



# NIGHTINGALE TIMES

## *The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council* website: [www.wellowparish.org.uk](http://www.wellowparish.org.uk)

### Parish By-Election for Councillor vacancy

This will take place on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and will be held at Wellow Village Hall. Polling hours are 7.00am to 10.00pm. The Parish Council have to fund this by-election. The cost will be in the region of £6,000. To provide poll cards, Test Valley Borough Council requested a further payment of £800. Consequently, the Parish Council have decided against poll cards in an effort to save money. This by-election will be advertised through the Parish's normal channels of the website, noticeboards and Parish Office as well as through Wellow School.

### Surface water drainage - rebates

The annual standing charge made by Southern Water includes an amount for surface water drainage. Surface water is rainwater which runs off roofs and paved areas and includes such activities as car washing. However, if your property does not connect to a public sewer and the surface water drains into a soakaway, you can claim a rebate for the current charging year onwards. To make a claim, complete the online form at [www.southernwater.co.uk/rebate](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/rebate) or alternatively call 0845 279 0845 and record your details. Once your claim has been agreed you will automatically receive the rebate each year, although it cannot be backdated.

### Appointment of Lengthsman

The Parish Council has joined partnership with Bramshaw, Netley Marsh and Copythorne Parish Councils to participate in the Lengthsman scheme. This role is partly subsidised by a grant from Hampshire County Council. The Lengthsman will be working in our Parish for one day per month undertaking highway related tasks including cleaning road signs, clearing Parish owned ditches, hedges and clearance of public footpaths. It is anticipated that the Lengthsman will be starting in June or July 2014.

### Vandalism of Recreation Ground, Lower Common Road

On 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014, we reported to Police Anti-social behaviour (ASB), caused by three local youths in the play area and recreation ground in Lower Common Road. The youths have been identified and spoken to by Police, together with their parents. A behavioural action plan has been put in place. The public are earnestly requested to report any further incidents to Romsey police on 101.

### Pavements, public footpaths and highways

We would respectfully remind all parishioners and landowners of their responsibilities for maintaining their hedges, in particular those that are adjacent to the highway, pavement or a

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public footpath. It is important for the safety of users that overhanging foliage is cut back. However, hard cutting of hedges should not be done until the end of the bird nesting season. (after the 1<sup>st</sup> August).

If anyone encounters any difficulties with overgrowth, please contact the Parish office.

## **ARE YOU CLEARING UP YOUR DOG`S FOUL MESS?**

Wellow Parish Council takes action against dog fouling and irresponsible dog ownership. Dog fouling remains one of the Council's top concerns. It is the most offensive type of litter on our streets and it is consistently raised as a public concern.

### **Why clean up after your dog?**

We all know how unpleasant it is to see dog mess lying around the pavements and public spaces and it's even more unpleasant to step in!

It is simply unhygienic. Dog faeces may contain worms that can cause a threat to human health. The minority of irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dog's damage the reputation of responsible dog owners who do.

Any person in charge of a dog, who does not clean up the mess, will be issued with a £75 Fixed Penalty Notice or face prosecution with a maximum fine of £1,000.

If you witness someone letting their dog foul without cleaning it up afterwards in a public place, you should report this to the Parish Council or the Environmental Health Team at Test Valley Borough Council. Include the name and address of the person in charge of the dog (if known), a description of the dog, plus details of the date, time and place of the offence.

### **Changes to the Dangerous Dog Act**

On 13th May 2014 the amended Dangerous Dogs Act came into effect in England and Wales. This law applies to all dog owners no matter what size or breed the dog is. The act now covers incidents on private property in addition to public spaces. This includes your own house, any driveway and both front and back gardens.

Police or an appointed local authority now has powers to seize a dog which is dangerously out of control dog in a private place. The previous legislation only covered public places. It will now be an offence for your dog to attack an assistance dog (Guide Dog, Hearing Dog etc). Prison sentences will be increased for those convicted of some offences.

The new legislation outlines that a householder will not be prosecuted under the Dangerous Dog Act 1991 should their dog attack a trespasser that has entered or is in the process of entering their home.

### **Microchipping**

From 6th April 2016, all dogs must be micro chipped. The Dog Trust has set aside £6 million pounds to cover the cost for free micro chipping. Their website gives details of the veterinary surgeries closest to you that offer free micro chipping subsidised by the Dog Trust. The website is [www.chipmydog.org.uk](http://www.chipmydog.org.uk)

### **Annual Parish Meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

This meeting was attended by approximately 75 parishioners. We were very pleased with the turn out, and would emphasise that this meeting is designed for residents to learn more about the Parish Council and its activities, as well as meeting other groups in the community.

## **Play Area, Lower Common Road Recreation Ground**

This new play area was completed in 2012. It has greatly enhanced the recreation area and proved popular with the youngsters in the Village.

The old roundabout has been retained as seating for sentimental reasons. Unfortunately, it has been constantly vandalized. We are waiting for good weather for the repairs and repainting to be carried out.

## **The New Pavilion, Lower Common Road recreation ground**

There's been discussion over a long period about the need to replace the pavilion at Lower Common Road recreation ground. The present building was erected in 1935 and so has far exceeded its useful life. For various reasons plans for a new pavilion have been delayed but the present Parish Council has now moved a lot closer to achieving a new building. Planning permission has been obtained and we are nearly ready to go out to tender.

Naturally a new pavilion will cost a sizeable sum. The Parish Council has put money aside for the project over a number of years and there are sufficient funds to provide a decent replacement. The Council, feel, however, that with a bit of extra cash, we could achieve an even better building. However, for reasons best known to themselves, a number of residents in the village have seen fit to oppose the grant application to Viridor Credits, which can only prejudice the Council's chances of getting extra financial help. This in turn will prevent us getting a better facility for the local community.

A replacement pavilion is a key action in the Wellow Parish Plan and there is therefore a strong mandate from the village to carry out this project. The Council is therefore determined to press ahead with the scheme in the coming months.

## **Hatches Farm**

Wellow Youth Football Club is now responsible for the running of the football pitches and Pavilion. The Parish Council has spent £4442.00 on refurbishment. Outstanding is the replacement of the floor covering and sink unit, which will be completed 2014/2015. We have managed to repair the roof this year, but a major cost for the future will be its replacement. Test Valley Borough Council provide grass cutting. May I take this opportunity to thank Mr Harris for his previous contribution in maintaining these areas.

It should be mentioned that the fields at Hatches Farm are owned by the Parish Council and if anyone is interested in using this facility, especially outside of the football season, then please let us know.

## **Other Projects**

### Wellow Community Wildlife Project.

This project has identified areas of interest. The Parish Council are working with Angela Peters, Community Wildlife Plans Project Officer NFNPA, to renovate the Buxton Land, which is a small parcel of land on the corner of Canada Road on the A36. To date we have repaired the access bridge and bridge over the small stream inside at a cost of £550.00.

Later in 2014 we will be looking for volunteers to help clear and maintain this land. Please let us know if you would be interested in this project.

## Grants

WPC are able to make small Grants to local organisations. This year a grant of £750.00 was awarded to Wellow Community Responders and a grant of £250.00 was awarded to

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Mountbatten School for its Musical Instrument Project. Do not be afraid to approach your Council if you need help with something that will benefit the Parish.

### Volunteers

The Parish Council is always in need of volunteers to support the many varied tasks each year, including litter picking, footpath maintenance and general work around the village. Please let the Clerk know if you are interested.

### **Parish Council Finances 2013/2014**

The main expense for the year was the long overdue restoration of the car parks at Monkey Jump and Canada Road as well as the tracks and ditches. This amounted to £30,599 and was funded from the Higher Level Stewardship HLS agreement, which is provided by Natural England to manage the Commons.

The Balance Sheet for 2013/2014 shows that Wellow PC has total Assets, less Current Liabilities, of £186,281. This total includes a General Reserve of £34,029, which is in line with the Audit Commission's recommendation that General Reserves should be approximately 2/3 of the Precept. WPC's Precept is £55,000 so the General Reserve should be in the region of £36,667.

Localising Council Tax Support Grant 2013/2014 - TVBC passed down to WPC £2,779. This was a 'one off' as TVBC will not be passing this grant to Parish Councils in the future, despite the Government's intention that part of the funding provided to local authorities in respect of the localised council tax support should be passed down to parish and town councils.

Elections - Parish Councils do, of course, have to fund their own election costs, which are likely to be £2 to £2.50 per elector (2727 as at October 2012) for a combined election and £2.50 to £3.00 per elector for a standalone election. This means estimated election costs will be between £5454 and £8181 per election. Consequently, the decision of WPC was to put the localised council tax support grant towards these costs (see Election EMR). WPC will put aside £2,000 per year in future years to cover election costs.

### **Meetings**

All meetings of Wellow Parish Council are open to the public. Time is provided at the start of each Full Council meeting for public participation where residents can raise any concern or matter relating to the Parish.

#### **Meetings Dates:**

7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 (Planning 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm)

4<sup>th</sup> August 2014 (Planning ONLY 6.45pm)

1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 - (Planning 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm)

### **Newsletter**

If you would like comment on and/or to contribute to the newsletter, please let the Clerk, Mrs Lesley Weldon know. You can contact her at the office (10am to 12.00pm Tues, Weds, Thurs), through the website, email or telephone (details below).

**Provide the Clerk with your email address and receive the newsletters by email!!**