

Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 23 –January 2015

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Message from Steve Murcer – Chairman

Every vestige of turkey has been eaten or hidden in the freezer, the visiting relatives have left (at last!) and we’re now well into the month of broken resolutions. I couldn’t possibly share mine with you but suffice it to say I succumbed to temptation after only 4 days – still, an improvement on last year!

At the last parish council meeting in December, we set our budget for 2015/16 and the precept (the amount of your council tax that comes to the parish council) will remain the same as this year. It is a challenging time for local government finances, particularly at County and District levels where further funding cuts have been announced recently. The article on Highways and Rights of Way illustrates the challenges. This puts more pressure on parish councils to deliver services but this is not always easy to do given that our own resources are limited and we don’t have a large support infrastructure – just a part time clerk. We do now have a new updated web site www.hazelburybryan.net in place and we’re pleased with the use of the recently installed dog waste bins.

Parish council elections will be held in May. If you are interested in being a councillor and making a contribution to your community why not come along to a parish council meeting to see what goes on?

On behalf of the parish council may I wish you a happy and healthy 2015.

Steve Murcer, Chairman

For all the latest news – please visit the website www.hazelburybryan.net

Highways and Rights of Way: At November's parish council meeting there were two interesting presentations by Rowland Skeat of DCC Highways and Graham Stanley from DCC Rangers. You can read full details in the minutes available on the parish council web site but in summary:

Highways: DCC is responsible for potholes, grips (the channels feeding surface water into roadside ditches), road markings, road signs, fingerposts, kerbs carriageways, pavements, grit bins etc. Its revenue budget has fallen from £8m in 2006 to £3.5m in 2014, with no expectation of any significant increases. Roadside ditches are the responsibility of the landowner. When ditches overflow onto the carriageway DCC will try and get the landowner to help but sometimes it is expedient for DCC to just clear the ditch. However, many ditches are merely "soakaway" ditches – surface water is diverted into the ditch via the grips and then is absorbed into the ground. On Blackmore Vale clay this can take some time! DCC relies on the public to report problems like potholes – you can do this by ringing 01305 221020 or report by the excellent facility on www.dorsetforyou.com and follow the simple links

Rights of Way: Graham Stanley and his two colleagues have responsibility for 22 nature reserves, 750 miles of rights of way and all the verges and roundabouts in North Dorset. They will do all they can to keep ROWs open and safe, liaising with landowners as necessary. It is the landowner who has responsibility for maintenance of stiles and gates. It is perfectly acceptable to use your own secateurs to cut back overgrown vegetation from ROWs. The Rangers are keen to hear about any problems – again phone 01305 224463 or go to www.dorsetforyou.com/rightsofway .

We are working closely with DCC to try and make progress on building a footpath up the Causeway from the Antelope towards the shop. Funding is in place – we just need agreement from Hall & Woodhouse – watch this space

Dog waste bins:

Four bins are in place – opposite the school; in Zoar Lane, Kingston; at the western end of Coney Lane; and by the junction of Frizzels Hill and Kingston Lane (this is currently at the start of the footpath but will be moved to the opposite roadside verge shortly)-and by the time you read this a fifth should be in place in Drum Lane. We are pleased with the results. The bins seem to be well used and are emptied by our contractor every Tuesday evening and so we don't expect any odour problems. Please make good use of this parish council funded service.

Ideas Please Project – the results!:

Having reviewed all the responses from the community the parish council has agreed to allocate the following amounts - £4,000 to the village hall; £5,000 towards the Causeway footpath project; £750 to the allotment society; £3,450 to replace and extend the play area fence; £1,700 towards work on the playing field; and £100 towards an award scheme for village youngsters . It will be up to each group to decide how to spend the money (but it should be on items highlighted by the Ideas Please survey) and the money will have to be spent by the end of 2015.

Household Recycling Centres – consultation:

Dorset residents are being asked for their views on possible money-saving changes to the county's household recycling centres (HRCs).

The Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) provides 11 HRCs for residents to recycle a range of household materials that cannot be put in their bins. In response to continuing financial pressures on the DWP and its seven partner councils, the partnership is looking at a range of options to make its HRC service more cost-effective. Residents are being asked to say how they might be affected by the following options:

- Closing one or more HRCs. (Potential savings up to £100,000 a year per site)
- Charging for entry at one or more HRCs instead of closing them. (Potential savings £65,000 a year per site)
- Closing all HRCs for two or three weekdays. (Potential savings up to £300,000 a year)
- Charging residents to dispose of non-household materials, such as DIY waste and tyres. (Potential savings £250,000 a year)
- Charging Dorset residents to use their HRCs in neighbouring areas, which the DWP currently subsidises. (Potential savings £70,000 a year)

Residents can read the consultation information and complete an on line questionnaire at www.dorsetforyou.com/hrc. Those unable to go online can pick up a questionnaire at the main borough, district and county council offices, all HRCs and libraries in Dorset.

The consultation starts on Wednesday 26 November and will finish at MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2015.

Cllr Anthony Alford, Chair of the DWP Joint Committee, said:

“The DWP needs to recognise the major reductions in funding for our partner councils and do what we can to help them meet their savings targets. We need to look at everything we do and ensure we provide an efficient and effective service.

“We know that residents value our HRCs and are keen to hear how these possible changes might affect people before making any decisions. It is important we understand the aspects of the service that are most valued by people when deciding what the future service will look like.”

Parish Council meetings: Held on the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm in the Village Hall. During the meeting there is a time set aside for the public to raise matters of concern or local interest.

Parish Councillors 2015			
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