

Update from your Grimley local councillors - June, July and Aug

Grimley Parish Council serves (in no particular order) the communities of Grimley Village, Monkwood Green, Sinton Green, Oakall Green, Birchall Green, Moseley, Worlds End, Dark Lane, Walton Lane, Camp Lane and all inbetween!

Chair Adam Collett <i>(MonkWGreen)</i>	P. Ayers <i>(MonkWGreen)</i>	S. Wilson <i>(MonkWGreen)</i>	R Woodhouse <i>(Grimley village)</i>
A. Sinclair <i>(MonkWGreen)</i>	G. Moore <i>(Grimley village)</i>	G. Probert <i>(Wider parish)</i>	.

Hedges

After yet another recent instance of a bus being forced into the middle of the road in the face of oncoming traffic, Grimley Parish Councillors and our County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown have acted decisively. Both sides clubbed together from parish and divisional funds to conduct emergency tree and hedge works along Grimley Village approach road and have rediscovered the verge at that location. Other reported hedge problems are also being pursued with the assistance of the doggedly determined Donald at Highways. **Land owners are reminded that they may cut back vegetation during the bird nesting season if the highway or visibility splays or rights of way are being hindered.**

Ditches

The parish council has been pursuing clarification of who owns the roadside ditches across the parish and has received from Malvern Hills District Council a leaflet which explains about Riparian Responsibilities. As a starter for ten, all landowners with a ditch or watercourse adjacent to their property should assume that they have at least joint/shared responsibility to keep it clear and running, unless land deeds state otherwise. It cannot be assumed that because a ditch is next to a road that the County Council and Highways have responsibility for clearing it. Roadside verges and grips are the responsibility of Highways but not always the ditches themselves, which are not counted as part of the verge.

With the amounts of rainfall that we are receiving over the past few months, it is very important that all landowners consider the water courses that they are responsible for please. Ditches owned by the parish council at Sinton Green Village Green and Monkwood Green Common and SSSI are on a rolling calendar for maintenance. The ditches on Sinton Green Village Green are due to be cleared out over the next few weeks. Some local businesses across the parish have done a great job clearing out ditches over the past year and also Highways has been re-installing vital grips down Dark Lane.

Please could all others now play their part in this, by either investigating their own riparian responsibilities or simply even just reporting blocked ditches and drains via the online County Council report it tool: [Google search 'Worcestershire Report It'](#)

Positive efforts

Parish Councillors have been to visit and witness the extraordinarily hard work that our local school children have been putting in to plant trees, explore Monk Wood and learn about the wildlife there. What a credit to us all these children are, with such positive and exemplary behaviour. Thank you to them, their families and indeed to all volunteers for Monk Wood, Monkwood Green Common, not forgetting the churchyard volunteers!

Quick fire update on ongoing projects. We continue to:

- Pursue Severn Trent for a resolution to the water leak down Dark Lane.
- Request clarification of the winter gritting route along Dark Lane and Walton Lane and enquire why the school bus route is neglected in favour of other routes.
- Establish the cause of road and home flooding in Worlds End. A Parish Council Working Party is pursuing enquiries about ditch and drain ownership and is in the process of writing to land owners and the Land Drainage Partnership (to offer guidance to landowners in this respect).
- Pursue proper repairs to the drain in the vicinity of Mudwalls – at the time of writing councillors have received assurances that a proper cap will be installed asap. Let us know if this happens!
- Ensure that the potholes in Grimley approach road and Sinton approach road from the direction of Monk Wood are filled. [The potholes have been done, and now the parish council begins the task of enquiring about the quality and likely longevity of that work.]
- Pursue options for preventing parking and driving on Sinton Green Village Green. Resident assistance in considerate parking is requested please. Financial contributions to cover the cost of likely projects has been offered by those involved. Residents will be fully consulted on any options. At this present time councillors are seeking advice from the County Council to pursue a range of ideas. Options for updating or enforcing bye laws on Sinton Green have proven too exorbitant to make worthwhile and so this matter has been dropped. The latest parish council minutes give a bit more detail about all that has been happening at Sinton Green. The parish council is doing as much as we can to assist everyone with concerns – from all backgrounds and points of view. What I will say as Clerk is that since the last parish council meeting in July, many residents have come forward to me to tell me their stories of the parish and a bit about their histories and background and I have enjoyed getting to know you all a bit better.
- Tree survey at Sinton Green via volunteers and councillors is ongoing and awaiting residents return after the summer.
- Ongoing care of Monkwood Green Common – the plants on the Common and SSSI are visibly changing (species and number) as a result of the wet conditions since October. Councillors continue to debate how to best manage this evolving man-made but wildlife-appropriated environment.
- Assist the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust with new water provision to their land purchased at Green Farm.
- Reinvigorate ditch maintenance projects at Monkwood Green (put on hold due to the wet winter weather).
- Enquire of Natural England about badly need maintenance of the SSSI at Grimley fishponds (vicinity of the Severn Way).
- Exploring options for permission to install a mobile speed sign (VAS) at locations across the parish. At this time we await the results of a speed survey.
- One of the Jubilee oak trees did not make it through the awful spring weather. The Clerk is nurturing a replacement ready for planting with advice on the correct season.
- A resident has enquired via social media about tree planting opportunities in the parish. The council is not permitted to plant (too many) trees on Monkwood Green Common because it is a SSSI and a protected landscape. The village green at Sinton Green is not suitable for much more tree planting because of the community uses that it is available for. The parish council does not own any other plot of land in the parish. We have asked before for donations of land for this purpose with no takers. If any landowner wishes to step forward and offer their land for an orchard project, they would be most welcome and the parish council would do all it could to apply for grants to make this happen, subject to permissions. In the past, the parish council has provided 250 trees to households who wish to plant a sapling in their garden. We understand that 80% of these made it through their first year and are thriving, or at least still alive!.

Items that will not be going ahead:

- Resident request for a street name plate for Gumburn Lane, Sinton Green. So many residents objected to this project that the parish council simply referred the original resident to the District Council to seek advice.
- Options for the blue shared space signs at Camp Lane. The County Council have not been able to fund this project and Parish Councillors felt that in this instance the Highway code should suffice.

Final thank you to...

- Everyone who litter picks in the parish. (Let the Clerk know if you need equipment for this).
- Those that help care for the bus shelters.
- Those that empty the litter bins if they get too full in between District Council visits.
- Those that help keep rights of way clear or simply report problems that they find.

The Peace Hall is busy advertising some forthcoming events. Please give them your every support.

As you can see, we have a lot on our plate. We have a number of vacancies and the Clerk can give full support and provide training to anyone interested in stepping forward. At the time of writing two candidates have come forward to make initial enquires and by gosh we will make them welcome!

Grimley Parish Councillors