunities to help.

Parish Warden News



We are also continuing with the project to care for our pond network through the 'Pamper your Pond' project we are working to improve access around the pond network thus enabling better surveying of protected species such as Newts and bats, while also working to maintain the surface water drainage properties our ponds provide.



Corfe Avenue Pond

We are currently building a working relationship with the Worcestershire Reptile and Amphibian Group who are helping to advise on our work plan. If you would like to be involved please let me know. We have over 15 ponds in the Villages, some with SSSI designation to be cared for!

Community Litter Picks are held on the second Thursday of every month and continue to attract a wide and varied range of participants. The littering over the Christmas and New Year period was particularly heavy, indeed it was noted at the January Parish Council meeting that some of the main routes were in a very bad state. Following this meeting I worked with both the assistance of colleagues in the City Council and local volunteers and over the course of three days collected over **50** bags of litter! It is amazing to think what our environment would look like without the level of resource currently afforded to the Villages. Thank you to everyone that regularly helps to keep the Villages clean.

Parish Warden News - Volunteering

The Star Volunteer Award for this edition goes to... Lynn Higgins! Lynn is a pleasure to work with and dedicates a huge amount of time on a variety of projects in the Villages and across the City. Lynne is always full of enthusiasm for the task at hand. Well done and thank you for all your hard work, we appreciate it!

We are looking to work with a multitude of volunteer groups in the coming months from university students and pupils from local schools volunteering with us to deliver another successful **Great British Spring Clean**. There really is lots going on in the Villages, why not come along and join in? We are a friendly bunch and we're always happy to greet new volunteers with a smile and a cup of tea. Almost all our events start at 10:30am with details of projects emailed to those on the mailing list and on the Facebook page (@FOWV1).

Friends of Warndon Villages events:

April 23rd Tattersall Park

May 28th Swallowfields

June 25th Trevithick Park



Friends of Trotshill Orchard Group meet on **THIRD** Saturday of the month

As Parish Wardens we prioritise our workload by liaising with the Parish Council and local residents and taking swift action to resolve customer enquiries as soon as possible. If you have a query or concern regarding any of the green spaces please contact the **Worcestershire Hub** on **01905 722233** or if you wish to be added to the mailing list of events and volunteer opportunities then please contact me directly on **07917 623484** or email: alex.booth@worcester.gov.uk.

Police matters

With the increased number of crimes, in the area recently, the police would like to remind everyone the correct way to report them.



If it is a **none** urgent matter then please use the NONE EMERGENCY number **101** or email: **contactus@westmercia.police.uk**

This number can be used even if you are reporting the matter, hours after the issue occurred..... even the following day! Every report is important, it may not necessarily generate a police officer attending, but it does allow the police to collate information and build patterns of either anti social or criminal activity, which in turn will help them allocate resources to deal with the issue, in the longer term.

A number of residents have experienced a problem with loud traffic noise and what appears to be vehicles exceeding the speed limit in the area. If this is affecting you, then make a note of the time and date and if possible take note of the vehicle details or take a photograph or video.

Call **101** to report the issue. Remember to ask for a Crime reference number and tell the call handler to specifically pass it to **Warndon SNT**.

For reporting **emergency situations** only – **Call 999** if offenders are nearby, life is at risk, injury is caused or threatened, crime or disorder is in progress.

The police would also like to remind people to **remove** any valuables from vehicles and also remember to keep vehicles locked at all times.

Contact the police if you see anything you consider to be suspicious or a nuisance. **Be vigilant..... keep your eyes open!**

Date for your diary



Something for everyone to enjoy; pony rides, inflatables, all kinds of stalls, live music, BBQ, fairground rides, community organisations, delicious refreshments and loads of entertainment!

We are always in need of volunteers so please get in touch if you would like to help in any way!

To **keep up to date** with what has been planned, to **book a stall** or to **get involved** just like and follow the Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/warndonvillagessummer/>

or download the booking form at

<http://www.lyppardhub.co.uk>.



Your Parish Council

Chairman & Finance

Cllr Nick Fielden

01905 619722

Vice Chairman finance Planning

Cllr Roger Harris

01905 27045

Planning and Rights of Way

Cllr Andy Taylor

01905 25146

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Finance

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Finance & Allotments

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Planning and Rights of Way

Cllr Andrew Cross

07587 184039

E-mail: Andrew.Cross@WarndonParishCouncil.org

The Clerk to the Council

(vacant—to be appointed)

Tel: 01905 458439

E-mail: Clerk@WarndonParishCouncil.org

The Council meets on the first Monday in the month (except Bank Holidays),
at 7.30pm in the Lyppard Hub.

**PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND SPEAK DURING THE FIRST 30 MINUTES BY
PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Please contact the appropriate Councillor(s) or the Clerk on any matter with comments,
complaints, or if you just need advice or information.

Council web site: www.WarndonParishCouncil.org