

PENTON MEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL

E-NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021



WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

VICE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER:

2020 has indeed been a tough year for all with the COVID-19 pandemic giving us all concern for the safety of our family, friends and colleagues. Following Government guidelines our January 2021 issue of the Newsletter will be an Electronic issue only and posted on notice boards around the parish.

We are keeping our Precept the same with no increase this year. We have a sufficient reserve to carry forward as advised by our Auditors.

Looking back over the past year, we would like to give our thanks to the unnamed residents of the Pentons (you know who you are) who tirelessly give their time by volunteering to support us all in many ways - through their work with various groups; organizing the help line and video support; keeping our village clean of litter; helping to clear obstructions from our footpaths; taking the time to check on neighbours – looking out for each other – doing little things - and big things! that mean a lot, especially during such a difficult time. Thank you to you all.

As we leave 2020 behind, I sincerely hope 2021 will be a better year for all.

2020 REVIEW:

Good news that the lanes in Penton were resurfaced without too much disruption. We continue with our request for the main road through the parish to be treated, especially at the bridge. This is in conjunction with a request for the revision of the speed limits on the road beyond the 30mph limit and the possibility of improvements to the 30mph area which we will be taking forward this year.

Our bridlepaths and footpaths have benefited from the Rights of Way clearance and our Lengthsman work, with the exception of a few damaged trees causing issues. We have to prioritize which footpaths receive work from RoW each year as their funding is as always very low. Fortunately, the Lengthsman scheme is confirmed to continue in 2021 therefore we will continue to see the benefits around the village.

Our residents at the 'old road' adjacent to the A342 were experiencing severe flooding of the highway and into their gardens and homes. With the help of our Borough Councillor, Hampshire County Council have cleared drains, raised footpaths and other work to resolve the problem. We can report that this has been a success.

Test Valley Borough Council has been assisting to resolve the issue of excessive noise experienced by the residents of Penton Corner. Companies on the Andover Business park have taken steps to resolve some issues that contributed to the problem. Hampshire County Council is now looking into the noise issue from the main roads adjacent to the housing and we await the outcome.

BUSINESS AS 'NORMAL'?

Whilst we cannot meet as a team under the current Government guidelines, we do meet by video and converse weekly, sometimes daily! – about items, issues and of course review planning applications as well as other subjects that arise. So please do email the Clerk should you need to, or wish to report any item. Your comments are important and valued.

The Minutes from our meetings are open to the public on the Council website, please do take time to have a look. All our financial information and the results of the 2020 Audit are also published.

The link web page link is: <http://www.pentonmewsey.org.uk/>

NEWCOMERS:

2020 has been quite a busy year for house buying/people moving and The Pentons is no exception. In conjunction with Penton Recreation Centre, we like to welcome all new residents with our parish WELCOME PACK that provides useful information and details for newcomers. Hopefully if you have just moved in you have been provided with a pack, but if not then please do let us know. Don't forget to inform us of anyone moving out so that we can ensure they are welcomed.

SOLAR FARM – LATEST UPDATE:

The Parish Council continues correspondence with Alternative Intelligence, the planning agent for the project. Further information will be passed onto residents when updates are provided. It is expected that work will start on the build during late spring, however this is as yet confirmed.

We encourage you to keep abreast of the proposal conditions which can be viewed on using the reference no of 19/03043/FULLN:

<https://view-applications.testvalley.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

DEFIBRILLATOR CABINETS:

Thanks to grants received from both our County Councillors we were able to purchase 3 new updated and improved cabinets for our defibrillators, 2 of which had problems with failure of the heating elements. Your defibrillators are checked on a frequent regular basis and all equipment updated and tested to ensure they are working at all times. As a reminder, they are situated:

At the village hall – outside on the right-hand side wall

At Penton Corner – on the wall outside the first house along the 'old road'

Bluebell Farm – on the wall at the entrance to the farm.

Anyone needing assistance in an emergency should dial 999 and instructions will be given to access the defibrillator via a code. The use of the unit itself is simple and instructions will be given over the phone.

GRANTS:

We always make use of grants where ever possible, they are available for selected purposes. We do have a sum being held by TVBC for recreational use which is currently being discussed in reference to the repair and renovation of the fence at the recreation ground.

DOGS:

A warning has been issued via the NHW to be aware of dog snatchers that may take advantage in our area. Please keep on guard regarding this as it is known that unfortunately some instances have been recorded at Parishes not far from here. Whilst on the subject, please help keep our footpaths open and clear by not allowing dogs to foul the pathways and do take any dog bags home – we have constant reports of them being left behind!

NEWS FROM THE PRC:



The Pentons tried out a new recreational event with the Penton Christmas Festival. To kick off the ten days leading up to Christmas we enjoyed a distanced lighting-up of the Christmas trees in Harroway and on the main recreation ground. Everyone was encouraged to decorate their front gardens and homes for the benefit of people taking their lockdown exercise walks. We saw some pretty festively-decorated ponies and held the Christmas Competition for cakes, cards, mangers, snowmen, wreaths, and the best lit front garden/house. You can watch the final at youtu.be/iGg1uw5GnYo

The Church online services of Christingle, Carol Service and Crib Service were featured, and the latter, aimed at a younger audience, notably involved a specially-written play from Alex Randle-Bissell performed by the Penton Players. You should find this on the Pastrow Benefice website.

At the conclusion Alex ran a lovely Carol Service on Christmas morning with everyone carefully distanced across the recreation ground, around the 18-foot Christmas tree kindly donated by Jeremy Dunning.

Thanks to PMPC for funding the Festival, to the PRC team for all their hard work and to you all for taking part. Keep sending in ideas (01264 513 313) for community recreational activities you would enjoy which can be delivered within lockdown restrictions.



Edith riding Shady



We have been able to keep the children's playground open most of the year for people following the guidelines which are posted there, though the new outside hand basin will now be turned off until the danger of frost is passed.

Hall hirings by our regular users (table tennis, Pilates, Yoga, puppy training, art, Sugarcraft) continued well (with appropriate safeguards) until the November lockdown, and PRC plan to reopen for these activities as soon as restrictions are lifted. It is still not safe to accept private parties or allow food & drink preparation in the Hall.

The Penton Helpline 01264 513 080 has operated continuously since March – many thanks to the 50+ village volunteers who staff the line and collect shopping and prescriptions for Penton residents who are unable to get out. We are fortunate to have such a great village community, looking out for each other.

On the subject of looking out, please keep an eye on the cricket pavilion area which has been abused by youths visiting from Andover over the years and recently escalated with doors being kicked in. It now has security lights and cameras installed. If you notice suspicious activity, especially at dusk/night, phone 101 and report it to the police who are aware of the situation. Then inform the PRC on 01264 513 313 or email penton.hall.bookings@gmail.com.

REMEMBER:

Hall 01264 513 313 Helpline 01264 513 080 Website pentonvillagehall.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER DETAILS:

Chairman Cllr Kevin Briant 771665
Cllr Paul Williams 772913

Cllr Rodney Bennett 772341
Vice Chairman Cllr David Atkinson 771543
Clerk: Nanette Colbourne 772989.

Cllr Heather Carrick 772917
Cllr Nicky Booth 771741

PENTON MEWSEY WEB SITE:

<http://www.pentonmewsey.org.uk>

Don't forget that we have our dedicated website with information on News and Events along with all details of your local Parish Councillors, Pages for LOCAL GROUPS and more.

Contact: clerk.pentonmewsey@parish.hants.gov.uk telephone 01264 772989