
MORE BITS AND BOBS

Notts County Council has told the Parish Council that any obstacle placed by owners on the frontages of their properties and which may be on County-owned land could result in claims being made against the residents concerned in the case of accidents or damage to people or vehicles.

LOOKING BACK 35 YEARS

At a meeting of the Parish Council on May 2 1973 under the chairmanship of Mr P J Machin the council agreed that the notice board sited at Whatton Police House be removed and that one be erected for the Woodlands Estate. A ballot had resulted in residents agreeing that street lights should not be left until 1am in the morning. No objection was made by the council to plans for a change of use of the Methodist Chapel into a private house although some concerns were expressed at problems of access to the site.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All residents are invited and encouraged to attend the annual Parish meeting to be held at Jubilee Hall on Monday 19th May 2008 at 7.30pm.

The Parish Meeting is NOT a Parish Council event but rather an opportunity for electors in the parish to express their views on issues affecting the parish.

By convention the Chairman of the Parish Council will chair the meeting and members of the Parish Council and the parish clerk will also be in attendance.

This is your opportunity to raise issues that you believe are important to our community and parish.

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19/21/ Main Street,
Keyworth, Notts. NG12 5AA

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THE GABLES NOT TO BLAME.

In the last edition of the Newsletter mention was made of the condition of the pavement outside The Gables. We would like to make it clear that the item referred to the Barn conversion at what was Gables Farm and not The Gables itself.

We apologise for any confusion caused.

FOCUS ON FOOTPATHS

Public Rights of Ways (footpaths and bridleways) in the parish have been the focus of much debate both in and out of parish council meetings. Public Right of Ways are ‘highways’ and as such are owned and maintained by the Highways Authority which in our case is Nottinghamshire County Council. The actual management of the Public Rights of Way in the county is handled by a number of Rights of Way Officers and support staff.

The debate has revolved around the erecting of fences, the installation of a stile on the Whatton to Orston (via Blackberry Hill) footpath and the surface conditions of the Whatton to Aslockton footpath, in particular Church Walk and the field end of Orston Lane.

The Parish Council has very limited powers in respect of Public Rights of Way and have to rely on the Rights of Way team at Nottinghamshire County Council to manage the footpaths and our only bridleway. The Parish Council can of course make representations to the County.

The narrowness of the path and the continued use of barbed-wired on any part of the fence on the footpath crossing the ‘Fish Ponds’ field are issues that continue to be discussed with Nottinghamshire County Council.

The installation of a stile on the entrance to the Whatton to Orston (via Blackberry Hill) footpath has made that footpath unusable for a substantial number of residents and visitors alike. If some form of stock control is required a ‘kissing gate’ provides the ‘least restrictive option’ and this approach is still being pressed with the County.

Nottinghamshire County Council has not any ‘immediate plans’ to improve the surface of either Orston Lane or the Whatton portion (mainly Church Walk) of the Whatton to Aslockton footpath.

BITS AND BOBS

The Parish Council has agreed a £100 grant to the Stathern-based Belvoir First Aid volunteer group, acknowledging they give a superb service to local organisations who require first aid at public events they organise. The group was formed in 2006 with the aim of providing a local community service to the Vale and surrounding villages. It provides first aid services at local village events to enable these events to meet Health and Safety Executive guidelines and regulations for public events and also meet the requirements imposed for public liability insurance cover. The service is provided free to the event organisers. Last year staff from the group attended 17 events across the Vale and have also provided first aid training for local brownie groups. For 2008 they already have 23 events booked. They have purchased an event ambulance and a mobile treatment centre. They count doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals amongst their volunteers.

Rushcliffe Borough Council staged an all-day seminar on glass recycling. At which it was revealed the Borough are planning to introduce a number of micro-sites offering bottle bins in parishes where currently there are no such facilities available.

The Borough Council say they are looking for such sites in village hall car parks and the like and would arrange for three bins to be provided – one for blue and green, one for clear and one for brown glass.

Parish councillors have expressed concerns over the poor standard of workmanship by contractors who have been in the village in recent months carrying out road repair work on, amongst other places, Conery Lane and Conery Gardens in the parish. Clerk Mike Elliott has written to the Highways Department Manager to point out the feeling of members.

CONFUSION OVER WHITE VILLA PLANNING APPLICATION

Prior to the Parish Council meeting on the 7th April 2008 information was received from Rushcliffe Borough Council that the White Villa planning application had been withdrawn. This information subsequently proved to be incorrect. As a result of the confusing information Rushcliffe Borough Council extended the consultation time until the 28th April 2008.

Another Parish Council meeting was subsequently arranged for the 22nd April 2008. Standing Orders were suspended to allow the members of the public attending the meeting to express their views in an open session.

After the open session, Standing Orders were reinstated and the council discussed the application in great detail.

The Parish Council objected to the planning application and the objects were sent to Rushcliffe Borough.

The outcome of the application is awaited.

WHATTON OPEN GARDENS

Whatton will once again be hosting an open garden. It will be held on Sunday 22nd June from 1pm to 5pm and tickets and maps will be available on the day from the Jubilee Hall - £3 per person. As usual, refreshments will also be available at the hall. All proceeds of the event will go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

It's not too late to enter your garden so if you would like to show off your hard work and green fingers, please contact Barbara Harris on 850117.

We hope you find the new format of the Newsletter more convenient and easier to read.

Write to: Mike Elliott, Clerk to the Parish Council,
Whatton –in-the-Vale Parish Council,
19/21 Main Street,
Keyworth,
Notts NG12 5AA

At the Parish Council meeting on the 7th April 2008, it was resolved that the Parish Council take a more active role in the management of rights of way in the parish. The policy decided at that meeting was:

- To obtain a copy of the Definitive Map for the parish;
- Appoint voluntary parish path wardens (s) to:
 - Survey the rights of way in the parish and produce a report to the Parish Council as to their condition;
 - Perform ongoing monitoring of the rights of way in the parish and produce periodic reports to the Parish Council;
 - Report on the condition and suitability of rights of way furniture (stiles, gates etc.) to the Parish Council; and
 - To act as a local reference point for rights of way problems.
- The Parish Council would communicate to the appropriate Rights of Way officer the results of the reports from the voluntary path warden (s).
- The clerk was instructed to ascertain the precise Parish Council powers in maintaining the rights of way in the parish.

Nottinghamshire County Council and the appropriate Rights of Way officer have been advised on the Parish Council resolution. The details of the footpath wardens will be publicized as soon as they are decided.

Residents are still encouraged to report any footpath problems to the Rights of Way Officer:

Gareth Hudson Rights of Way Officer
Nottinghamshire County Council,
Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 6BJ

You can also report problems on-line at:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

It is important that users of the rights of way also recognise their responsibilities. Using the paths properly and within your rights will hopefully reduce the number of potential problems in the future.

- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals.
- Take your litter home with you.
- Keep dogs under close control and be especially careful when you are walking close to stock.
- Do not let your dog foul the footpath—dog bins are available at three locations in the parish—please use them. If you believe more are required please contact the Parish Clerk.
- Consider other people, both fellow walkers and the occupiers of the land over which the footpath passes.

PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

The installation of the play equipment for phase one of the project was completed on the 22nd April. The tarmac area for the basket ball hoop and goal end was laid on April 30th. This phase of the project is now complete.

The 'take-up' of the new equipment was almost immediate and it was gratifying to see the young people of both parishes using and enjoying the new facilities

Unfortunately, a spate of unacceptable behaviour occurred within days of the equipment being installed. Whilst in this instance it was a case of 'misdirected high-spirits' by younger children and no structural damage occurred, it has nonetheless caused a delay in going forward to phase two (the under 6 area).

Over the next few months essential maintenance will be undertaken on the pavilion, whilst alternatives for a replacement are being explored.

THE THIRD ANNUAL FUN DAY 2008

The third annual Fun Day will take place Saturday 12th July 2008 on the Whatton and Aslockton Playing Fields.

A children's fun fair has been arranged.

The Playing Field Committee will handle the food and drinks, other local organisations and groups are invited to hire a stand and take this opportunity to 'fund-raise' and promote their organisation.

The previous two Fun Days (despite bad weather in one instance) has been well attended. Please join in and make this third event more successful than the previous two.

Please contact: Ray Dawson on 850493 or Gerry Nerney on 850614 for further details

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

We have entered Whatton into the Best Kept Village Competition. Our village is beautiful and we have a wonderful community spirit so it is our view – and hopefully you will agree – that we should all be proud to show it off. In 2007 over 40 Nottinghamshire villages demonstrated their pride in their village by entering this competition and this year we join them!

Initial judging will take place between Monday June 9th and Friday June 27th 2008. The judges will be looking for evidence of general community involvement such as up-to-date notices of local events, footpath maps and signs of general care for the village by members of its community. Although newly dropped litter will do us no favours, old litter, disintegrating cans etc will be looked on least favourably because it shows that no one cares enough to remove it.

We encourage all members of the community to make a concerted effort to ensure that Whatton looks its very best in the proceeding months especially and we will keep you informed of our progress and success.