

## Leigh-on-Mendip Parish Council

Newsletter April 2014

*www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk*

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00 pm on Monday the 19th May 2014 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.

Vikki Batten and Kiley Pescott have been co-opted onto the Parish Council following the resignations of Ian Barnes and Alan Dagger. Many thanks to Ian and Daggs who have given a lot of their time as our Footpaths Officer and the PC rep on the Recreation Field Committee respectively. We currently have one vacancy.

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

Sandrine Vaillant resigned as Clerk in June and we have been fortunate in engaging Anthea Brooks as our new Clerk who has rapidly learnt the ever changing local government legislation. Many thanks to Sandrine for her support during this changeover period and her previous 6 years as our Clerk.

The present council is:

Vikki Batten	Cowslip Cottage	07932 735623	(Rec Field & Police Liaison)
Gill Boden	Island Cottage	813031	(School Liaison & Coleford Hub)
Chris Cudmore	2 Oak Leaf Court	813735	(Chairman, Highways & Web)
David Mattick	Field View	812734	(Memorial Hall rep)
Kiley Pescott	Lilac Cottage	07796 955357	
David Sparkes	Greenshutters	812836	(Footpaths & Quarry Liaison)
One vacancy			

Parish & Cemetery Clerk - Mrs Anthea Brooks  
Ashville, Monger Lane, Midsomer Norton BA3 2SP

Email lom.pc@btinternet.com  
Tel 01761 418737



**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, the Village Website and Facebook. E-newsletters have been replaced by a new Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/LeighonMendip/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LeighonMendip/) which is available for anyone to share details about your village event, discuss village concerns or contact other members. Don't forget to use the old telephone box as an alternative to the computer for your notices, items for sale, wanted, swaps etc.



**Precept** The parish precept for 2014/15 was increased by a modest £100 to £6,200. We have also received an additional Grant of £226 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 our village facilities, (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 of which 10 have been approved, 2 withdrawn and 2 are outstanding (the Parish Council recommended 3 to be refused). The January 2012 application regarding changes to Halecombe quarry conditions has recently been approved by Somerset CC. The Parish Council has only an advisory role to uphold the long-term interests of the parish however the delays in issuing a new Mendip Local Plan have resulted in major development control issues (a situation repeated across the country). Well attended meetings were held to hear public views on the Chantry Wind Turbine and the outline planning for the land south of Park Hayes. Planning information is available on the Mendip DC website.



**Cemetery** The management of the closed churchyard still remains with Mendip DC who have recently resurfaced the path. The grass mowing and hedge trimming continue to be contracted by the parish. We have continued to follow opportunities to extend the cemetery and we are currently investigating a plot adjacent to The Firs. If any owner has land available please contact the Clerk.



**Highways** The initiative to turn off street lights between midnight and 5am has been implemented without any reported problems. Regular flooding across Pitten Street has been resolved and work to clear ditches and unblock a drain at Townsend was required to clear the flood in January. Leigh Street was given a surface dressing in the summer. As soon as pot-holes appear please report them directly to Somerset CC (details on website) and they will be repaired.



**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 and to everyone who collects litter as they walk.

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 for most of the year, 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. Two new kissing gates have been installed. Please report any problems with footpaths to a Parish Councillor or the Clerk.

Dog owners, please remember to control dogs wherever there may be livestock. We have had two incidents of dogs attacking sheep. 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. Remember it is an offence to foul pavements & public areas.



**Police Community Support Officer** The village currently has no PCSO although we believe one is to be in post by June. Be especially aware of warnings of local criminal trends provided by our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators (notices are on the website).



**Quarry** A Liaison Meeting, chaired by our County Councillor, Philip Ham, was held in March. Lafarge Tarmac supports our village by sponsorship of the Country Fair and continuing activities with the school. We are very grateful for this generous support.

The Parish Council has been very concerned about the delay in opening an account to hold the Long Term Management Fund. The Parish Council wrote to both the Leader and CEO of SCC last July and in May the Parish Chairman and County Councillor will be holding a face to face meeting with them.

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, the Parish Clerk for her communications and organisation and to 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