

Leigh-on-Mendip Parish Council

Newsletter April 2007

www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk

The Annual General Meeting and the Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30 and 8.00 p.m. respectively, on the 21st May 2007. If you have anything that you would like to raise as being of concern to the village the APM is your opportunity to do so.

The Council has lost the contribution of two members since last year, Steve Anderson and Jan Schlechter both leaving due to other commitments. Vicki Taylor has been co-opted to fill one vacancy, and there remains one vacancy to be filled. Any member of the Parish with an interest in the community, and a small amount of time available, should contact the Parish Clerk.

The present council is:

Chris Cudmore: 2 Oak Leaf Court ----- 813735

Graham Harris: Dovecote ----- 812889

Frank Higgins: Fox Hollow ----- 812087

Ty Schlechter: Savernake Cottage ----- 07834363189

Vicki Taylor : 3 Perrys Cottages----- 813942

John Wright: The Post House, Leigh Street----- 812317

Parish Clerk

Jo Anderson: Two Gates, Whitehole Hill----- 01761 233433

Cemetery Clerk

Mary Mears: Brookfield, The Old Sawmills----- 812415

Cemetery. The management of the closed churchyard is still with Mendip District Council, and since they are raising a “Special Expenses Rate” for any work which they carry out, it may be more economical for the PC to assume responsibility and employ a more local contractor. It is regretted that, at present, no further land is available immediately adjacent to the cemetery. The standard of the maintenance remains high and we are fortunate that David Jarvis has again tendered for this work.

Planning. A variety of applications have been considered, and duly listed in the Parish Council minutes. If there are any queries on past applications, the minutes can be reviewed by arrangement with the parish clerk. It must be remembered that the Parish Council has only an advisory role.

Affordable Housing. The various difficulties raised over the past four years have been surmounted, and the six houses are nearing completion (three two bed, and three three bed). Most of the design and finish requirements specified by the parish have been incorporated, and the only outstanding unknown at present is the reassurance that the allocation will be to truly village applicants.

Precept The parish precept for the present year is £5610, which represents an annual charge for a band D property of approx £28.45. Although this is higher than had been set until last year, it covers the rising costs of the council, and is expected to facilitate various options and choices which were popular responses in the Village Plan.

Website. The website, at www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk, is kept up to date and full of interesting information by our webmaster, Chris Cudmore. All are urged to make use of the facility to advertise events, suggestions, and comments.

Footpaths and Roads: The roads within the village are being patch repaired following continual lobbying, but a significant number of potholes remain. Any particularly deep or dangerous ones should be notified to the Parish Clerk for action by the county highways department.

The congestion at the School, and in particular the parking on the corner leading to Soho, is significantly dangerous. The PC consider that the installation of an illuminated sign may be an answer, but have so far failed to discover a suitable source of funding.

The footpaths are in reasonable condition, but were badly cut up in the very wet autumn weather. Further kissing gates have been erected, and it is intended to continue with this programme. The village walk, which was established starting on Leigh Street, has had some minor problems at the Leigh Street end which are being dealt with.

Parish Wardens The cost of the Parish Warden Scheme to participating parishes is currently in limbo. Central government having announced that PCSO’s will substitute for “Bobbies on the beat” throughout the country, the funding and the numbers are being reduced now that the headlines are past. It is presently understood that no contribution will be required from parishes. The management of our PCSO has been changed several times, but will revert to Frome from the 1st of April 2007.

Quarries. With a poor attendance at previous liaison meetings in Halecombe quarry, it was decided to hold such meetings annually. If there are any points which parishioners think should be taken up at the next meeting they should be notified to a councillor.

The proposals for Barnesclose quarry are generally in abeyance at present, whilst the owners consider their Cookswood quarry project.

Village Plan. The Village Plan was completed, analysed, scheduled, and published. It has attracted wide outside attention and compliments, due to the expertise and diligence of Graham Harris and his team. We now have an authentic survey of how the village could develop, and if the government claims to recognition of “local democracy” are valid, grounds for claiming funding for projects.

It must be noted, however, that it could remain only a wish list unless enough people are prepared to help organise and run the various aspects of desirable developments!

Parish Assets. The parish has acquired the grassed area either side of the two cottages between Leigh Street and Park Hayes, since the District Council were submitting meaningless applications for its development. A new printer has been purchased and added to the register.

Vandalism. Vandalism noted in the last newsletter has largely been absent – possibility due to the activity of our PCSO.

There has been a report of sheep worrying and death by dogs apparently out of control. All dog walkers are reminded that dogs must be under control - leads/obedience – at all times on private land.

Amenities. There have been short mat bowls facilities in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings, from 8 to 10 pm, and on Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm (September – April). All are welcome.

Further amenities are planned at the Recreation Field facilities.

Lease of land to the Recreational Field Committee. The formal leasing of land to the Management Committee, and the registration of ownership with the Land Registry, is in hand through solicitors in Frome. The cost will be a charge against the Parish precept.

I would again thank 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.