

# Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

*Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 36 - March 2019*

## **Chairman's introduction**

With elections for a new parish council due on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, this will be the last edition of Bryan Bytes produced by the current council. It's a good time to reflect on what has happened and been achieved over the last four years. Parish councils only exist to get things done in the community and, as well as the myriad of small things that happen on a day to day basis, there are some notable achievements to mention. Since the last election in 2015 some councillors have come and gone but on behalf of the community I'd like to thank all those involved over the last 4 years as councillors and committee members for their contributions, as well as our parish clerk, Malcolm Wilson.

*Neighbourhood Plan* – See the separate article on page 2

*Alec's Field pavilion* – community fundraisers had worked tirelessly for many years to raise money to replace the decrepit wooden pavilion. With a huge donation from the Wonston club trustees making the project potentially viable, the parish council borrowed the shortfall from the Government to allow the project to go ahead. We now have a wonderful community asset that is available for hire by anyone – it's not just for cricket and football.

*Dog waste bins* – we have installed 7 dog waste bins in addition to the District Council bin by the play area. There are 2 in Kingston, and 1 each by the school, Drum Lane, the allotments, Coney Lane and the Orchard in Wonston. We have a very good contractor who empties these for us. Given the popularity of dog walking we think these have removed any excuse for dog owners not to "scoop the poop", but do see the separate article on Alec's Field on page 4.

*Speed Indicator Device* – as mentioned in the September 2018 edition, we have now acquired a "SID". Working with DCC Highways we were able to identify 3 sites that met the necessary criteria and SID will be rotated between these on a monthly basis. The sites are on Back Lane, coming into Kingston from Sturminster Newton, just before Woodrow on the road from Kings Stag and on Partway Lane, opposite the village hall. We hope that the speed limit reminder and evaluation of each drivers speed will encourage people to slow down and observe the limit.

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*Wild flower meadow* – although it might not be immediately apparent to the casual observer, we have been working with Nigel Spring of Butterfly Conservation to transform the bottom part of the Keep into a wildflower meadow rather than the rather scruffy, tussocky grass area it had become. Scrub clearance has been done, some horse grazing was tried (but sadly stopped when village children began throwing stones at the horses), and other measures taken to encourage a diverse range of flowers and plants. It's slow progress but will pay dividends over time.

*Challenges for the next parish council* – details of the forthcoming election are given in a separate article below. The main challenge will surely be pressure from the new unitary authority, Dorset Council (which replaces the old North Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council), for us to take on responsibility for more services without any commensurate funding contribution. Maybe austerity isn't quite over!

*Steve Murcer, Chairman, Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council*

### **Neighbourhood Plan – referendum result:**

Hopefully most of you will by now be aware of the result of the referendum. The result was overwhelmingly in favour with 386 votes in favour and just 34 against. Voter turnout of 47.8% was very good and compares very favourably with other results locally. The Plan has been formally “made” and the Plan now forms part of the planning policies used by the planning authority (the new Dorset Council) to make decisions on applications. With the precedents set recently by North Dorset DC of refusing applications for sites not in the Plan we are hopeful that the sites identified in the Plan will be where development takes place. The Committee led by Ian Stevenson and Val Rubie did a magnificent job over almost 3 years showing fantastic energy and determination – well done them!

### **Local elections – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

Elections for the new Dorset Council and parish councils, including Hazelbury Bryan, take place shortly. As far as the parish council is concerned, we have seven councillors and all these seats are up for grabs. The parish council is non-political, it just seeks to do the best it possibly can for the village and everyone who lives in it. If you wish to stand for election the process is pretty straightforward. (cont)

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You need to download a nomination pack from the Dorsetforyou web site. The forms might appear quite daunting but are not that complicated. The completed forms need to be delivered by HAND to the Returning Officer in Dorchester by 4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. If there are more than seven candidates for the seven places there will be an election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. If seven or less people are nominated then those nominated automatically become parish councillors. If you think you might be interested but want more information do get in touch with the parish clerk, Malcolm Wilson, who will be pleased to help.

### **New web site**

Our new web site is now up and running. Please note a slight change in the address – it is now [www.hazelburybryan.com](http://www.hazelburybryan.com) . Anyone going to the old site should be automatically redirected to the new site. The content is still very much “work in progress” We would like clubs, societies and local businesses who wish to have contact details appear on the site to let the parish clerk have full details and he will try to add your content. Ideally information and details can be sent by e-mail.

### **Rights of Way**

Working with the DCC Rangers we have obtained funding support to improve the surface of the much used footpath from the Antelope to Coney Lane. In the winter this becomes flooded and very slippery and so a new surface is to be laid by contractors to the Ranger’s specification. The landowner has been very supportive. As we write this work is scheduled to be done once ground conditions allow the contractor access to the site, so might well be completed by the time you read this!

Investigative work is also being undertaken by the Rangers, in conjunction with the British Horse Society and the parish council, to look into the practicalities and affordability of making the bridleway that runs from Woodrow towards Alners Gorse usable. Currently it looks more like a mangrove swamp with fallen trees, overhanging branches and deep puddles of water, even in the summer. It’s early days and we’ll see how things develop. Finally, if you’re out for a walk, bike or horse ride and are going on the lanes do wear something hi-viz to ensure you are visible and obvious to motorists.

## Dog waste on Alec's field 🐕

Sadly dog waste remains a problem, including two occasions where a large sack of dog waste (presumably from someone's garden) was dumped in the general rubbish bin by the children's play area. The bin is emptied by a volunteer, not a pleasant task. Also, dog fouling on the football pitch is totally inconsiderate for the players. There are few bad dogs, just bad owners – please SCOOP THE POOP!

<b>Parish Councillors 2019</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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Phil Dimmock	Councillor	<a href="mailto:info@aviationsecurity.co.uk">info@aviationsecurity.co.uk</a>	01344 638666
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