

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 9. Number 1.

Snow locked PARISH

THE Parish Council have been actively trying to get the various parts of the parish unfrozen and have been in close contact with Swindon Services regarding snow clearance and gritting. The PC have also received a number of queries from concerned residents regarding the performance of the Borough in keeping the Parish accessible.

One question that has been raised a number of times has been "Why can't the farmers do something?" The answer to this is that Health and Safety have stepped in and each farmer must prove that they have at least £5,000,000 public liability insurance. They will then be allowed to undertake snow clearing operations. None of the local farmers possess ploughs and these would need to be supplied before such work could take place. A letter was sent to farmers a while ago but SBC could not confirm if Parish farmers were on the list. Parish farmers were missed in this communication, however, the Clerk has since obtained a copy of the letter and forwarded it on accordingly.

SBC state that selected routes throughout the Borough of Swindon are gritted and salted whenever there is a likelihood of the road surface temperature falling to freezing.

These routes have been designated as 'A' (Primary) and 'B' (Secondary) routes. The 'A' routes generally include 'A' and 'B' classification roads and also major bus routes. The 'B' routes include lesser classification roads. There is a link on the SBC website to view a map showing the gritting routes within the Borough of Swindon. The road from Commonhead roundabout through the parish to the county boundary is a primary route and the road to Bourton from Hinton Parva is a secondary route.

SBC state that they automatically commence the process of treating the roads when bad weather is expected. If, however, you are concerned about a particular problem where there is a danger to public safety, please contact the StreetSmart Team.

When an inspector visited the village he informed the Clerk that he was concerned by the conditions and would get the snow plough to drive through. Unfortunately the snow plough cannot clear ice and must have its plough set to 40mm (to avoid damage). This means it skims the surface and gritting and traffic are expected to do the remainder of the work. In the Parish this has not worked because no rat-run vehicles have been using the roads.

The Clerk has also requested new grit-bins at strategic locations and this request is currently working its way through the system. There is also a request in for existing bins to be re-filled.

To learn more visit www.swindon.gov.uk.



Would you like to work with children? Do you have time to spare? If the answer to these three questions is yes, then Swindon Borough Council may have a great job for you. It employs people with a caring nature in a role helping children to get to and from school.

There are jobs for escorts who travel with children with special needs on school runs, for which transport is provided to and from your home address.

Training and safety equipment is provided and you can be employed as a permanent member of staff or as a casual.

The rate of pay from 1st April 2009 is £6.38 per hour. If you would like to find out more please contact Ruth Grant, Transport Co-Ordinator on (01793) 466855 or just call into the Borough Council Offices at Premier House, Station Road, Swindon – opposite Swindon railway station.

Free cycling course for over 50s. Cycling Through the Years is an 8 week free cycling course. If you would like to learn to cycle or get back on your bike or just need some confidence to cycle, then this course will be perfect for you. Come along and learn to cycle in a safe environment along with people in the same situation Saturday Jan 9th to February 27th 2010 10am to 12noon. Classes are held on the Athletics track at the County Ground and led by qualified instructors.

To register or for further information contact Gladys Barr gbarr@swindon.gov.uk or call 01793 511033.

Rural South Neighbourhood Policing Team Update

Crime Prevention Websites & Kits : Many of us have been given electrical goods and other expensive gifts around this time of year. Marking your property can help the police identify stolen goods, and help return them to the owner.

Property marking: It is good practice to mark property and ideally keep photographic and detailed records of valuables (i.e. the make, model and serial number). Keep these in a safe place. Items should be visibly and permanently marked showing your postcode plus the number of your house or flat or the first two letters of your name.

Only use an ultraviolet marker pen when other methods would reduce the value of the object. The mark isn't visible and so this might not put burglars off. The marks can fade in months. It should therefore be used as part of a specialist product, such as chemical trace liquids or microdots painted on internal or hidden components.

Work of art, antiques and silverware should be photographed. You may consider keeping jewellery or watches in a safe.

Remember don't leave empty boxes (of high – value goods such as plasma TV or laptop) outside your home. They may attract burglars.

Immobilise

Immobilise is a FREE online property registration service. Register your property at www.Immobilise.com and help the police identify and return stolen property to you.

SelectaDNA and Smartwater: These are property-marking kits that use either microdot technology or uniquely coded liquid that are invisible to the naked eye. Once registered the kit is exclusive to you.

For further information view the kits online at:

SelectaDNA – www.selectadna.co.uk

Smartwater – www.smartwater.com

If you would like further information on registering your property or the security kits please contact:

**Swindon Police
Crime Reduction Officer
Swindon Community Safety Department**

Tel: 0845 408 7000 Ext 760 111

Contacting The Police: Generally, if a crime is in progress, or just occurred, ring 999. This will generate an immediate police response if appropriate. If you are reporting a crime that does not require an emergency response, or ASB, ring 0845 408 7000. The above calls are logged and recorded, so will be dealt with.

For general information you can hand deliver a letter to the Wroughton Library clearly marked for Police Notice. This should be for none urgent matters. Please note this station is not always manned.

Alternatively we can be contacted by e-mail on; swindonruralsouthnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

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SMALL PRINT

Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Ickneild Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at

preserving the character and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on the parish website and may be viewed

by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is clearly signed on

the wall of the hall.

Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall.

Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated.

The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history.

Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area.

Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six

weeks written notice of their intention to do so.

*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
(Call anonymously with information about crime)

Domestic Violence 24hr National Helpline: 0808 2000 247

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00
(drug related)

Anti Social Behaviour: 01793 445500

Noise Nuisance: 01793 445500

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Swindon Community Safety Partnership: 01793 466506

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs. (NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

0800 456 1213

(Packs are subject to availability).

Council Meetings 2009/10

Wednesday 3/2/10 Bishopstone
Wednesday 3/3/10 Bishopstone (Parish Assembly)

Wednesday 7/4/10 Hinton Parva
Wednesday 5/5/10 Bishopstone (AGM)

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
Brigadoon
Hockerbench
Bishopstone Wilts
SN6 8PW

Phone: 01793 791355
Fax: 01793 791355
Email: lesley@tynash.com
E-mail: lesley@tynash.com
website: <http://parish.bishopstone.net>

Mr Richard Alcock

Orchard House, Hinton Parva, SN4 0DW. 790808.

Mr Julian Cooke

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

Mr Simon Jenkins

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

Mr Stuart McGuigan

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

Mr Rob Selbourne

Prebendal Farm, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PT. 790485.

Mr Doug Stevens

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

Mr Ian Thomas

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

Mr Ian Thompson

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

Useful Information

Highworth Police Station

01793 762251
Mon-Fri. 09-12.30 & 17:30-21.00

Police Headquarters

0845 408 7000
24hrs, 7 days a week

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

Borough Councillor

Andrew Bennett 01793 790563

Fly Tipping and other similar problems

Swindon Commercial Services 01793 463463

Keeping Swindon Safe

SBC 01793 445500
Police 0845 408 7000

Mobile Police Unit

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting:
www.swindon.gov.uk/planning.

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councillors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall and usually take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

Members of the public are always welcome.

Planning:

S/09/1769RM – Construction of a ménage – Oak Tree Stables, Russley Park, Baydon

S/TIME/09/2176ROBI – Extension of time for previous permission S//04/0652 for the demolition of existing barn & erection of 2 no dwellings – Land at Church Lane, Bishopstone

S/COND//09/2172RM – Variation of condition no 4 to previous permission S/COND/08/1045 relating to the training of competition or race horses – Oak Tree Stables,

Russley Park, Baydon

S/TIME/09/2177ROBI – Extension of time for previous permission

S/CAC//04/0653 for the demolition of existing barn & erection of 2 no dwellings – Land at Church Lane, Bishopstone

S/LBC/09/2248CLMC – Installation of 2 no roof lights – Spring Cottage, Nell Hill, Bishopstone

S/09/2108CLMC – Erection of two storey rear extension and erection of garage – 4 West End Lane, Bishopstone

S/09/2241/CLMC – Erection of a single storey rear extension & detached garage adjacent to existing parking area

Conservation Area – Section 211 Notices:

NONE

GRANTED

S/09/1847CLMC - Erection of a single storey front extension (revised) – High Ridge, Icknield Way, Bishopstone

S/09/1846CLMC – Conversion of loft into living accommodation (retrospective) – High Ridge, Icknield Way, Bishopstone

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website at <http://parish.bishopstone.net>.

The Parish Times will always be available on the website. It is added there as soon as it is ready to go to the printers.

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