

PITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 40 - Autumn 2017

Chairman's Notes:

Much has happened within the Pitminster Parish over the past 6 months since the Annual Parish Meeting in May 17. Although one of the largest geographical Council areas in Somerset it is also one of the least populated - nonetheless, all the normal functions are continually dealt with on a monthly basis. In 6 months your Council have Resolved 6 Planning Applications and made observations to Taunton Deane on 9 others. Not all applications to date have been fully resolved and we are continually monitoring their progress. However, you too can follow their progress: copies of all Planning Applications, past and present, can be found at

<http://www2.tauntondeane.gov.uk/asp/webpages/plan/plaplookup.asp>

In addition, there have been 2 Environmental and 7 Enforcement issues all of which have been presented, researched and progressed accordingly. There have also been other issues that have been brought to the Council's attention and have been championed at Taunton Deane County Council level - speeding, hedges, litter, verges etc... the list goes on. To keep up-to-date your Parish Councils actions and directives, Agendas and Minutes can be found at the website www.pitminsterparish.org.uk.

Also, information is displayed on the Parish Notice Boards. Over these months there have been changes; it is with great sadness that I have to write that Councillor Richard Morgan passed away. Richard worked tirelessly for the people of this Parish and continually placed their needs at the top of his agenda. As a Councillor since May 13 he had represented Pitminster Parish at all levels using reason, intelligence and a wonderful sense of humour. Last month Richard received a Chairman's Award for Services to the Community from the Chairman of Somerset County Council - the Chairman's final word of the citation read, '*Richard provided wise council and direction, his knowledge of the local area and occupants have enhanced the Parish Council's ability to work for the parishioners; he has always wanted to genuinely put people first. Throwing himself into and supporting all local initiatives he has displayed selfless courage.*'

Pitminster Parish Council meetings are open to members of the public, they should not go on longer than 2 hours and you are welcome to join us. Copies of Planning Applications are available to view before we discuss them at the meeting. Additionally, we invariably have representation from the County Council

which provides a wider picture of Somerset (and some parts of Devon) that directly impact on this Parish. Your Parish Councillors are:

Eric Newcombe (Chair)

Tel. 01823 420106

ericpaulnewcombe@aol.com

Area of Responsibility (AOR): Links with TDBC/SCC, Playing Fields Association, Youth Club, Village Fete, Environmental Health, Newsletter, Complaints.

Liz Christie (Vice Chair)

Tel. 01823 421756

Liz.christie.parish@gmail.com

AOR: Local transport, Community Safety (Defib), Website, Local Businesses.

David Edmondson

Tel. 01823 421217

Edmondson.david@yahoo.co.uk

AOR: Highways, Village Hall, WI.

Margaret Lee

Tel. 01823 421808

Leigh-hill@waitrose.com

AOR: Blackdown Hills AONB.

Roger Neale

Tel. 01823 421260

Howleigh.farm@btconnect.com

AOR: War Memorial/Stone.

Adrian Whatmore

Tel. 01823 421751

Adrianwhatmore248@btinternet.com

AOR: Pitminster Charity, Speed-watch, Footpaths, Churches, Broadband.

Richard Tyzack (Clerk)

Tel. 01823421889

pitminster@hotmail.co.uk

Additionally, we have 2 new Councillors who recently volunteered to be co-opted onto the Committee:

Elizabeth Carolynne Burnett

Tel. 01823 421758

burnettfosgrove@tiscali.co.uk

Simon Canniford

Tel. 01823 270651

simoncanniford@hotmail.com

District Councillors are:

John Thorne

Tel: 07811675262

JBThorne@somerset.gov.uk

Ross Henley

Tel:01823 665988

rosshenley@yahoo.co.uk

Finally from me, the dates for the next Parish Council meetings to be held at Angersleigh Village Hall are:

- 23 Nov 17 - General Meeting -
- 14 Dec 17 - General Meeting -
- 18 Jan 18 - General Meeting -

Parish Council Audit:

The full audit of the Parish Council has been signed off by the Auditor. The audit completion certificate may be viewed on the notice boards. The Annual Return and Governance Statement with the auditors' signature may be viewed at <http://www.pitminsterparish.org.uk/edit/app/web/upload/file/Audit%20report.pdf>

Last year the Government stated that parish councils should make Agendas, Minutes, documents and finance details more transparent. A good start has been made and it is worth noting that all the accounts and expenditure may be viewed on the website - more documents are being added all the time. The finances are in good shape; once again, the parish council only raised the precept by 0.3%. A while ago ANESCO erected a solar farm up on the Blackdown Hills and donated some money to Churchstanton and Pitminster councils. This year £500 of this donation was used, together with a grant from the Big Lottery Fund through the Heartbeat Trust, to purchase a Defibrillator which is at the Pavilion on the playing fields.

Blagdon Hill - Defibrillator:

A volunteer group has been established to help anyone who has cause to use the defibrillator. The group have received training and we are currently mapping the area, so that volunteers will know the location of all the houses. Once that has been completed, we will advertise an emergency phone number, so that once a person has called 999 for an ambulance they can call and ask a volunteer to bring the defibrillator to their address and help the patient as necessary. We also applied for a grant from a new fund set up by Taunton Deane to pay for another defibrillator - we have been successful; the new defibrillator would be sited at the Queens Arms, Pitminster. More news to follow

Litter Pick:

The next litter picks will be on 18 Nov 17 and 7 Apr 18 - all are welcome to attend. On both occasions we will meet at the playing field car park at 1000hr for a briefing. Come prepared for the weather, armed with bin bags and hi-viz clothing if possible. Routes will be identified and rubbish will be collected at the end of the day from a centralised collecting point.

Footpaths:

Pitminster, Angersleigh, Blagdon Hill and Poundisford have over 100 miles of public footpaths, extending through pasture and woodlands. Many of the pathways are walked daily by dog walkers, others are visited less frequently. The network of pathways is maintained in a variety of ways: Farmers, and walkers keep the pathways clear and Somerset County Council do a sterling job in repairing and replacing styles bridges and gateways. If you come across a problem on a pathway you can report this to SCC at <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/> or you can contact Councillor Adrian Whatmore who will progress your observations.

WI:

The Blagdon Hill and District W.I. numbers have varied in the past months but the sustainability of the group is currently considered unviable and, unless there is an influx of members, the Blagdon Hill and District W.I. is sadly going to cease to operate in its current form in Dec 17. They will be meeting in Nov 17 for a demonstration from our own local artist, Trudi Morgan and again in Dec 17 for their Christmas Lunch. For more information contact Peta Trott 421640 or Eileen Bowles 421380. There are other nearby W.I.s at Smeatharpe, West Buckland, Otterford, Bishops Hull but... if you have any thoughts contact Peta or Eileen.

Area Inforamtion:

Blackdown Hills AONB's new manager, Tim Youngs, can be contacted at blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk Rural Services Network provides information on events and activities going on in the local area and they regularly publish a newsletter covering a variety of subjects from broadband in the countryside to all sorts of funding opportunities focusing on rural locations. Information can be found at newsletters@rsonline.org.uk.

Adcombe Wood Volunteers:

The Adcombe Wood Volunteers, encouraged by the Woodlands Trust, have had a very successful summer in creating steps along steep wooded pathways. They have more paths to work on and they have great ambitions to identify and catalogue many of the flora, fauna and insects that inhabit the woods and local areas. They meet on the 1st Thursday of every month and there is plenty of tasks for the physically fit and just as many for the 'not so active' volunteer. For more information view: <http://adcombevoluteersblog.wordpress.com/welcome/gallery-archive/blog/>

Finger Posts:

This Parish has 20 directional fingerposts on our roads. The County Council has no finance for the up-keep these signs and have asked for volunteers to maintain them in their Parishes. We have 8 volunteers who have undergone H&S training and they are currently Risk Assessing each post. Further information can be provided by David Edmondson.

Speed Watch:

Just about everyone throughout the parish is concerned about the speed of traffic through the village and the lanes. You will have seen the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which appear on our main road and also we are regularly visited by the speed enforcement unit. The Council has recently been approached by the County Council to purchase our own SID but it also comes with stringent stipulations as to its use. Nevertheless, discussions are ongoing. However, there is still more we can do! The parish council has a Speed Gun but we need more volunteers to use it. Volunteers are required to attend a 2-3 hour training session with the police and then they are able to use the equipment at designated locations within the village. Each time the Speed Gun is used it requires 3 individuals for a 20-30 minute session. If you would like to be considered for training and are available to use the equipment at various times throughout the week, please contact Councillor Adrian Whatmore.

Broadband:

There may be light at the end of the tunnel...for some! Latest news is that Gigaclear have plans to bring Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) in the Parish. It has been encouraging to see survey work underway in Pitminster at the beginning of October. It would appear that fibre will be delivered to some of the remote parts of Corfe and to the centre of Pitminster in the first phase of the deployment over the next 18 months. To keep up to speed on these developments you could review the Rural Services Network newsletter at newsletters@rsonline.org.uk

Blackdown Hills Youth Club:

Operating out of Corfe Village Hall the Blackdown Youth Club runs on a fortnightly basis on alternate Thursdays from 1900-2100hrs and is doing remarkably well with a steady contingent of 18 young adults - the club takes girls and boys from age 11. The members choose their activities and there are always 3 volunteers on duty at every session - however, more volunteers are required. The members come from Blagdon Hill, Pitminster, Trull with some from Taunton. The club has, this year, achieved the "Safe and Welcoming" Benchmark standard. For more info: Emma King 01823 259781 blackdownyouthclub@outlook.com

Post Office - Outreach Service:

A Post Office Outreach Service operates out of the Blagdon Hill Playing Fields Pavilion on Tuesdays from 1300 until 1500hrs. The facility allows the use of postal and parcel force services as well as personal and business banking. Additionally, it offers phone top-up, bill payments, all the usual 'travel money' options, gift cards, health lottery and fishing licences. For further information call Churchinford Community Shop and Post Office - 01823 601026.

Village Spirit:

Transportation for those that have difficulty getting around to places further afield is a service very active in the Blagdon Hill, Lowton and Angersleigh area. Therefore, if you are stuck for transport this Volunteer lift service can be arranged to transport you to attend any appointment, medical or social, to keep you mobile. Contact Jane Knight or Roz Meikle. Tel: 07926148075 between 1000and 1600hrs

Village Agent:

Area 8 of the Somerset Village Agent scheme currently does not have an Agent. The area covers Bickenhall, Buckland St Mary, Churchstanton, Corfe, Curland, Orchard Portman, Otterford, Pitminster, Sampford Arundel, Staple Fitzpaine, Stoke St Mary, Trull, Wellington Without West Buckland. Anyone interested contact info@somersetcc.org.uk or Tel: 01823 331222

Village Walk:

Continuing on the getting out-and-about theme, Lucy and Andrew Paisley organise Village walks that cover the Parish and enable people to meet, chat and enjoy the local area. The next walk is covering some of the historic features of the Parish and will take place on 7 Jan 18 starting from the Lamb & Flag. Thereafter, a walk every 3 months.

Police Community Support Officer:

Recent changes has this Parish under PCSO Claire Escott stationed at Taunton. For non-emergency police matters - telephone 101 or contact Claire at Claire.Escott@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk.

Dates for your Diary:

The Playing Field Association are planning for the future.
 - 20 Dec 17 - Christmas Party at the Queens Arms;
 - 20 Jan 18 - Quiz Night at Trull Village Hall;
 - 23 Mar 18 - Wine Tasting (venue to be confirmed)
 - Jun 18 (date to be arranged) - Barn Dance;
 - 9 Jun 18 - Blagdon Hill Fete.

