

News

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council



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News from your Parish Council

Welcome to the winter 2014 issue of **Parish Council News**. This newsletter is delivered to every household in the parish with copies now being delivered to our new residents. The newsletter aims to keep residents in touch with matters that may be of interest, including the Parish Council's activities and forthcoming meetings. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who provided an article for the previous editions. Don't forget, if you have something that you would like to see in the next edition which will be published mid-May, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the back page).

Gleeson appeal following Horsham District Council's refusal to develop the Land North of the Old Guildford Road

Residents may remember that back in June 2014 Horsham District Council refused Gleeson Developments Ltd planning permission to build on land north of Old Guildford Road. Gleeson had applied to build 165 houses and a 60-bed care home on the fields located around Sleets Corner and Mulberry Place, behind the Shelley Arms and neighbouring Swan Ken. The decision to refuse was made after a vociferous campaign by local residents, the receipt of many objections by private residents and the Parish

Council and the lobbying and strong representation by Malcolm Curnock, our district councillor, at the District Council Planning Meeting. Many people may not realise that Gleeson have since appealed and a public enquiry will be held starting on 4th March 2015 for 5 days to reconsider the case. The Parish Council continue to oppose this development and made representation to the Planning Inspectorate on 26th November. The Parish Council will speak at the inquiry and residents who are able may also want to attend.

Cricket and Stoolball Club's now only get wet outside

New housing developments in the village may not necessarily be welcomed by all but they do bring with them community facilities grants through the Section 106 legal process.

As a result of the Heath Barn development, the Cricket Club and Stoolball Club, with support from the Parish Council, put in a bid to Horsham District Council for S106 monies. The application was successful and resulted in a substantial payment which has been used to improve the pavilion facilities. The first stage of the improvement programme involved the retiling of the roof – which had been hit many times by big shots. It has made a great difference both inside and out. The clubs are now planning the next phase of the programme which should be ready for next summer.

Anyone wishing to know more about cricket should contact Tim Wells timbo66@btinternet.com and about the thriving Stoolball Club contact Sally Booker: sallybooker1@btinternet.com

Gala Association Fireworks

Bright, sparkling, colourful lights once again lit up the sky in Broadbridge Heath when the annual firework display took place behind the Village Centre on the evening of Saturday 1st November. A large crowd, many of whom had taken part in the popular torch light procession as it meandered through the village, enjoyed the dazzling display put on by Aurora Fireworks. Sadly, due to lack of volunteers and increased health and safety restrictions we were unable to have a bonfire this year but we hope that the display, which was even more impressive than in previous years, helped to make up for this.

This event is only made possible by the hard work and commitment of the committee, their friends and family and volunteers from various local organisations. I would like to extend grateful thanks to everyone involved. Viv Edwards, Chairman

Gala Association, viv@rh12.co.uk
01403 240414

..... STOP PRESS!!

BBH Gala Association is considering holding a Summer Fun/Community Day in June 2015. If you or your organisation would like to be involved please contact Viv Edwards (viv@rh12.co.uk) or Anne Ryan (07739 174323).



Dirt Jumps, Byfleets Lane

As we say goodbye to the unseasonably warm autumn weather we also say a temporary farewell to our village dirt jumps as we close them to riders due to the muddy and therefore unsafe conditions. The jumps will continue to be maintained by local volunteers over the winter and will be regularly visited by John, our new Environment Officer, who will be keeping the area clear of litter and footpaths free from debris. At the present time we foresee the jumps reopening around March/April time, weather permitting.

Over the summer we continued to see great commitment and passion demonstrated by those who worked on the jumps to ensure that they were kept in prime condition. Unfortunately the good summer weather also brought with it a small but unwelcome group of visitors who established a small camp. The Parish Council were quick to actively ensure the removal of all camp related items, and in conjunction with the local police, made sure that the dirt jumps were returned to their intended purpose.

Getting ready for winter but let us hope we don't get snow!

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council has an advisory team who work alongside Horsham District and West Sussex County Councils on an Emergency Plan for the Village. Part of this plan includes provision for 'severe weather' and was agreed with WSCC in the autumn.

There are four salt/grit bins in the parish: by the bus shelter opposite Kingsmead, on the corner of Sleets Road and Old Guildford Road, in the open garden space in St. John's Crescent and at the end of Wickhurst Lane opposite the Village Centre. These have now been filled but if they require a refill then please contact the Clerk.

The bins contain a mixture of salt and grit that is intended primarily for use on public footpaths that have not been treated. It is not intended for use on private areas of land. We would encourage residents to help themselves to a bucket or small bag of salt/grit and clear the area outside their properties when pavements are slippery with snow or ice. No one should fear legal action if someone falls and is injured, so long as the clearance does not make the condition of the pathway more dangerous. Guidance on clearing snow can be found on www.direct.gov.uk.

West Sussex County Council has a very good website which provides some very useful winter advice for residents (www.westsussex.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter). You can sign up for severe weather email alerts and find out more about protecting your home, health and wellbeing, travelling in winter conditions and helping your community.

The Parish Council is keen to hear from any vulnerable people in the village who may need support during severe weather. If you, or a neighbour, would welcome a call should the snow descend this winter, just to check that all is well, please provide details to the Clerk (01403 785864).

In the event of flooding, please contact the emergency services as appropriate and West Sussex County Council if drains are blocked and need urgent attention.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the winter edition of the Village Newsletter. It seems hard to believe that as you read this Christmas will not be far away. Given the rather unusual weather we have experienced of late (the heating is not even on as I write this at the end of November!) it seems almost to be tempting

fate to mention snow and ice but, should they arrive, I would like to reassure you that our Winter Plan is in place, our grit bins are stocked and we have advised the relevant authorities of the key areas within the Village (roads and pavements) that will need gritting.

The Parish Council (PC) continues to work hard on behalf of the Village with the new development still taking up much of our time as we discuss with Horsham District Council (HDC) and various organisations, plans and future management of the new neighbourhood centre, recreation areas, open spaces and allotments that are being provided.

We have also had input into the emerging plans for the Quadrant and new Leisure Centre, and have made it clear that we are strongly opposed to any further large scale

Parish Council information

Hedges and overhanging vegetation

Next time you step outside onto the footpath bordering your home take the opportunity to see if your hedge overhangs a footpath or road? Look upwards too; are there low level overhanging branches which could cause head injury? You run the risk of formal notice from the County Council if you fail to keep overhanging vegetation under control, and could even face legal action from an injured member of the public. If branches or hedges are overhanging please make arrangements to have them cut.

Grounds maintenance

Your Parish Council looks after the grounds, trees and play areas behind the Village Centre, The Common, Singleton Road and Charrington Way and pieces of land such as the area around the War Memorial and the triangle at the junction of Old Guildford and Billingshurst Roads. We changed our grounds maintenance contractors in August and I am sure you will all agree that the village is looking much smarter now.



residential development not only on that site, but in any part of the Village. Basically Broadbridge Heath has had more than its fair share of new houses and enough is enough!

Thanks to the objections put forward by the PC, our District Councillor Malcolm Curnock and numerous local residents the plan for development north of Old Guildford Road was rejected by HDC this year. However, this decision has been appealed by the applicant and will be the subject of a public inquiry in March 2015. The PC will continue to object to the plan.

We were sorry to receive recently resignations from two of our councillors, Simon Collins and Ian Johnston, due to pressure of other commitments. They will both be missed and I would like to thank them for their hard work on behalf of the PC and the village. It was actually Ian's inspired idea to name the roads on the new development after the local people listed on the War Memorial who had died in battle.

Many of you will, I hope, have noticed that the area around the War Memorial has been tidied up and re-landscaped in order to mark the centenary of the start of World War One. We are very grateful to the Hardings, a local family, who kindly donated a very impressive wooden seat to replace the one that was there. Thanks also to David Wilson Homes, Countryside Properties and Bovis Homes for their help and donations towards this.

We are also hoping to smarten up other areas of the Village and one of our initial ideas is to install hanging flower baskets, on lamp posts alongside the Billingshurst Road between the shop and St John's Church. We would welcome your views on this and would also like some suggestions as to other ways we can make the village more attractive.

The four year term for all current councillors will end at midnight on 6th May 2015 and a new council will be elected

on 7th May. If you would like to know more about becoming a councillor and what is actually involved please see the article on page four. It is hard work, but very rewarding to know that you are influencing the future of your community. We are actually four councillors short at the moment so if you would like to become a co-opted councillor for the remaining months of this term of office, please do contact the clerk or come along to one of our meetings – dates and details are on the website and on the notice boards by the shop, in the Village Centre and coming shortly on the Wickhurst Green development.

I could not finish without thanking two stalwarts of our Village, Jim Cate (Litter Warden) and Hugh Bayne (Handyman), who retired earlier this year. I would like to extend thanks to both of them for their valuable work in the village over the years and wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Replacing Jim and Hugh was always going to be hard so we decided to combine the two roles and create a new post. I am pleased to say that John Pilkington has now joined the team as our new Environment Officer and is fast becoming known as he goes around the village. Do say "hello" if you see him.

I would also like to mention our new Assistant Clerk, Caroline Gould, who has recently joined us and will ultimately be responsible for planning and recreation issues. Caroline is already proving to be a great asset, even spending one Saturday morning (with John and some of the councillors) up to her knees in mud inspecting some of the recreation areas!

It just remains for me to wish you all, on behalf of the Parish Council, a Happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.

Viv Edwards
Chairman

Parish Council Elections May 2015

People often feel very strongly about what's going on around them but are not sure how to influence matters. You can make a difference by becoming a parish councillor. Broadbridge Heath Parish Council has 13 seats but currently only nine are filled. Parish councillors are elected by the public every four years and the next elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday 7th May 2015. However, voting is not required if the number of candidates standing is less than the number of vacant seats, so in Broadbridge Heath a formal election has not been required since the Parish Council was first established in 1987.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a parish councillor, please come along to one of our council meetings or take a look at the brochures on our website (www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk). The Clerk would be very happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Small grants

Don't forget that the Parish Council has a small fund for helping local organisations. Details of our grant policy and an application form can be found at www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Annual accounts

The PC's annual accounts have been signed off by PFK Littlejohn, our external auditors and can be viewed at www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk under Annual Accounts.

Precept requirements 2015-16

The precept, the amount of Council Tax requested by the Parish Council (PC), will be agreed at the PC meeting on 5th January 2015 and is due to be submitted to Horsham District Council at the end of January. As always, the PC is keen to ensure that its priorities and initiatives reflect the wishes of the electorate. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we spend the annual precept we would be most pleased to hear from you.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

Thursday 18th December:

Christmas Quiz 8.30 p.m

Saturday 20th December:

Disco & Christmas Draw

Sunday 21st December:

Childrens Christmas Party – 2 to 4 p.m and Christmas Meat Draw at 5.00 p.m

Xmas Eve: Family Disco

Committee and staff wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Community Youth Worker



Over the last year we have seen Toasties Youth Club, which is held in the Scout Hall, grow with attendance most weeks being at capacity. Toasties has been running for almost a year and is a place where young people from Broadbridge Heath and Warnham can go to relax and enjoy a stress free environment with their friends.

With games and craft activities running every week alongside table tennis and pool, the young people have a plethora of things to do as well and just being able to sit and chat with friends. We also took a group away for two days in October, our first overnight residential event. The young people enjoyed games and challenges as well as a warming campfire. A great time was had by all and most importantly, stronger friendships were formed, as well as new ones.

HYPER Youth Council has also been growing over the last year too. The council is now involved with the Police Crime Commission which looks at local crime rates and how changes in neighbourhood policing affect young people. The Council is also working with the 5 Communities Project which looks at the shaping of the NHS, hosting and running the Free Your Mind conventions, looking at mental health issues and the provisions that are available for young people. All of these activities mean that young people are having more of a say in their communities.

We are still in need of volunteers to support this work. If you would be interested in bridging this generation gap and helping support the young people of today please do get in contact. For more information on what's happening in your area get in touch. Dan Fairchild, Community Youth Worker, dan.fairchild@horsham-matters.org.uk, mobile 07702 492841.

A message from your Clerk Mary Burroughs

Would you like to see a life saving defibrillator in the village?

On the 24th November 2013, my husband Tony and I were playing table tennis with friends at the Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre when he was taken ill. What he thought was indigestion led to a crushing pain in his chest and a cardiac arrest followed. We were very grateful to South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb) that day who used a defibrillator to bring Tony back to life not once but twice.



Having very nearly lost my husband, I wanted to find out more about defibrillators and how well Broadbridge Heath is served by this life saving device. I have established that there is only one defibrillator in the village, at the Leisure Centre, but we all know that this facility is not open all the time. I would like to see at least one, if not two defibrillators in the village that can be accessed anytime day or night. This would mean purchasing a defibrillator and a box that can be heated to store it in. SECamb and the Parish Council will help with some of the cost and training will be provided for those who would like to know how to use one.

If the equipment saves the life of just one person: a loved one, a friend, an employee or someone you do not even know who collapses in the street, then every penny will be well spent.

Businesses and residents, would you like to help contribute towards the cost? If so please contact Mary, Tony's wife and your Clerk, on 01403 785864 or email clerk@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk. Your contribution, however small, would be most welcome.

World War One commemoration

Many of you will have seen that the area around the War Memorial has had a facelift to commemorate the centenary of World War One. The area already looks much improved but should look particularly spectacular when 800 spring bulbs are in show.

Pictured here is a photograph taken next to the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Members of the Parish Council joined with the Harding family to admire the new, beautifully engraved seat donated by the family in memory of the Harding children who grew up just opposite.

When we embarked upon the project, we asked local developers for their support and they were keen to help, particularly as the streets in the new development are being chosen from names on the Memorial. Our thanks go to Bovis



Homes, Countryside Properties and David Wilson Homes for their cash donations and in particular to David Wilson Homes who provided the labour to carry out the landscaping.

Your Parish Council

Contact the Parish Council

PO Box 315, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9XX

Clerk and Financial Officer: Mrs Mary Burroughs

Tel: 01403 785864 Mobile 07733 359479

email clerk@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Assistant Clerk Mrs Caroline Gould

Tel: 07478 770056 asst@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Environment Officer: Mr John Pilkington is out and about in the village at least three times a week. If you are concerned about a particular area that needs John's attention please call him on his mobile on 077749 363454 or contact the Clerk.

Chairman: Mrs Viv Edwards

Tel: 01403 240414. Email: viv@rh12.co.uk

Useful Numbers

Sussex Police – PSCO – Damian Cecil. Telephoning 101 (Sussex Police) and asking for extension 22319 or by mobile 07824 820332 or x@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Horsham District Council: 01403 215100

www.horsham.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council: 01243 777100

visit www.westsussex.gov.uk

Forthcoming meetings 2015

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Monday 5th January | Parish Council |
| Monday 2nd February | Parish Council |
| Monday 2nd March | Parish Council |
| Tuesday 7th April 2015 | Parish Council |
| Monday 20th April 2015 | Annual Parish (tbc) |
| Monday 18th May 2015 | Annual Council |
| Monday 1st June 2015 | Parish Council |
| Monday 6th July 2015 | Parish Council |

Meeting dates for Planning, Recreation and Finance committees can be found on the website.

Parish Councillors

Rebecca Clay

73 Charrington Way, Broadbridge Heath 01403 258558

Geoff Clark

Fairfield Cottage, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath
01403 241435

Malcolm Curnock (also District Councillor)

5 Paget Close, Horsham 01403 255205

Viv Edwards

10 Old Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath 01403 240414

Jonathan England

Broadbridge Place, Church Road 01403 253311

Penny Hayles

David Milbank

4 The Green, Old G'ford Road, Broadbridge Heath
01403 249548

Terry Oliver

115 Charrington Way, Broadbridge Heath 01403 251621

David Trangmar

11 Pinewood Close, Broadbridge Heath 01403 254742

County Councillor

David Sheldon

5 Cricket Field Road, Horsham 01403 263504

For further information visit the Parish Council website
www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meetings: meetings are open to the public and the press (who have a right to attend) and are preceded by a session for public comments. Council meetings take place in the St. John's Community Centre. Planning Meetings are subject to cancellation if there are no plans to discuss. Visit our website at www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk for agendas and minutes of previous meetings or view the notice boards at the One Stop shop, Billingshurst Road or The Village Centre, Wickhurst Lane. Start times can vary but usually are from 7:30pm.