

Warmington & Arlescote



The Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 18th June 2013
8.00 pm
Village Hall

Chairman's Report
2012/13

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The Parish Council

Jeff Deakin (Chairman), Mark Burstall (Deputy Chairman), Jenny Handscombe, Lewis Albrighton and Christopher Hyatt

Clerk: Christine Walker



Warmington & Arlescote Parish Council is responsible for a number of local services of benefit to our community and is the publicly accountable elected body representing some 250 electors in these two communities and the surrounding area. The Parish Council has set the parish precept for 2013/14 at the level of the previous year thereby absorbing the value of inflation.

Please use the village website at www.warmington.info and wireless internet access in the village hall.

Motorway Noise

The Parish Council has arranged a number of public meetings over time with the latest taking place on 14th November 2012 when the findings of a report by an independent noise consultant, commissioned by the Parish Council, were presented and discussed. The report was based on extension of the existing embankment from Farnborough bridge towards Banbury. Two questions arose at the meeting which required further expert research. It has been estimated that some 13,000 return lorry journeys would be involved to move landfill to construct the extension to the embankment while the range of error in the forecast of noise reduction was confirmed as minimal. Revised proposals for the design of an extension to the embankment may come forward during 2013/14.

In the meantime, dialogue continues with the Highways Agency concerning intentions and maintenance schedules. One half of the northbound carriageway received attention in March.

Maintenance of the Fabric

Highways

We have continued to put pressure on WCC Highways to ensure that drains are maintained and potholes are repaired. Severe budget restraints have meant that far fewer resources are available so we have to push even harder to get our case heard and our issues addressed. Despite these difficulties, it is anticipated that Village Road will be resurfaced in the current financial year.

Water leaks and surface drainage have been addressed, although they continue to be a problem, while springs, which appear and disappear, remain a part of the battle to maintain the village.

Lighting

A streetlight in Chapel Street was replaced by the Parish Council.

Verges and Village Greens

In addition to the normal schedule, extra mowing was undertaken to support Jubilee festivities, the Open Gardens event and the Fete.

The surrounds of the horse trough in School Lane were cleared of debris and weeds.

Warmington Pond

The pond outfall has received attention and barley straw has been introduced to the water in an attempt to limit the build-up of green algae.

Parish Plan

The PC has supported the Parish Plan Steering Group which carried out the extended village survey. The results and principal findings were circulated. In consultation with the Parish Plan Steering Group, a draft Parish Plan was prepared. An open day was held at the village hall to elicit support from interested groups and individuals before the final draft is presented to SDC for adoption.

Broadband

There is a national programme to provide high speed broadband to as many rural communities as possible. Data from the parish survey has been conveyed to support the parish's bid for enhanced broadband capacity for rural businesses, home workers and students.

The project has now entered the procurement phase with the release of the Invitation to Tender

on 28th January 2013. Roll-out is anticipated to commence at the end of the year while completion is scheduled for 2015. The project aims to provide super-fast broadband (24mbps or over) to 90% of properties with a minimum of 2mbps to all properties. Currently, many properties in Warmington experience download speeds no greater than 1.5 mbps while those in Arlescote considerably less than this.

Planning



Interaction between Stratford District Council and the Parish Council over planning matters is a routine activity throughout the year.

Representations have been made over the interpretation of planning approvals at The Stables and at the greyhound track. Formal objections were lodged concerning wind farm proposals at Shotteswell, at Gaydon and at Fenny Compton/Wormleighton.

We continue to challenge SDC and other planning and enforcement authorities to ensure that development proposals do not threaten to destroy the rural nature of our village and environment or compromise the conservation of important local buildings.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



A formal letter of congratulation was posted to Buckingham Palace on behalf of the parish.

Financial support was given both to the celebrations in Warmington and to those at the Beacon Bash on the Dassett hills.

Road Safety

Various proposals for improving road safety have been presented to the Highways Authority for consideration. These include formal consultation on one-way traffic in School Lane between the B4100 and Chapel Street.

Community Governance

Last Autumn SDC and HM Government initiated a review of local governance at parish council level. Following public consultation, proposals were made and considered by SDC. Among them was the suggestion that three local parish councils, including Warmington & Arlescote, might amalgamate.

In response, WAPC stressed that existing parishes are discrete and individual communities best served by their own parish councils who fully understand local issues and administrative needs. Significant economies of scale could not arise from a reduction in collective precepts.

SDC, at the meeting of the Audit Committee in November, decided against amalgamation.

Review

A number of longer-term issues within and near the villages have taken a considerable amount of time to address and in some cases advance or resolve. Persistent cold and wet weather over the past year has put a strain on grounds and road maintenance in the village and led to damage of the buttressing church wall. Nevertheless, it was a year of celebration with the Queen's Jubilee supplementing the usual programme of well-ordered, successful events involving an Easter-egg hunt, open gardens, the fete and bonfire. Progress has been made with the Parish Survey while the Parish Plan will reinforce commitment to several principal aims of the community.

Jeff Deakin

Chair

Warmington & Arlescote Parish Council