



NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Representing Northhill, Upper and Lower Caldecote,
Ickwell, Thorncote, Hatch, Budna and Bells Brook

Issue 9

March 2009

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 30 March at Ickwell Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm. This meeting differs from Parish Council meetings in that it's your chance to have your say, discuss parish affairs and pass resolutions thereon. The only persons entitled to speak and vote at a Parish Meeting are the persons registered as local government electors for the Parish. Every question is decided by the majority of those present and voting on the question.

CONTACTING CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

From 1 April 2009 the new Central Bedfordshire Council will be providing you with all services including adult social care, children's services, council tax collection and council tax and housing benefit, education, environmental health, highways, libraries, planning, recycling, waste collection and more!

Telephone 0300 300 8000

Website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to **Central Bedfordshire**
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands
Shefford
SG17 5TQ

PUBLIC MEETING

On 2 February 2009, a Public Meeting was held in Ickwell Village Hall to discuss the condition of Ickwell Green Perimeter Track.

Councillor Christine Hawkes gave a brief introduction to outline the history of the track and the possibilities for its future. She explained that Council had reassessed the legal situation of the track and obtained specialised advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and also spoken with our insurers Zurich. The Council would like to see action on the perimeter track and are keen to act as facilitators and administrators for any possible repair project.

County Councillor John Scott, a long-time local resident and much respected County Councillor, chaired the meeting during the public open forum. A general discussion took place with residents making comments regarding a duty of care of the Council, drainage and flooding problems, Cricket Club residency, the southern track being used as a link between two highways, prevention of proper use of the track due to potholes and use of easement monies. Ickwell Cricket Club had, prior to this meeting, organised an independent meeting that had been attended by 90% of the residents around Ickwell Green. They had all agreed that the track has now become a matter of great urgency and had put together a suggested specification for re-instatement/rectification works to the southern, northern and western sides of the Green. However, when the specification was considered by Council members during the Council Meeting on 2 March it was generally agreed that the suggested final surface would not be suitable. Taking this into account, it was decided that a working party group should meet with contractors to obtain alternative views and specifications on suitable re-instatement/rectification works. The report from the working party meeting will be presented at the next Council Meeting on 20 April.

RECENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council has met twice on 26 January and 2 March since the December Newsletter with the majority of Councillors also attending the Public Meeting held on 2 February.

The Planning Committee has met on five occasions, the Highways and Open Spaces and the Cemetery Committees have each met once.

Council Meetings

A written resignation had been received from Councillor Papworth. The vacancy was advertised in accordance with local government guidelines and MBDC had now confirmed that there will not be an election so the Council may go ahead and co-opt. Members were advised to bring nominations for co-option to the next meeting on Monday 2 March 2009. Unfortunately, no nominations were put forward at the meeting, so if you feel you would like to become involved in the community by becoming a Councillor, or if you would like to know more about the work involved, then please contact any of your local Councillors or the Parish Clerk (details on the back page).

Correspondence received from the Forestry Commission outlined proposals with regard to obtaining permission from the local landowner of Home Wood Medieval Fishery for agreement for a permissive route across his land to join back with the Greensand Ridge Walk. The Council fully supported the proposals. A copy of that correspondence was forwarded on to the P3 Group for their information and comment.

Due to a shortfall in finances THINC Group had requested extra funding towards the printing of the Parish Plan. The Clerk reported that, in order to avoid any further delay in the printing of the Parish Plan, Executive Action had been taken to confirm this extra funding of £320 towards the printing costs.

During the month of February several phone calls had been received pointing out that Caldecote Cemetery was flooded and then, due to extreme weather conditions, the water had frozen over. The Clerk had

visited the site and spoken with the local adjacent landowner, who after investigation confirmed that he would look at the possibility of a blocked culvert/drainage ditch further up Vinegar Hill. It was later confirmed that a section of the culvert pipe had collapsed and would be repaired as soon as practically possible.

A request had been forwarded to Bedfordshire County Council asking for the removal of the triangular area and alterations to the junction in Warden Road to Hill Lane, Ickwell. The County Council had replied stating that after a site visit to assess the situation they cannot recommend that any action is taken. However, details of this request will be retained and reconsidered if circumstances or regulations change.

Councillors were delighted to hear the Chairman Councillor Christine Hawkes has been recommended for an invitation to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in July 2009. As a serving Chairman of two years, her name was drawn out of the hat during the County Committee Meeting of Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils on 19 February.

Planning Committee

The Council is one of a number of consultees who respond to planning applications submitted to Mid Bedfordshire District Council. If members of the public have any comments or concerns regarding a planning application then please do attend the Planning Committee's meetings. These meetings are held as required at 5.30 pm on a Tuesday in the Church Hall, Sand Lane, Northill. Notices advertising meetings and detailing the planning applications to be considered are placed, at least five days in advance of the meeting, on the six noticeboards throughout the Parish. During these meetings there is a ten-minute slot reserved to allow members of the public to speak on items on the agenda. In addition you should forward your comments direct to the Planning Department at Mid Bedfordshire District Council.

Highways and Open Spaces Committee

The Highways and Open Spaces Committee agreed for extra work on both Caldecote and Hatch Greens to clear brambles and other vegetation.

Discussion took place regarding grass cutting issues on Ickwell Green but it was decided that the current grass cutting regime is sufficient. Members also looked at the possibility of the creation of wildlife areas on Ickwell Green, but after receiving a report and recommendations from the P3/Getting Involved Officer of Bedfordshire County Council, no further action will be taken.

Cemetery Committee

Members were extremely impressed with the condition of both the cemeteries and churchyards in Northill and Upper Caldecote. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be forwarded to the contractors David Granger Landscapes Limited. Quotations are to be obtained for the topping up of the gravel paths in Northill Cemetery and the possible re-instatement of a path linking the old and new parts of the cemetery. No further action is to be taken with regard to the Quinquennial Inspection carried out in Northill Churchyard.

REMINDER TO ALL VOLUNTARY GROUPS/VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Application forms for Parish Council grants are now available from the Clerk. Applicants are reminded that they need to state a specific purpose for the funds for which they are applying and to enclose a copy of their most recent accounts. The Council will only accept applications from community groups and organisations within the Parish for grants which in its opinion are in the interests of, or will directly benefit, all or a portion of the Parish or its inhabitants. Retrospective grant applications cannot be considered. Successful applicants may be required to submit a short report outlining the use made of the grant within three months of the project's completion. Although all applications will be considered, some applications may not be successful. Completed applications must be sent to the Clerk to Northill Parish Council by 30 April 2009 for determination at the Council Meeting on 18 May 2009.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thanks to your help, the recycling rate across Bedfordshire has increased from 5% in 2000/01 to 40% in 2008/09. There is still some way to go to reach the next target of 50% recycling by 2011, but with so many dedicated recyclers we can all make a difference by recycling more and more often.

Residents in Bedfordshire can now add the following new items to their existing collections.

Plastic food packaging, food and drink cartons, aluminium foil and worn out textiles are leaving landfill and you can

'Recycle Them Now!'

These are in addition to paper, cardboard, tins, cans and plastic bottles that are already collected. You don't have to separate the recycling or do anything other than add these new items to your current collection bin or bag.

RECYCLE ME NOW!

PLAY YOUR PART

Now you can recycle even more than before!

- Paper, cardboard and cartons
- Metals, including tins, cans and foil
- Worn out textiles
- All plastic food packaging including yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, carrier bags and cling film

LOOK WHAT'S LEAVING THE LANDFILL!

You can now Recycle even more!

LANDFILL

EXIT

Food & Drink Cartons

Yoghurt pots

Margarine tubs

Plastic carrier bags

Worn out textiles

Foil

Foil takeaway tubs

For more information about recycling or more detail on what you can recycle and how, please visit www.bedfordshire.gov.uk or call Bedfordshire County Council on **01234 228385**.

Bedfordshire county council

A REQUEST TO ALL DOG OWNERS

Dog fouling is becoming an increasing problem throughout the Parish, please, please make sure that you pick up after your dog.

The maximum fine for an offence is £1,000. Alternatively, Mid Beds District Council has the power to issue a £50 fixed penalty fine.

If you spot someone who hasn't cleaned up after their dog then you should note what happened as soon as possible. Include the name and address of the person in charge of the dog, a description of the dog plus details of the date, time and place of the offence. You can then forward this information to Mid Beds District Council at

Customer.Services@midbeds.gov.uk

or call them on 08452 304040 or 01462 611222.

MBDC provides bins for the disposal of dog waste across the District although ordinary litter bins can be used if the waste is securely bagged. If you feel that our area requires additional bins then please contact Mid Beds District Council with your proposed location and they will endeavour to provide one in the area.

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday 20 April 2009, at Caldecote Church Rooms

Monday 18 May 2009, at Ickwell Village Hall

Monday 29 June 2009, at Caldecote Church Rooms

A Councillor Surgery will be held from 7.00 pm to 7.30 pm
prior to Council meetings
– this is your chance to have your say to your Parish Councillors.

All meetings start at 7.30 pm.

This newsletter will be published on the Parish Council website
www.northhillparish.co.uk
with links to
www.northhill-parish.info

COUNCILLOR AND CLERK CONTACT DETAILS

Avril Bird	tel: 310384	The Vine, 7 Lower Caldecote SG18 9AX
Jack Coutts	tel: 601698	29 Shakespeare Drive, U. Caldecote SG18 9DD
John Franklin	tel: 627644	Trumpetons Farm, Thorncote Green SG19 1PU
Gerald Gilbert	tel: 314940	193 Biggleswade Road, U. Caldecote SG18 9BJ
Maureen Hall	tel: 627566	Oak End, 23A Bedford Road, Northhill SG18 9AH
Christine Hawkes	tel: 601968	7 Caldecote Green, U. Caldecote SG18 9BX
Sally Mandley	tel: 313812	40 Manor Place, U. Caldecote SG18 9DA
Peter Maudlin	tel: 316212	Water Lane Farm, U. Caldecote SG18 9BP
David Milton	tel: 627661	8 Sand Lane, Northhill SG18 9AD
Wendi Momen	tel: 627626	Wixamtree, 28 Sand Lane, Northhill SG18 9AD
John Yatchisin	tel: 626374	17 Ickwell Road, Northhill SG18 9AB
and your Parish Clerk		
Linda Trevena	tel: 221930	10 St Margaret's Gdns, Biggleswade SG18 8NU

OTHER USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Bedfordshire County Council (general enquiries)	01234 363222
Highways Helpdesk (faults)	01234 228661
Mid Bedfordshire District Council (general enquiries)	01462 611222
Police Headquarters (general non-emergency enquiries)	01234 841212
Police Constable Paterson (Local Beat Officer)	01234 842521

FEEDBACK ON THIS NEWSLETTER WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED
BY THE EDITOR:

editor@northhillparish.co.uk
or via any parish councillor

Finally, thank you for reading this and to our distributors