

Newsletter

Spring 2013

Councillors Required

The Parish Council has recently experienced the resignations of three Councillors due to personal reasons. Consequently we are looking for volunteers to join us.

We urgently need to replace these positions and strengthen the Parish Council. It is not an onerous task, the Council meets once a month and in between meetings all correspondence is circulated by email. If you are concerned about local issues and wish to make a difference then please do consider this opportunity.

It is recognised that we all have many demands on our time but if you could spare a few hours a month to give to your community at what is the grass roots level of local democracy then please consider giving the Parish Council a try.

For more information or to put yourself forward then please contact our Clerk, Carol Smith or any of the existing councillors.



If you have a smartphone you can download the free 'Love West Sussex' app, which will enable you to report issues such as pot holes, problems on local footpaths, flooding or fallen trees. You just log in, take a photograph and upload it to the website to report the issue.

Hunston Neighbourhood Plan



We as a community need to produce a "Neighbourhood Plan". This will provide the residents with a great opportunity to influence how we mould our village for the future. It represents a chance for you as residents to choose where future development should be built in your village and influence how it should look. It will include the need to identify and protect important green spaces.

In 20 years' time if our Neighbourhood Plan is effective, it should ensure that future residents have a unique vibrant community. The village should offer people of all ages a sustainable environment with good access to facilities and services, whilst providing a rural setting in a planned sympathetic way.

The key issues that need to be addressed will be:

- Retention of shops and other businesses.
- Ensuring that the infrastructure issues - roads, services, facilities and transport – are addressed
- Protecting green spaces – the playing field, woodlands, the canal and agriculture
- Regenerating unused brown field sites and buildings for housing and businesses.

We aim to set up a working party made up of residents and parish councillors to help formulate this very important plan. If you would like to be involved then please contact either the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors.

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Hunston Parish Council

Chairman's Report



As I sit and write what should be my Spring Chairman's Report, snowflakes are once again drifting down past my window. I'm sure that, like me, you have all had enough of this never ending miserable and cold weather and long for some sunshine. However, with the anticipation that Spring will arrive, we are organising our annual Spring Clean Day on Saturday 4th May.

Further details will be available in due course.

The last quarter has been a testing time for the Parish Council, following the resignations of three of our Councillors for a number of different reasons. We really need to recruit replacements urgently so I would urge you all to consider whether you can spare some time to work for our community.

Changes in government thinking on planning, the benefits system, taxation and many other factors are making this a difficult time for all of us at the moment, in addition to the bad weather. We need, as a community, to pull together and get ourselves through to hopefully better times in the future.

I would like to ask all residents to be mindful of the impact these changes are having on everyone, but in particular the more vulnerable among us – the elderly, the very young, the unemployed and struggling young families.

If you can see a way to give a helping hand to anyone in need, don't hesitate. Even if you can only give practical help like a hand with gardening, shopping, lifts into town or just an hour's chat and a cup of tea, this goes a long way to helping those most affected feel less isolated and more valued.

One of the biggest challenges we face as a Parish Council and as a community is the advent of the District Council's Local Plan and the need to produce our own Neighbourhood Plan. There is an article in the newsletter explaining what this is about, and it has also been chosen as the main theme of this year's Annual Parish Assembly. It should be a dynamic and ongoing experience for us all.

Liz Kenney
Chair, Hunston Parish Council



Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is a major issue in our Village. Some dog owners still fail to clean up after their dogs and the highest level of dog fouling can be found in areas where people actually live. Dog fouling is not only unpleasant it is dangerous. The biggest threat to public health from dog excrement is toxocariasis. Toxocariasis is an infection of the roundworm *toxocara canis*. The eggs of the parasite can be found in soil or sand contaminated with faeces and if swallowed, result in infection that lasts between six and 24 months. Symptoms include eye disorders, vague ache, dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in extremely rare cases, seizures/fits. Infection can also occur through contact with dogs or other inanimate objects including the wheels of toys and the soles of shoes.



It is the responsibility of the dog walker to clear up any dog foul left by their dog. Failure to clean up after your dog you can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice, or if the case goes to court a fine of up to £1,000. The regulations state specifically, that being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after your dog. The Village has dog waste bins in prominent places so there is really no excuse.

Hunston Parish Council

Chairman Liz Kenney - Fieldview, Southover Way, Hunston PO20 1NY
Vice Chairman Steve Baker - 2 Foxbridge Drive, Hunston PO20 1NQ

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538832

Councillors Dianne Bonthron - Swan Cottage, Main Road, Hunston PO20 1NR
Sharon Gregory - 12 Southover Way, Hunston PO20 1NY
Roger Pagram - 32 St Leodegars Way, Hunston PO20 1PF

773272
784483
785536

Parish Clerk : Carol Smith - 6 Locksash Close, West Wittering. PO20 8QP

203203

Hunston Parish Council

Drainage and Flooding Update

It is time you had an update on what has been happening since the flooding in June last year to improve drainage and reduce future flood risk. The following has already happened:

- A collapsed concrete inspection cover near the cattle shed at Reedbridge farm has been replaced with a metal grille
- A section of ditch has been cleared in the same field.
- The Environment Agency cleared excess plant growth from the Bremere Rife through the length of the village in July
- A number of blocked road drain gulleys have recently been cleared on the B2145.
- Some sections of the ditch along Church lane have been cleared of silt.

Other works that have been promised so far:

- Chichester District Council's Land Drainage Officer, Paul Cann, has promised jetting and CCTV of the culverts running through Hunter's Lodge Stables, Reedbridge farm and under the B2145 all the way to the Rife at Swan Cottage.
- The Environment Agency cleared the Rife of excess vegetation annually and will do so again once the spring weather has produced the main plant growth.

Other work has been requested by Paul Cann but no promises have been made by the relevant landowners on when this work will be done.

In times of moderate rain, the following are the main areas that are still prone to flooding:

- B2145 outside the electricity substation,
- B2145 outside Hunter's Lodge Stables,
- Church Lane.

There are many agencies that have some special powers to act in order to maintain certain types of drainage and prevent flooding. All of them claim they have very limited resources to use these powers. For example, there is only one Land Drainage officer for Chichester District and he also covers Arun District in this role too. One man is unlikely to be able to effectively enforce Land Drainage law across an area of that size, yet £8.25 million is available from WSCC to help maintain drainage in the county.

What can you do to help? Hunston residents could talk to their District and County councillors about how the £8.25 million is spent in our area. If you live adjacent to a ditch, keep its bed clear of excess plant growth, rubbish and silt. Report problems with blocked waterways to the relevant authority - see <http://goo.gl/wvEmH> (or see Chichester District Council website search for 'Watercourse') to see who this is. Help the Parish Council form a drainage working group.

Contact clerk@hunstonparishcouncil.org if you are interested in giving any practical help with the ongoing problems.

In summary, some work has been undertaken since the June flooding but the work done so far has not restored the drainage network to an acceptable working condition. Let's hope 2013 is drier than 2012!

GOING FOR GOLD!



On 1st March 2013 I joined a group of invited guests, including the Chairs of Sidlesham Parish Council and Selsey Town Council, on the inaugural new Stagecoach Gold bus on the 51 bus route. We left Chichester Bus Station at 11.35am and travelled in considerable comfort and style down to Selsey.

On arrival in Selsey, we were met by Stagecoach managers, a representative of the Chichester Observatory, a Chichester Observer reporter and photographers, as well as two golden men who posed with us for photographs. The official gold ribbon was duly cut and lunch was provided.

You may have noticed that all of the buses are named after astronomers, not least the Sir Patrick Moore. It had been intended that Sir Patrick should do the official opening ceremony but his recent death meant those plans had to be changed.

Stagecoach explained that Route 51 had been chosen as the first rural gold service because it is the route in Chichester district that has the highest usage, and fewer than average concessionary fare passengers, only 40% in comparison to approximately 60% in the rest of the district. The financing for the new buses has come from Stagecoach, in addition to the funding required to extend the timetable at night and weekends.

The main message I want to send to you all is one of encouragement to make use of our very special buses. They are well designed, clean, comfortable and totally accessible for wheelchairs and buggies. Leave your cars behind and go for gold – it is the new green!

Liz Kenney

Hunston Parish Council

Hunston Canal Footpath



Recently several residents have been writing to our local paper about the state of the footpaths - one resident fell over not long ago. But the state of the path is really becoming very dangerous, with puddles and mud. We are talking about the stretch going towards the Crosbie Bridge at Donnington. At one time this was a nice footpath to walk along and it was protected by overhanging trees which were a windbreak.

The canal has lost a lot of its character and I am afraid that it will take a long while to grow back, certainly not in my life time. The Chichester Observer were recently taking pictures of the state of the footpath and an article about the problem was published on 28th March 2013.

I consider this a Health and Safety issue which needs addressing. Cyclists also use this path and churn the mud up and make it worse. It is actually just classed as a public footpath, not a cycle path, nor is it a bridleway. You really take your life in your hands walking along it.

Hopefully something will be done about it sooner rather than later, especially getting it resurfaced.

Roger Pagram
Councillor

Other useful contact numbers

Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Citizens Advice	01243 784231
Age Concern	01243 528346
Childline	0800 1111
Victim Support	01243 829089
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Chichester	
Community Bus	01243 816616

For problems with:

Street Lighting	0845 7581622
Gas Services	0800 111 999
Electricity	0800 7838866
Portsmouth	023 9247 7999
Water	
Southern	0800 820 999
Water	

Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee continue to invest in the Hall as funds permit and have recently undertaken the rewiring of much of the lighting in the common areas to the Hall and Community Club. Additional smoke detectors have also been installed.

It is intended that some extra power outlets for the Main Hall will be installed in the near future.

News from St.Leodegar's

I am writing this just after our Easter Day Service on March 31st. The church was beautifully decorated, packed with people, and we enjoyed a joyful and uplifting service – complete with Easter egg hunt for the children!

The biggest initiative that we have taken as a Church over the last year has been the launching of *'Messy Church'* which meets in Hunston village hall on the afternoon of the 4th Sunday of the month for 9 months of the year (not in April, August or December). This has been a fantastic time for people of all ages to get together and learn more about the Christian faith in a relaxed and informal setting. *'Messy Church'* offers a combination of craft activities, music, teaching and food which all helps us to discover more about what it means to follow Jesus. *'Messy Church'* is run by Jenny Coleman (ably supported by Neil!) and a fantastic group of volunteers. Our numbers have ranged from 65-95 on any given month and we would love you to join us. £1 a head helps us to cover our costs. Dates for the next 3 months are: **May 26th, June 23rd, July 21st** (week earlier than normal because of schools breaking up). Time: **4.30pm**
Place: **Hunston Village Hall.**

We are also looking to start a more informal morning service meeting in the village hall on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We will keep you informed! Can I finally just urge you to check out our new Church website which is: stleodegarshunston.co.uk A big thank you to Barry Hutchinson for all he has done for us with the website.

Finally, if anybody would like to talk to me about anything that concerns them please don't hesitate to ring either myself on 782003 or my colleague, Revd Neil Coleman on 785629.

Revd James Russell