

New Council May 2011

Every four years the Parish Council is dissolved and a new Council elected. This took place in May of this year. Frequently Members resubmit their papers and are re-elected if uncontested. This year four new Councillors have been elected. They bring with them fresh ideas and new skills from their other interests and employment experiences. Our new Councillors are Mr Barry Goringe, Mr Colin House, Mr Michael Hockley and Mr Rod Adkins. The Council elected Councillor Ray Bryan as Chairman and Councillor Mrs Jennifer House as Vice-Chairman. The Chairman is given an allowance of £300 per annum to assist with the additional expenses incurred in the role which includes a number of additional meetings and civic events. Other Members do not receive any allowance, they give their time voluntarily.

There are approximately 38 meetings a year and a Councillor on average gives about 16-20 hours a month in time. Those taking on additional roles such as Chairmen much more. Besides attending meetings of the Council some Members also represent the Council and you the electorate on a number of outside bodies and even litter picking.

Come and talk to us

Did you know that before each Parish Council meeting there is a slot for members of the public to put questions on any topic to Councillors? The open forum lasts for five minutes, which can be extended at the discretion of the Chairman.

You do not have to stay for the whole meeting. Councillors will do their best to deal with questions, or will do some research if they do not

have an immediate answer. Hot topics are welcome. Parish Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month, and start at 7.30pm.

Councillor Mike Dyer

Come and meet your Council

From September for three months we will be trialling an additional opportunity on the last Wednesday of every month. This is before the scheduled full Council meeting. From 7pm the room will be available for the Public to speak privately with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or nominated councillor of your choice.

Purple Haze and Blue Haze Purple Haze site, Ringwood Forest (mineral extraction)

It would be surprising if many parishioners are unaware of this proposal in the Hampshire County Council (HCC) Waste and Minerals Plan, for a site 400 metres from Verwood on the Dorset border, and partly within Moors Valley Country Park.

There has been an active and vociferous campaign of opposition, co-ordinated by a Verwood Residents Association, entitled 'No 2 Purple Haze'. Your Parish Council determined at an early stage to support this campaign, which is supported also by East Dorset District Council and local MPs.

I was delegated to attend a consultation event in Winchester on behalf of the Parish Council. One of the main concerns of 'No To Purple Haze (as well as the proposal itself), was the lack of consultation with Verwood residents themselves. HCC were pressurised to permit further

consultation and there have been a large number of individual objections. A public meeting in Verwood added further impetus to the campaign, and this event was attended by all three East Dorset District Councillors for this Parish, who are also Parish Councillors. The campaign has successfully embraced the internet, local television and radio and the press.

I have established good links with campaign leaders and attended one of the group's weekly planning meetings in July. I have assisted in developing the campaign's natural environmental objections to the proposal and wrote to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to ensure they were fully aware of the impact of the proposals and to seek their support. One of the main concerns has been the immediate and ongoing damage to the East Dorset heaths and their dependent wildlife, that would arise from a go-ahead for Purple Haze.

HCC ran an exhibition and consultation day in Verwood on August 10th and it would appear one of the companies seeking to extract minerals, Tarmac, may have withdrawn their interest, although where this leaves the proposal is still not clear, and the campaign continues.

In October 2011, HCC will decide whether to retain 'Purple Haze' in their Plan, and if so, any organisation seeking to extract minerals will have to apply for planning permission. In such an eventuality, the likelihood of a public enquiry will be high.

Let us hope that the combined weight of the arguments against Purple Haze and the efforts of the campaign and its supporters will

spare local communities and wildlife the noise, inconvenience, destruction and disruption consequent upon over 20 years of sand extraction.

Cllr. Graham Willetts

Allotments

During times of rising prices and reduction in incomes many consider growing their own vegetables in order to bridge the gap as well as providing fresh products for the table. Due to the reduced size of gardens in recent years, an allotment offers a solution.

The provision of allotments within the Parish has long been a wish of the Parish Council, in order that those parishioners who want to grow their own vegetables may become allotment holders. A number of parishioners have already put their names down for an allotment, when a suitable area is located but to date no suitable site has been found.

In these times of constraint on local Government spending, the Parish Council are aware that such a venture as allotments has to be carefully considered and cost is an important issue. It does not have the resource to purchase a site outright, unless this can be achieved by contributions from parishioners or a large donation.

Before the Council can proceed with this project, it is necessary to locate suitable sites. If you would be prepared to offer a parcel of land on long term lease at a peppercorn rent or purchase such land and donate it to the Parish, for the use of present and future generations, please contact the Parish Clerk Mrs Ann Jacobs who will be pleased to assist.

Councillor Mr Colin House

Public Service

Each Councillor is now monitoring a specified Road. If you have a

specific concern ring the Clerk and she will arrange for that nominated Councillor to make contact with you and hear your concern or issue.

Planning and the Internet Cafe

The District Council now publishes plans on the Dorset For You website. If you can access the web you can view the plans, additional information and comments submitted by both the public and other statutory consultees. You will need to go into the East Dorset District Council Planning section and do an address search. As a number of people have been into the Parish Office and been shown how to access this facility, the Council has suggested that the Internet cafe could help out. The Internet Cafe is a fantastic facility and is held in the Committee Room at the Village Hall every Friday morning from 9.30 -12pm. They have full broadband access and can easily show or talk you through how to access not just the electronic planning but any other issue you might have with the web. The cost is only £1 per half hour (excluding any printing) and you can even get a cup of coffee for 50p. The internet Cafe runs other events from time to time such as family history courses. Worth remembering though is that you cannot book an appointment slot, it has to be on a first come first served basis.

Dial A Ride

Dial A Ride has asked the Council to withdraw from supporting this organisation. They have assured us that they will continue to assist those from the Parish who are wheelchair reliant however; they can help more people by concentrating on a smaller area. By coming out to St Leonards it often means that the car is committed all day by one person whereas by staying around a smaller area they can help several with the one vehicle.

However if you need help for a variety of things the **Good Neighbours Scheme is still running call 07933 202112** if you need help, such as returning books to the library, collecting shopping or prescriptions and many other things as well.

Bournemouth Airport Consultative Committee

The Council is still striving to get direct elected representation on this Committee to ensure that the residents of this Parish have a say in issues relating to the Airport. In the meantime you can help, if you have a complaint relating to the Airport the contact details to complain to are:- Bournemouth Airport has a dedicated noise complaints service, where complaints can be recorded by contacting:-
Auto attended telephone number: 01202 364500 or in writing to:
Environment Office
Bournemouth International Airport Limited, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6SE
Email: environment@bournemouthairport.com

All formal complaints will be investigated and receive a written response within 5 working days of receipt of complaint. They may telephone you if you left a message on the voicemail number above in order to discuss your complaint.

Bowling Club

At St Leonards we go from strength to strength. We held a successful Open Day in March resulting in a good intake of new members, and a Sponsored Open Triples event in June attracting other local club teams in competition.

We have several teams at all levels in the New Forest and Bournemouth Leagues, also running club sessions for members on Monday and Friday afternoons.

Internal summer competitions for Singles, Pairs and Triples culminated on Finals Day on 28th August.

Social events are run throughout the year, we had our (last of four) Bowling BBQs on the 10th August, and hold celebratory meals and get togethers as and when.

Anyone interested in experiencing the opportunity of bowling should in the first instance contact David Brookes on 01425 478862

Braeside Road Playing Sports -
There have been a number of accidents involving balls going over from the recreation ground into the Bowling Club compound. The last incident caused an injury besides the shock and damaged glasses. Please take care and ask your children to avoid kicking balls over.

Vandalism

A costly and unnecessary expense, for which the taxpayer ends up paying. You will be pleased to know that we recently were able to identify some youths carrying out such an act and recompense for the damage incurred and an apology has been received. Please be observant and report any such occurrence to the Clerk as soon as possible as damage could put others at risk.



Dog Fouling

An edition does not go by without the need to put something in about Dog Fouling. Whilst reports are coming in about the improvements in such places as Horton Road, the Parish sadly still has hotspots and some of you will know of these. For action to be

taken though, it requires the support from the public. The Council cannot use its powers without evidence to back it up. The District Council has powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices; Antisocial Behaviour Orders and take people to court. To do so without sufficient evidence would be a waste of taxpayer's money. Evidence takes time to collect and build up an accurate picture of what is happening, so that the Council can be sure of success.

So what should you do if you see a dog fouling? Take a note of the date, time, place and description of the dog and anyone with it, report it to the District Council Dog Warden using 01202 886201. Be prepared to make a statement. Gradually a picture is built and sufficient evidence put together to take action. It may be that by identifying either the dog or time that the Warden will catch the offender it will certainly help.

Work together with your Council to help them help you the Parishioners!

On a positive note Horton Road appears much improved, perhaps our offender has moved on?

Council Tax

The Council made great efforts last year to ensure that the Parish section of the precept was kept as low as possible. However, we are currently in a period of great change and a review of Local Government. In October the new Localism Bill is due to become law this will bring further changes. The County and District Councils can be capped and with the Government drive to curb and control spending now taking a grip more responsibilities are being put to the Parish Councils.

Unfortunately we are not always given much notice nor are we given the resources such as finance, equipment and staff to take these roles on. Currently Parish Councils are not capped and can therefore raise the

precept to meet additional responsibilities. The Parish Council does have some reserves which it will need to draw on to try and meet some of these challenges, without knowing exactly what is going to come our way we do need to be prudent. Currently the reserves stand at £98,814 of which £32,984 is ring fenced to meet Audit regulations and contractual obligations. The balance is earmarked as follows:

Earmarked reserve

Security	£2,000
Braeside facilities & Parish Lands	£26,000
Village hall core funding	£4,000
Election Expenses	£5,000
Traffic orders and signs	£1,000
Bus shelter renewal	£5,665
Youth facilities & Play park	£12,500
Office equipment	£2,165
Legal costs	£7,500

Future spending plans:-

Village Hall - In January following receipt of a detailed 5 year rolling programme of work from the Village Hall, the Council agreed to core fund the Hall for this current year a commitment of £12,000. The first half was paid in May and the second half will be paid subject to Council approval of spending during the first half of the year, in October. £4,000 of this is to be met from the reserves and the balance has been included in the precept.

Other potential expenditure:-

Access to electronic Planning – The District Council are moving towards electronic planning, this will involve the Council in purchasing suitable equipment for viewing the plans such as a projector and screen. The benefits are that the meetings should be quicker, the plans clearer and the public will be able to see the plans at the meetings.

Allotments – When 6 or more electors write in to request allotments we have a duty to

consider the request and try to provide allotments. This is currently being researched and land sought.

Noticeboard refurbishment – A programme of refurbishment is being costed and will be gradually carried out over several years to spread the cost.

Patio area at the rear of the village hall – Programme of section replacement to be planned and budgeted for. The patio was laid some years ago and is now becoming uneven.

Localism Bill - Unknown costs associated with and resultant costs for increased administration and resources

Security improvements for the Parish Office – Lone working duty of care to staff

Moving the high netting backing onto the Bowls Club – To reduce the encroachment from footballs. There have been a number of complaints and accidents relating to balls going over into the Bowling Club area during play.



St Leonards & St Ives Ex-Services Club – A Local Club for the community

There are exciting developments at your local club and you are all welcome to be a part of it.

The Committee has been revitalised by the election of several new members thus bringing fresh minds and a new perspective to the club. A new bar manager has been appointed in the person of Candy Vine who has had extensive experience in the licensed trade; she brings with her some great ideas to drive the club forward.

The refurbishment of the club has started both within and without to

give it a more welcoming atmosphere.

In addition to the usual activities of snooker, darts, cribbage, pool, bingo (both traditional and with cards) there are snooker, pool and cribbage teams in the local leagues and new players are always welcome. Saturday nights often have live entertainments and quiz nights are planned. The club often hosts celebration parties for birthdays anniversaries, wakes etc and there is no charge for the use of the facilities.

As an Ex Services Club we feel it is important to honour our servicemen both past and present and to this end we will be having our annual open day and auction in aid of "Help for Heroes" last year's efforts raised in excess of £1,000 and we hope to build on this in the Autumn; as an aside any donations, offers of help or items for auction will be gratefully accepted and put to good use!

As a Club whose membership is drawn from the community we feel it behoves us to put something back into it. We therefore propose to create a Memorial Garden as a tribute to those whom have fallen in the service of their country. We envisage a space, about 25' by 20' open to everyone with trees, bushes and benches as a quiet complete area with a possibility later of a small memorial. We shall be undertaking a lot of the work ourselves and indeed applying for grants, although, again, any help of donations will be appreciated, to quote Earl Kitchener YOUR CLUB Needs YOU!

On Remembrance Sunday after the Church Service at which the Club will be, as is right and proper, represented an invitation is extended to all participants to come and use our facilities.

The Committee cannot however, achieve all of these objectives without your help and support; we will be having an open day later

this year and again early next year. All are invited to these open days, please come along and see us, our facilities and have a chat. Notices detailing the dates will be placed on the Community boards. New members are always welcome – come and try us.

Information and contact details for the Club are: email: 2saintsclub@gmail.com
Tel: 01425 472087
School Lane, St Ives, Ringwood
BH24 2PF



Keeping our Parish Clean

One of our newer Councillors has decided to take action to improve the Parish. He patrols regularly picking up litter. Unfortunately he reports that 2-3 times a week he finds himself picking up supermarket bags containing dog fouling. Firstly its great you are picking up but please put it in the dog bin, putting in a bin and throwing it down is still dog fouling and actually worse than leaving it as it is, you will still be fined if caught. There are two in Dog bins in the Ringwood Service Road One next to the bottom of the footbridge over the A31 and another in the hedge opposite the Post Office.

St Leonards Hospital Out of Hours Service

This service was available to the community on weekdays, weekends and bank holidays. However, as it was apparently being under-used it is now only available at weekends and bank holidays between 9 am and 6 pm.

**Mrs A Jacobs, Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Braeside Road, St Leonards, Ringwood, BH24 2PJ
Tel: 01425 482727**

Email: stleonardsstives@dorsetparishes.gov.uk
Web Site: www.stleonardspc.org.uk