

## Leigh-on-Mendip Parish Council

Newsletter April 2013

*[www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk](http://www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk)*

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00 pm on Monday the 20th May 2013 in the Memorial Hall, all parishioners are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity for you to hear what has been happening in your village and to raise any issues which concern you. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will precede the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm.

The Parish Council was reduced to only three councillors in October following the resignations of Jake Smith and Brenda Wigmore. This is the minimum number required to allow the Parish Council operate. A crisis was averted when three parishioners stepped forward. Many thanks to Bren who had been an active PC rep on the Memorial Hall Committee as well as one of the village signs team.

Councillors have attended forums, Mendip DC and Somerset CC meetings where they have an impact on our village. We are pleased to have support from both our District Councillors (Philip Ham and Val Horner) at most of our meetings, as well as our County Councillor (Gloria Cawood).

Sandrine has continued to keep us legal and dealt with the extra Localism legislation, sharing knowledge and costs with two other parishes for which she is Clerk.

The present council is:

Ian Barnes	White House	812549	(Footpaths)
Gill Boden	Island Cottage	813031	(School Liaison)
Chris Cudmore	2 Oak Leaf Court	813735	(Chairman, Highways & web)
Alan Dagger	Townsend House	813115	(Rec Field rep & Police Liaison)
David Mattick	Field View	812734	(Memorial Hall rep)
David Sparkes	Greenshutters	812836	(Quarry Liaison)
One vacancy			

Parish & Cemetery Clerk

Sandrine Vaillant Burleigh Cottage 812563 Email: [lom.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:lom.pc@btinternet.com)



**Aims** The Parish Council represents the parish objectively and without prejudice, to liaise with both county and district councils to ensure effective services, manage the spending of precept for the benefit of the parish and to protect and improve the parish's assets. We do this through consultation - Parish Plan, Village Design Statement, ad hoc open meetings and at monthly Parish Council meetings - and through delegation to management committees for the Memorial Hall and the Recreation Field. Representations can be made at any time to the members of the Parish Council or the Clerk.

Communication is by the two Parish Noticeboards and the Village Website. The Clerk has an emailing list for those who wish to receive Parish Council e-newsletters and events directly (contact the Clerk if you wish to participate). The old telephone box is now an "Information Exchange" (notices, items for sale, wanted, swaps etc).



**Precept** The parish precept for 2013/14 is unchanged at £6,100. We have also received an additional Grant of £246.85 as a result of the Council Tax Support changes. This has resulted in a small increase to the Parish charge within the Council Tax.

Expenditure in the last year was again split between (a) grants to support actions from the Parish Plan, (b) maintenance & administration and (c) salaries of Clerk and Cemetery Clerk. Part of the cemetery maintenance costs were covered by the cemetery fees.



**Planning** Fourteen applications have been considered and recommendations made to Mendip DC. All have been approved except one outstanding. The January 2012 application regarding changes to Halecombe quarry conditions is still awaiting a decision from Somerset CC. The Parish Council has only an advisory role to uphold the long-term interests of the parish within the current planning policies. Planning information is available on the Mendip DC website. The main issues have been to conform with the Village Design Statement, promote local business and to minimise street parking.

The Parish Council has made responses to the draft Local Development Framework Core Strategy. This currently proposes a further 15 homes in Leigh from 31 March 2012 to 2028. The local detail of the new Development Framework is not expected until late 2013 or 2014.



**Cemetery** The management of the closed churchyard still remains with Mendip DC. The grass mowing and hedge trimming continue to be contracted by the parish. We have had no success identifying land suitable to extend the cemetery. If any owner has land available please contact the Clerk.



**Highways** Significant work has been completed this year including school wig-wag lights, Old Frome Road junction signs, additional kerbside warning posts, reburishment of finger posts (ongoing), flood prevention (Blackers Lane and Quarry Lane), Quarry Lane pavement, road repairs and patching. As soon as pot-holes appear please report them directly to Somerset CC (details on website) and they will be repaired. The initiative to turn off street lights between midnight and 5am is due to be implemented shortly.



**Street cleaning** has continued 5 times per year. Dates are advertised on the noticeboards and on the website, but leaflets have proven to be the most effective way of reminding residents to move cars; unfortunately there are still a small number who ignore the request. Thanks again to the WI for organising the Village Spring Clean.

Please help to keep our village and lanes clean throughout the year and report any fly-tipping to Mendip DC. EVERYONE is requested to take responsibility for their own neighbourhood (pick up litter, cut back any overhanging plants etc).



**Footpaths** Ian, our Footpaths Officer, has worked with SCC, Mendip Ramblers and landowners to ensure that our Rights of Way are accessible for the public and that the landowners' rights are protected.

Dog owners, please remember to control dogs wherever there may be livestock and remember it is an offence to foul pavements & public areas. Dog waste bins are situated next to the churchyard entrance and two on the Rec Field. It is disappointing that dog fouling in the Rec Field continues, probably the result of just one or two anti-social individuals.



**Police Community Support Officer** Ben Green has been replaced by Dean Saunders who regularly patrols the village and reports on incidents around our neighbourhood. Be especially aware of warnings of local criminal trends provided by our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators (notices are on the website).



**Quarry** Liaison Meetings, chaired by our County Councillor, Gloria Cawood, were held in October and March. In January, the company was reorganised and is now named Lafarge Tarmac, with a smaller independent company, named Hope, operating the on-site concrete plant.

Tarmac has given generous support to our village which has included sponsorship of the Country Fair, help with Christmas festivities at the school; and provision of an outdoor education area for the school. We are very grateful for this generous support.

For more than ten years, Tarmac have honoured an agreement which required a donation of one penny per ton of stone extracted to be placed in a fund that is reserved for the management of the site when quarrying ends and it becomes a public amenity area. This annual donation is increased each year in line with inflation and is now 1.37 pence per ton. The fund is currently valued at just under £65,000.

Any villager who wishes to report any incident to Lafarge Tarmac should telephone the quarry on 01373 812800.



**Website** The Village Website, at [www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk](http://www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk), provides the latest events, minutes, contact information and pictures. All are urged to make use of the facility to advertise events, submit pictures and any village articles, suggestions, and comments via the Webmaster (Chris Cudmore) or the Clerk. Thanks to Dave & Tom Turner for hosting the website and providing technical support respectively.



Finally, a "thank you" to the Councillors for their (unpaid) enthusiasm and efforts, additionally the Parish Clerk for her communications and organisation; and all those who work to keep the village organisations running smoothly.

We still have one Parish Council vacancy, so if you think you may be interested please speak to any of the Councillors or Clerk for more details.

Chris Cudmore, Chairman