

Bluntisham Parish Council

April 1996

Newsletter





BLUNTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 1996

A warm welcome to all those who have moved into our Parish since the last news letter. The Annual Parish meeting is being held on Monday April 22nd at 7:30p.m. in the Village Hall, Mill Lane. We invite you to attend this meeting, to hear reports on local charities, and Parish Council activities, and if you so wish to raise any points or questions on these items.

Personnel Changes.

1995 was an election year and saw three of our Parish Councillors retiring Marjory Ward, Mike Allum, and Ivan Gibbs, taking with them a vast amount of experience, knowledge and skills. We welcomed Cathy Searle onto the Council in May, but we were still two councillors short. Later in the year we felt the need to bring the Council up to strength, and invited Frank Hudson and Ken Lincoln to join us. Frank had been attending meetings regularly, and we felt we could use his knowledge of the village and its people. Ken had been a valued member of the Parish Council in the past, - brought to an end only by a brief move away from the village. We felt his experience could be of use, which has already proved to be the case.

Judith Aguda resigned as Parish Clerk, due to her many other commitments, and we appointed Sue Ream, who was just settling into the job, when her husband was moved to Canada, and she went too. Eric Long was then appointed and is proving to be a keen and enthusiastic Clerk.

Huntingdonshire Local Plan.

Planning matters always take up a lot of time at Council meetings. We seem to fight many battle with the District Council, and I am afraid lose most of them.

Recreation.

We have leased the piece of land on Colne Road (next to the school), for another five years. The County Council do not wish to sell it or extend the lease for longer than five years at the present moment. We would encourage full use of the land, as that will strengthen our case for acquire it, when we have the opportunity. If using it for exercising dogs, please note it is an offence to let them foul the area.

We have had to 'close' the car Park, as the District Council wanted to charge us £400 p.a. for rates. At the time of going to press, District Councillor John Eddy is fighting our corner for us. 'Terry', of the Fish & Chip van which parks there every Monday evening, did offer to 'sponsor' the Car Park!

Community Association,

A report will be given at the Annual Parish meeting.

Young People.

We seem unable to sustain a youth club in this village. It is a great pity as there would appear to be a need for one. Unfortunately (as there is little we can do), we do have complaints about young people from many parishioners. From, behaviour in bus shelters, kicking balls against house walls, until nearly mid-night, cycling without due care and consideration, on the footpaths, to finding caches of empty lighter fuel cans in certain areas. Parents, do you know where your children are, and what they have been doing?

Street Lighting

A new light is in the process of being installed on the footpath, between Presses Close and the top of the High Street, just as the County council announce one in eight street lights should be switched





off to save money. After all the time and money we have spent to get our village well lit, we shall be contesting this decision. Especially if they insist on keeping the Waste Centre illuminated all night.

Neighbourhood watch

(by Parish Councillor Richard Saltmarsh, who set the scheme up in the village).

Regrettably this year has seen several burglaries - nearly always unattended properties - and as with other communities an increase in car related crime. However we still have a lower crime figure than the surrounding area. We must not be complacent, and must all try to be aware and remember to lock up and use security lights etc. To help we have purchased an electric security engraving tool, which for a deposit of £10, and a one off fee of 50p. (is available for hire). Please contact Margaret Lumb, Tel. 841 687.

Please see below for local co-ordinators. Also any help would be greatly appreciated REMEMBER, this scheme can only be as good as it's members. (We are continually lobbying the police on your behalf.)

A List of Co-ordinators can be found in Appendix B

Footpaths.

Unfortunately last years idea of putting up waymarkers never got off the ground -no volunteers! We seem to be victim of our own SUCCESS, as some paths are so well walked they have become 'bald', and therefore very muddy in the wet weather. Just as we were persuading cyclists paths are for pedestrians - the County Council seem to be encouraging cyclists onto paths. But where this happens PEDESTRIANS HAVE PRIORITY. After mis-use by cyclists along Meeting Walk, the County Council will be erected cycle barriers at certain strategic points.

TREE WARDEN.

David Gedye continues as our tree warden, and evidence of his work can be seen on the land at Colne Road and other parts of the village. Thank you David.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.

We still seem to be a popular village to live in, with a new development in Wood End, and plans for developments off Colne road and East Street.

MEETING WALK.

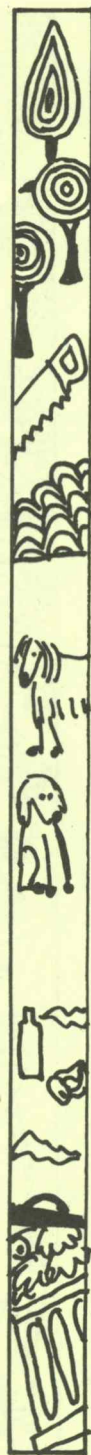
We are still monitoring any proposed development that would endanger Meeting Walk.

Dog Fouling.

Luckily we do not suffer with packs of dogs running wild, as some towns and villages do. On the whole our dogs are kept under control. But this does mean that when a dog has fouled a pavement, the owner must have stood by and watched, and not cleared it up. This is an offence, and if evidence is available, prosecution will follow. I have heard of one village which is proposing to use D.N.A. evidence to bring about prosecutions!

LITTER

This seems to be getting worse every year. If we could all keep our own vicinity clear of litter it would help. Let us all take pride in our village.





Village Handyman (person).

Carol and Keith Chessum continue to do sterling work keeping the grass cut and planting flowers at strategic points in the village. They also positioned our new seat on the site of the old mill at the end of Mill Lane - commemorating the end of the second World War. Tom Barnett continues to cut hedges for us as and when we see a need.

ROAD MAINTENANCE AND ROAD SAFETY.

Congratulations to Jonathon Everest who organised a full traffic count during the summer, which has already proved useful, when we needed evidence of traffic movements through the village. We are constantly harassing the County Council about pot-holes etc. Most eventually do get seen to, but some are always left, I think, so that the contractors know they will always have a job to go back to!

We are in process of joining with neighbouring villages to organise a petition to be presented to the County Council, pressing for a round-about at the top of Heath Road. Every year there is a spate of accidents on Heath Road when the weather is icy, but still the Council refuse to grit it, we try every year!

Village Activities.

A new inclusion - if you wish to promote your organisation or club next year, please contact the Parish Council by February 1997.

Cricket Club; The Club plays in Cambs Senior 1 and Cambs Junior IV North on Saturdays, plus Sunday Cup and friendly games and midweek matches. In addition we run Youth teams, at under 11, 13, and 15. New members of all ages welcome. Please ring David Hunter - Chairman 841720 or Richard Saltmarsh 840975.

Bluntisham St Helen's W.I. - A friendly and lively institute, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.45 p.m. at St Helen's school. They take part in many village activities such as the village carnival- organising the Ladies Night, and the Annual Easter Fayre. New members always welcome. Contact Val Baldry 840 481.

Towards the Future.

The year 2000 will soon be upon us -(to mark the end of W.W. II, we put up a new seat, and the British Legion and many parishioners joined us for a, simple ceremony and refreshments afterwards in the village hall. For the Millenium we are already thinking- of : a cycle path to Needingworth, a village hall, with aid we hope, from the Millenium Fund. It might be a good idea if a Committee could be formed to work towards ideas ideas, if interested please attend the Annual Parish Meeting or let us know.

I would like to finish by thanking my fellow councillors for their support and help, and to say we always welcome comments, and suggestions from everyone. What we can do -we do, what we can't, well it's not without trying! I hope to see you at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Joy James
Chairperson.



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