

## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Parish Clerk**

Linda Martin was appointed Clerk to the Council in December 1993, and at the Council's finance meeting in December 2018 completed 25 years service without ever missing a meeting. Having reached such a milestone, she has decided to hand over the management of the Council, later in the year, to a new Clerk. The Council will shortly be advertising for a replacement.

### **Council budget 2019/20**

The Parish Council held its budget meeting on 11th December 2018 to look at its expenditure for the next financial year. The precept request has been lodged with the Vale of White Horse District Council for £71710. The precept amount is charged via the council tax to the residents of the parish. This is an increase of £12924 over what was given by the District Council last year, but the costs will be shared between a larger number of houses, as developments take place in the village. The Parish Council's term of office will cease in May and elections will be held, and a new Council formed. The Council has had to budget in case there is a formal ballot and has also allowed for £17500 to be given by way of grants to local organisations to support the work that they do in helping the residents of the parish. Those benefitting are: Sutton Courtenay News, The Scout Hut Management Committee, Damascus Youth Project, the Primary School, Citizens Advice Bureau, Village Hall Management Committee, the PCC for maintenance of the Churchyard, and towards the River Room Project at the Church, The Abingdon Bridge project, Be Free Young Carers and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. In addition, the Council will need to provide for a new clerk, and has also set aside funds towards the provision of a new defibrillator at the northern end of the village.

### **Parish Council Website - Council Minutes and agendas**

The Council is having a new website designed, and when complete, will provide an up to date information base about the activities of the Parish Council. Minutes and agendas will be regularly added to the site. The Council currently provides a service of emailing the agendas and minutes for each meeting should residents wish to see them. If you are interested in receiving these, then please contact the Clerk at [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk) in order to be added to the list. To comply with data protection requirements consent will need to be given to allow the Council to hold your contact details.

### **Disposal of dog faeces**

Concerns have been raised with the Parish Council regarding dog waste being left on the ground around the northern end of the High Street. Did you know that the Vale of White Horse District Council accepts dog waste in its street litter bins? They state that general litter accompanying dog waste is better for the burn process at the energy from waste incinerator at Ardley, rather than just a bag of dog waste. They are therefore no longer installing just dog waste bins, but permit dual purpose bins. There are litter bins in the High Street, and the Council would encourage residents to pick up after their dog (in fact it is an offence not to do so) and to use the litter bins provided, and help keep the village street clear.

### **Environment Agency**

The Environment Agency has been working, in partnership with the Vale of White Horse District Council, the County Council and the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, to reduce flooding in Abingdon. Based on the detailed design for the flood storage area it has been established that the cost of the flood storage area is much greater than the earlier estimates. To continue working on the plans for flood storage would require additional funding from other partners and businesses. The development of the Abingdon storage area has therefore been postponed for the time being, as it is not currently realistic to be able to find funding. The Parish Council has written to the Vale of White Horse District Council to seek their comments as that Council employed an independent assessor and was working closely with the Agency. Newsletters about the Abingdon scheme can be found at <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com> and by searching for Abingdon newsletter

### **Thames Water - Possible Speaker at February meeting**

Thames Water have almost completed their studies on their proposals to accommodate growth in the catchment, and have indicated they may be able to attend the February Council meeting to explain their plans. Please look out for confirmation on the Council's noticeboard outside Burgrey Stores, where the agenda will be displayed prior to the next meeting.

### **Hobbyhorse Lane – Redrow Planning application for 200 houses**

A planning application lodged in 2015 was withdrawn just prior to the Inquiry hearing, the basis for the appeal being the non determination of the application by the District Council. A second application in 2017 has still not been determined by the District Council. The Parish Council has written to the Vale of White Horse District Council to express its concern regarding the time taken in connection with this protracted application.

### **The following planning applications have been considered :**

P18/V2926/HH Proposed single storey front extension and raising of roof to include new first floor level at 67 High Street. Council had no objections.

P18/V2950/HH and P18/V2951/LB Rear extension to form new first floor bedroom and ground floor bootroom/utility room, new front porch canopy, replacement windows at Goslings, 3 Drayton Road. Council had no objections

P18/V2986/HH Demolish existing garage in rear garden, and erect single storey rear extension. Change existing rear facing window to Juliet balcony. Render front and side elevations at 58 Milton Road. The council queried the position regarding parking provision if the garage were to be demolished.

MW.0142/18 To erect additional gas metering kiosk at the Gas compound area on Sutton Courtenay Landfill site. Council had no objections

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the village hall, Frilsham Street.**

**Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham OX13 6PU, Tel: 01865 391833 or email:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk.**