

PITMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 42 - Autumn 2018

Chairman's Notes:

The Spring Newsletter mentioned the wet winter, this Newsletter reaches you after a scorchingly hot summer. Whatever this autumn and winter brings the Pitminster Parish Council (PPC) will be taking your interests forward. Over the past six months the PPC has only had to use their delegated powers for planning on 2 occasions, both with positive outcomes. With regard making Planning Observations, the PPC had dealt with 7 applications, on each occasion our observations were discussed in detail with members of the public and the Councillors; our decisions were forwarded to Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC). Copies of all Planning Applications, past and present, are at our PPC web page @ www.pitminsterparish.org.uk/planning.php and on the TDBC web site @ <http://www2.tauntondeane.gov.uk/asp/webpages/plan/plaplookup.asp> In addition, there were 2 Enforcement issues with 2 others that had been raised, but not resolved, from the end of 2017. We remain ever vigilant on Planning issues and welcome your thoughts and/or observations throughout the community. One of the other activities that has been a priority was the interaction between the PPC and Wessex Water. There have been a number of upgrades to water pipe systems and with regard sewerage capacity issues throughout the area. We have relied on councillors Adrian Whatmore and David Edmondson to keep on top of the developments and ensure that communication of any disruptions are made to all. Now that firm contacts have been established, future developments, works or road closures will be better explained and information will be more readily available.

Recent PPC Auditing Changes. Under the 'Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015', every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Part 3 of the 'Annual Governance and Accountability Return' at the end of each financial year in accordance with 'Proper Practices'. In April of each year an allocated Auditor sends 'The Annual Governance and Accountability Return' to the PPC. The Auditor will state the date by which the completed document must be returned. The process... At the end of the financial year the Clerk extracts information required to fill out the form - once completed the Clerk requests an individual to attend and carry out an Internal Audit. If all is correct the Internal

Auditor signs off the forms. The Clerk will produce the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the full PPC at meeting. During the meeting the councillors will all be required to agree that the proper procedures have been carried out throughout the financial year. Provided all agree the form is signed off by the Chair and the Clerk. It is then sent to the External Auditor. Sometime later, the External Auditor returns the completed forms either signed off or require further explanations. PPC has always had a clean bill of health for the Audit. However, to make this all happen, the PPC is seeking a person to carry out the Internal Audit next year. A small payment is made for about an hour's work. NB, the person is not required to be a financial accountant.

All budgetary information is available on the PPC Web Page as well as information displayed on the Parish Notice Boards. Agendas and Minutes can be found at the website www.pitminsterparish.org.uk.

NB. There is a Councillor vacancy - if you are interested contact the PPC Clerk.

Pitminster Parish Councillors are:

***** (Chairman)

Area of Responsibility (AOR): Links with TDBC/SCC, Playing Fields Association, Village Fete, Environmental Health, Newsletter, Complaints, Community Safety (inc Defib)

David Edmondson (Vice Chair)

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.

Note: PPC has started an information service managed by Adrian using:
pitminsterparishnews@gmail.com

Elaine Gooding

Tel. 01823 421***
eggy_g@hotmail.co.uk
AOR: To be agreed

Elizabeth Carolynne Burnett

Tel. 01823 421758
burnettfosgrove@tiscali.co.uk
AOR: Youth Club.

Simon Canniford

Tel. 01823 270651
simoncanniford@hotmail.co.uk
AOR: 4x4 Emergency Coord. Local transport, Local Businesses.

Richard Tyzack (Clerk)

Tel. 01823421889
pitminster@hotmail.co.uk

District Councillors are:

John Thorne

Tel: 07811675262
JBThorne@somerset.gov.uk

Ross Henley

Tel:01823 665988
rosslhenley@yahoo.co.uk

Taunton Deane MP:

Rebecca Pow

Tel: 01823443062
Rebecca.pow@parliament.uk

Police Community Support Officer:

For non-emergency police matters - telephone 101 or contact Claire at Claire.Escott@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk.

Defibrillator:

Our Parish now has 2 Defibrillators available; one on Playing Field Pavilion at Sellick's Green the other resides inside the telephone box in Pitminster. Instructions on how to request defibrillator assistance and how to access the volunteer network will be distributed to all soon. In addition, a series of maps have been developed showing all 407 houses in the Parish. Each house name and/or number, and their associated Post Codes, have been recorded on a spreadsheet and are cross-referenced to a series of 16 electronic maps showing the house position in the Parish. This will enable all the volunteers, trained how to operate the defibrillator, locate houses quickly and efficiently. These maps will eventually be maintained on the PPC website. Once the maps are uploaded onto the website, we will ask everyone to check the map and ensure all details are correct. NB. The maps have been compiled from information readily available on the www.

More volunteers are required; therefore, if you would like to be considered, contact the PPC Chairman or Liz Christie, liz.christie86@gmail.com, 01823 421 756 for more information.

Borough Ward Boundaries - Update:

TDBC and West Somerset Council (WSC) merger of geographical areas into a single new Council is currently in the middle of the consultation phase. The plans to create a new borough council with local elections to be held in May 19 were publicised by the Boundaries Commission in Jun 18. Although the boundaries of all Parishes are to remain the same for a present, the district-level wards are changing; the Boundaries Commission proposal mirrored that of the TDBC and WSC initial proposal issued in Feb 18. In those proposals it was suggested that Pitminster would join with Corfe and Trull to make a Borough Ward of a projected electorate of 3842. PPC observed that Pitminster (a rural Parish with a projected electorate of 791 in yr 2023) being linked with Trull (an urban Parish with a projected electorate of 2806 in yr 2023) have very different requirements - other rural Parishes had the same thoughts. Therefore, after extensive debate and discussions between Pitminster, Churchstanton, Otterford and Corfe it was suggested that the parishes of Pitminster (with a Boundary Commission projected 791 electorate in 2023), Corfe (245), Churchstanton (698) and Otterford (287) form the Ward named 'Blackdown' with an electorate of 2021 with -2.04% variance - generating 1 councillor .

This change would need to be balanced and the suggestion was that a Ward to satisfy Trull's requirement could be formed of 'Trull and Hatch' which would include West Hatch (235), Hatch Beauchamp (496), Bickenhall (84), Orchard Portman (83), Staple Fitzpaine (141), Curland (114) and Trull (2806) with an electorate of 3959 and a variance of -4.05% - generating 2 councillors.

Those proposals were registered with the Boundary Commission and would be considered as part of their ongoing Consultation Period. Publication of their final recommendations will be on 27 Oct 18 and go under Parliamentary scrutiny in Nov 18 - the scrutiny process that will last 40 days. New electoral arrangements will be in place for the May 19 elections.

Blackdown Youth Club:

The Blackdown Youth Club is temporarily unable to operate due to a lack of volunteer Committee members. The Club requires a minimum of 5 volunteer Committee members to function, operate safely and effectively - currently that requirement is not met. Volunteers are required to assist in the running, setting up and organising of the Club with a commitment of 2 to 3 hours every fortnight during term time. Also, they attend Committee meetings approx every 6 weeks to discuss the running of the club and to plan future events. Interested? Contact: 07980 566551 or email: blackdownyouthclub@outlook.com

Finger Posts:

All but a few fingerposts throughout the Parish have been refurbished thanks to a small group of volunteers. A few remote posts at Fosgrove are on the radar and will be managed as the need arises along with continuing maintenance as required. Of note: the fingerpost at the junction of Green Lane and Poundisford will be reworked with the re-establishment of a grass base in due course.

WI:

The Blagdon Hill and District WI ceased to exist from Dec 17 due to dwindling numbers. However, once gone, there was a recognised need and requirement for a WI to exist. The Pitminster WI was established in May 18 with a significant influx of support - membership has risen to 38. Already, meetings have covered a variety of topics. Recently, Simon Dawson spoke about his book on his life-changing experiences as he moved from being an estate agent in London to running of an Exmoor small-holding. Members have also visited the Otter Brewery and, more energetically, they arranged a 'walk and dine' between 2 local public houses. Future planned events include: Oct 18 - Free Wheelers, a charity consisting of motor cycle riders providing express delivery of vital items between hospitals; Nov 18 - 'First Women' by Anita Corbin discussing a unique collection of 100 portraits capturing women in the UK who were "first" in their field of achievement; Dec - bring and share meal with a festive activity included. More information can be obtained from Pam Fox at pam1983fox@hotmail.co.uk

Village Agent:

The area south of Taunton has a Village Agent - Kate Cookson - she was appointed only a few months ago to cover our Parish. For more information contact Kate on kate@somersetcc.org.uk or 07931018019.

Litter Pick:

We hold litter picks in the Autumn and the Spring of every year and the PPC's thanks go out to all who turn up. The next dates will be 17 Nov 18 and 6 April 19 - everyone is welcomed, we meet at the playing field car park at 1000hr for a briefing. Come prepared for the weather and armed with hi-viz clothing if possible. Routes will be identified and rubbish will be collected from a central collecting point at the end of the 'Litter Pick'.

Historical group:

The Historical Group is hosting a presentation on 'Pitminster Parish through the Ages' to be held in the Queen's Arms on 23 Nov 18 starting @ 1930hrs - tickets £10 available from the Queen's Arms. A buffet will be supplied and it is hoped for a large attendance.

Blackdown Transport Options:

Getting around using public transport in the Blackdown area is an increasing problem. However, there are a few options for all to consider:

- Blagdon Hill, Lowton and Angersleigh area are serviced by the volunteers of 'Village Spirit' that can be arranged to transport you to attend any appointment, medical or social activity and keep you mobile. Contact Jane Knight or Roz Meikle. Tel: 07926148075 between 1000 and 1600hrs.
- Similarly, Pitminster also has a service - Corfe Lifts- organised by Mary Goddard on 01823 420040.
- Slinky Bus: Slinky is an accessible bus service funded by Somerset County Council for people unable to access conventional transport. Services are available for Blagdon Hill and Pitminster on Monday and Thursdays between 0800 and 1700hrs. Information from 01823 331266 and @ www.travelsomerset.co.uk
- Hatch Green Coaches route does include Blagdon Hill. ROUTE 98 from Broadway – Churchinford to Taunton calling at the Lamb and Flag Pub @ 0755hr with the return route at 1754hr each weekday.
- Another option is the 14-seater Community Transport bus for people who need transport due to age, isolation, disability and can be hired for social and sporting events. Information from 07762 813967 or blackdownbus@gmail.com

Food bank:

Jenny Fogg wishes to thank all those kind members of the Parish who have left food for the Food Bank at her house. It was much needed during the school holidays especially for children who would have normally had free school meals. She is always available to take food to the Taunton Food Bank should any one wish to leave bagged food with her or in her porch should Jenny be out.

Playing Field Association (PFA):

The PFA AGM Thursday will be on 24 Jan 19 @ 2000hr at the Lamb and Flag. Although remaining on the Committee, Rosemary Hannam will be stepping down as Chairperson after 10 years on the Committee. Both the PFA and the associated Social Committee would welcome new members with fresh ideas to manage the Playing Field and provide social events for the village. Everyone is welcome and your support is valued.

Future events:

- Halloween Night on the Green - 27 Oct 18, 1830-2000
- Christmas Party - Dec 18 1930-late.
- New Year Quiz - date to be decided.
- Blagdon Hill Village Fete - 8 Jun 19.
- Summer Ball - 15 Jun 19. Marquee on the Playing Field.

If you would like to get more involved in village life do please get in touch with Rosemary Hannam on 01823 421823 rosemaryskeepfit@hotmail.co.uk