

NIGHTINGALE TIMES

The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council

June 2017

www.wellowparish.org.uk

Meetings

All meetings of Wellow Parish Council are open to the public.

Time is provided at each Full Council meeting for public participation where residents can raise any concern or matter relating to the Parish.

Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6:45 pm

Wellow Village Hall



Parish Council Meeting

7:15 pm

Wellow Village Hall



Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6.45 pm

Wellow Village Hall



Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6.45 pm

Wellow Village Hall



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Members of the public are invited to ask questions or make statements at all Parish Planning and General Purposes Committee meetings and Full Parish Council meetings.



Wellow
Parish Council

Your Council website provides information on everything we do, including Councillor details, dates of meetings, agendas, minutes, finance, Parish Council policies, Burial Ground, local organisations' details, current events and much more. In printed form this Newsletter is intended to complement the website.

Message from the Chair – Councillor Gaye Chesterton-Kay

Well, we've now swapped snowdrops and daffodils for a whole array of summer shrubs and flowers along with the sound of numerous lawn mowers keeping the grass under control and although a couple of unexpectedly heavy frosts caused some damage, Summer finally appears to be well on the way.

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Council on the 26th April was very well attended with many residents either arriving early to see the various displays or staying on after the formal meeting to enjoy the refreshments and chat with Councillors. An excellent Presentation was given regarding progress with the Neighbourhood Plan by Alan Wright, Chairman of the Steering Group and Cllr Trevor Grant, as well as Presentations from Tony Boyle from the Blackwater Conservation Group and Stuart Robertson from Wellow Scouts.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday, 8th May and I am delighted that all Councillors agreed to stand for another year. A lot of things are planned for the coming year and it's good to know that we have continuity and consistency in the group.

I am very pleased to report that, following the expiry of the previous Planning Approval for the replacement of the Cricket Pavilion, a new Planning Application has been successfully achieved. We are now in the process of choosing the contractor who will undertake the main structure, having completed a sealed bid process and, all going well, construction will commence shortly after the final match of this year's Cricket season.

As I'm sure a lot of you are already aware, St Margaret's Summer Fete takes place at the Recreation Ground on Sunday, 25th June and, this year, the Parish Council, for the first time, will be there to showcase the various projects we are working on and also to meet residents who would like to drop by and have a chat with Councillors. We will be sharing a tent with the WI who will be selling teas, coffees, squash and cakes – an even more compelling reason to pop along!

As always, my thanks to all those who have given up their time to help the Council and hopefully we can look forward to a long hot summer.

Foliage removal on Wellow Common

The Common is one of the really special areas of Wellow. At the Annual Parish Meeting some great questions were asked about how best to manage this unique part of the parish. Whilst the Parish Council has to follow the guidelines set by Natural England it is important that we do not forget about the traditional ways of dealing with regular issues such as control of non-native plant species and invasive foliage removal such as ragwort. Knowledge gained from residents on how these issues have best been dealt with in the past enables a much more informed conversation with Natural England. It also helps the Parish Council to get things done at the right time of the year. This year we started work to clear gorse and rhododendron. Unfortunately wet weather and the start of the bird nesting season delayed completion until August. In future years we will try and get this regular work started well in advance of the start of the nesting season.

Village litter pick and road sign clean-up

Inspired by our regular village Litter Heroes – big thanks to Fiona Mobbs, Pam Walton and Sandra and David Timms – an intrepid group of volunteers gathered at the Parish Office on what started out to be a wet 20th May to get dressed in hi vis jackets and tooled up ready for litter picking and street sign cleaning. Cllr John Sampson made sure we were well briefed on health and safety before we headed out into the village to pick up items that people seem to have mislaid. We were pleasantly surprised that in general the village was cleaner than expected. Of course plenty of sacks were filled with litter but in terms of coverage the teams in the morning and afternoon were able to visit more parts of Wellow than planned. Thanks



to all involved and thanks to the car drivers and horse riders who slowed down and provided encouragement.

More volunteers are always required on a regular basis. Please contact Wellow Parish Council, or Cllr John Sampson email: cllrsampson@wellowparish.org.uk for more information or to register your interest.

On the lookout



In May the hardwood gates that marked the entrance to the Scout Hut on Canada Road were stolen. The gates were replaced 5 years ago and cost the group almost £1,000. These gates are important because not only do they restrict access to the site but they also allow the Scouts to use the front car park for activities.

Since the theft a much less attractive metal gate has been installed. If anyone has any additional information regarding the gates the Scouts' leadership team would be interested in hearing from them. The crime was reported to the police and they will investigate if there is some information for them to act upon.

Wellow memories

On 15th May Beryl Taylor, a teenage resident during the Second world war, visited Wellow. Living initially in Canada Common Beryl moved to live in a cricket pavilion on land near the A36 junction of Whinwhistle Road. Beryl had a tour of the village including a look at the current and soon to be replaced cricket pavilion, the Red Rover and the view from the car park out onto Canada Common. It would be great to include other stories that feature visits from former residents of Wellow in future editions of the Nightingale Times.

Neighbourhood Plan update

Big focus on the Neighbourhood Plan in this edition as we need all the parish to be aware of the project and what it means for our community. As outlined at the recent Annual Parish Meeting, the Neighbourhood Planning project has now been re-launched with a slightly different approach and plan designed to better reflect our priorities.

What are we trying to do?

Neighbourhood Plan is a formal evidence based process based on community involvement which, when approved, has formal status in terms of local planning policy. The scope varies from community to community depending on their circumstances but can be narrow with a very specific focus on development, or broad with a focus on all areas of community need. The original focus of our project was the former given urgency by both significant applications for housing development and the lack of a Test Valley Borough Council approved Local Plan. This situation has changed. TVBC has an approved Local Plan which has been successfully tested and does not permit significant new build in Wellow, which is not a designated area for housing development. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan, building on the work already done, is still very important to enable us to shape and influence the future of Wellow to best reflect community needs and priorities.

The result will be a Neighbourhood Plan, including possible revisions to the Village Design Statement, plus a linked and updated Parish Plan to cover the broader picture. These will be used by TVBC on matters related to planning applications, but have a wider purpose. They will provide, for example, an agenda and priorities for Wellow Parish Council and increase our ability to influence a range of other bodies on whom we depend.

How will we do it?

This is a multi-step process which needs to follow a clear path so that the results can be externally approved and shown to be based on evidence. TVBC have a helpful Community Planning template which we will be using as a guide.

There are basically five steps:

1. Set up
2. Identify community needs and priorities
3. Identify and review opportunities and options
4. Produce a draft plan
5. Validate and secure approval, including a local referendum

Each step involves detailed community engagement and consultation and is a formal check point before we move to the next one. We are currently completing Set up for the relaunch which will provide clear project objectives and scope, the team in place and roles defined, plus a detailed approach and plan for the next step.

How are we organised?

We are setting up a Steering Committee with overall responsibility for the project. This is a sub-committee of the Parish Council consisting of both Parish Council and community members. In simple terms the Parish Council retains overall responsibility for the project but its execution is delegated to the Neighbourhood Plan team.

The team will consist of:

Chair Alan Wright, Deputy Chair Trevor Grant (Parish Council) plus five other members drawn from the community or the Parish Council with the following specific roles:

1. Project office, plus workgroup leads for
2. Development
3. Community facilities/services including health/social care
4. Environment, landscape, transport and roads
5. Economy, employment, education and skills

Each workgroup will have its own team responsible for developing plans for their area.

How can you get involved?

We are making good progress in resourcing the Steering Committee and Workgroups but we are not there yet! If you are interested in helping to shape the future of your community by actively participating in developing the plan for Wellow then please contact us as soon as possible. Additional help is needed in a number of areas so we can be flexible depending on your interests and time availability.

Best contact is email - alanwright66@gmail.com or cllrtgrant@wellowparish.org.uk

The good, the bad and the ugly

Raising concerns about roads in the parish does sometimes seem to pay off. It is good that in April Highways England re-surfaced sections of the A36 trunk road from the Whinwhistle junction through Crawley Hill and towards the roundabout in Wellow. One issue that the Parish Council has followed up on is the lack of proper communication on when the work was actually going to happen. Too many residents, visitors and through traffic found their way unexpectedly blocked late at night.

With the good comes the bad. Parts of the A36 in Wellow and Plaitford are already deteriorating just three years after being re-surfaced. It is far from clear what Highways England intends to do about this.

Now the ugly. Wellow should be able to celebrate its special position as an important gateway to the New Forest National Park with a roundabout that looks better than the current green dustbin lid. Wellow is twinned with Couffe in France where many of the roundabouts are splendid. Why can't we use the roundabout to help showcase and celebrate what is special about Wellow? Any comments you may have on this would be welcome – clerk@wellowparish.org.uk

Some sad news



The Parish Council is sad to hear of the passing of Eric Kemish. Eric was one of only two remaining WWII veterans from Wellow, a regular attendee at the Remembrance Sunday services and a former caretaker of the village hall. He sadly passed away on 17th May aged 90.

Social media in Wellow

The Wellow Facebook page has really taken off this quarter. There have been 175 Facebook postings during the period 24th March to 3rd June across a whole range of different topics of local interest – Wellow Parish Council @wellowmatters Facebook.

Newsletter

If you would like to comment on and/or contribute to the newsletter, please let the Clerk, Mrs Sharon Whitehouse know. You can contact her at the office (10am to 12.00pm Tues, Weds, Thurs), through the website, email or telephone (details below). Let the Clerk have your email address and receive the newsletters by email!! Distribution of paper copies of the newsletter has been arranged but if you have not received a paper copy and would like one please let the Parish clerk know.

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