

Leigh-on-Mendip Parish Council

Newsletter April 2016

www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk

Key points

- Annual Parish Meeting - 8.00 pm Monday 16th May 2016 in the Memorial Hall
- Two more Parish Councillors wanted
- Parish Precept charge raised from £32.17 to £33.91 for 2016/17 (Band D property)
- Two defibrillators with visual and verbal prompts for effective CPR - coming soon
- Land to extend the cemetery being purchased (not related to the defibrillators !!)
- Walkway resurfacing this summer
- Keep up to date with village events on the Noticeboards, village website and Facebook
- It's your village - please participate



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 (actions reviewed in 2015), 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.**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 8.00 pm on Monday the 16th May 2016 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.

Six councillors stood for the uncontested election in May. During the year two councillors resigned and two more were co-opted. We are keen to co-opt two more parishioners - a great opportunity to get involved in supporting your village.

The present council is:

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Chris Cudmore | 2 Oak Leaf Court | 813735 | (Chairman, Highways & Web) |
| Paula Freeland | Honeysuckle Cottage | 07722 359093 | |
| David Mattick | Field View | 812734 | (Vice Chairman, Mem. Hall rep) |
| David Sparkes | Greenshutters | 813476 | (Footpaths & Quarry Liaison) |
| Vicki Trundle | Lilac Cottage | 07801 150155 | (Rec. Field rep) |

Two vacancies

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

Email lom.pc@btinternet.com
Tel 01761 418737



Finance The parish precept for 2016/17 was increased by £300 to £6,800. This has resulted in an increase of less than £2 per annum for a Band D property. We have also received a grant of £230 as a result of the Council Tax Support changes and a £2,000 annual payment from the Soho Solar Farm.

Expenditure in the last year was again split between (a) salaries of Clerk and Cemetery Clerk (b) maintenance & administration and (c) grants to support our village facilities. Grants included contributions towards grass mowing (rec. field), playground bins (school) and the Toddler Group. Funds this year are budgeted to support the cemetery extension, pump track and defibrillators.



Communication is by the two Parish Noticeboards, the Village Website and Facebook. The Noticeboard at Herbert Dun House has recently been replaced by the craftsmanship of Simon Thomas. Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/LeighonMendip/ is available for anyone to share details about your village event, discuss village concerns or contact other members. This has proved very popular and currently has 123 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.



Website The Village Website, at 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. If you are new to the village, download the "Welcome Booklet" Thanks to Dave & Tom Turner for hosting the website and providing technical support respectively.

Superfast (Fibre) Broadband finally arrived in October!



Planning The Parish Council has only an advisory role to uphold the long-term interests of the parish. Five applications have been considered and recommendations made to Mendip Council, of which 3 have been supported and approved and 2 recommended for refusal (one approved and the other is outstanding). Public consultation sessions on Part 2 of the Mendip Local Plan (sites & policies) have been held and a draft plan is due to be issued by the end of 2016. The adopted Mendip Local Plan (Part 1) classifies us as a "smaller" village, limiting new development to exceptional affordable or locally promoted schemes. Planning information is available on the Mendip Council website.



Cemetery The management of the closed churchyard still remains with Mendip Council who have commenced a 5 year project to reduce the size of the yew trees (stage two is due this autumn). The grass mowing and hedge trimming continue to be contracted by the parish. After many years of searching for a convenient site, the plot of land adjacent to the hall car park is being purchased to provide an extension to the existing cemetery.



Transport Following the axing of the Frome to Wells 161 bus service in August, the Frome to Shepton 162 service commenced. However, this is still dependent on a Somerset Council subsidy which is due to be reviewed in May 2016. The Parish Council conducted a transport survey in December which confirmed a small group of public bus users. The free weekly buses to ASDA and RADCO provide a vital service to those without transport. Mendip Community Transport have been requested to enhance their "Slinky" dial-a-ride service.



Defibrillators As a rural village, there can be a delay in emergency response. The Parish Council is shortly installing two defibrillators (at the Memorial Hall and Rec. Field). This equipment is simple to use and includes feedback on the vital effectiveness of CPR. Look out for forthcoming training sessions. These units have been largely funded by the Community Resilience in Somerset Project and also from donations from Tarmac and the Short Mat Bowls group. Thanks to David Mattick for leading this action.



Neighbourhood Watch Two new schemes have been restarted covering Tadhill/Townsend and the central/east part of Leigh Street. Some Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the village have lapsed. Warnings of local criminal trends are provided to scheme members by our NHW co-ordinators (notices are also on the website). If you are unsure if your property is covered by a NHW scheme please contact our Police Community Support Officer (Mike Storey, tel. 101).



Highways & Walkways The "fixmystreet" website is proving a popular, simple and effective method to report all sorts of problems (e.g. fly tipping, street lights, potholes, etc.). Three road improvements are being pursued (junction signs on Old Wells Road, position of HGV signs at Soho and traffic calming at Townsend). Resurfacing of most of the walkways on Leigh Street and Bellfield is due this summer. With the help of a volunteer we are planning to refurbish some of the finger posts.



Street cleaning (6 times per year). Dates are advertised on the noticeboards, the website and leaflets (thanks to Gill Newbury for distribution). Cars need to be moved from the roadside to allow the gutters to be cleaned. Thanks again to the WI for organising the Village Spring Clean and to everyone who collects litter as they walk around our beautiful parish.

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



Footpaths David Sparkes, our Footpaths Officer, and a team of 10 volunteers now look after our footpaths, carrying out minor pruning work and reporting of problems with access and maintenance. More volunteers are always welcome.

Landowners are reminded of their responsibility to ensure footpaths are properly maintained. The Parish Council is supporting the Somerset Wildlife Trust's initiative to create wild flower meadows in our parish. If you can identify a potential wild flower meadow site then please let us know.



Dog Owners please remember to control dogs wherever there may be livestock. Dog waste bins are situated in Bellfield (next to the Memorial Hall) and two on the Rec Field. Remember it is an offence to foul pavements & public areas.



Halecombe Quarry A liaison meeting, chaired by County Councillor Philip Ham, was held in November. Recently, Tarmac has won awards from Mendip Council and the Aggregates Association for quality and design of restoration work on Rookery Farmhouse. In the past year, our village has received generous support from Tarmac for the Country Fair, School activities and the Christmas Tree Festival. Also a donation was given to the defibrillator appeal fund. All this is very much appreciated with special thanks to Gary Wason and Vaughan Gray for their continuing help.



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 two Parish Council vacancies, so if you think you may be interested please speak to any of the Councillors or Clerk for more details.

Chris Cudmore, Chairman

Leigh on Mendip is YOUR village

The Parish Council is only one of the groups who are providing our community with an envious diversity of activities/facilities for all ages. This year the village will see even more, including a Pump Track, two Defibrillators and Table Tennis and Pilates sessions in the Hall. FOLC is making great strides in its major initiative to maintain the church and add facilities for more public use. Almost everything is due to the time and effort of volunteers, so please support your village by attending, taking part or helping - there is something for everyone, if not you can make it happen!