

Barton Stacey Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2016

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the winter edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. Parish Council meetings are held 10 times a year with meetings being held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, excluding August and December. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Planning Committee meetings are held when there are planning applications to consider. However the date will vary each month to ensure that TVBC planning deadlines are met. Please check the notice boards and the Barton Stacey website for agendas and minutes.

Parish Councillors: Since our last newsletter two Councillors have resigned. The Parish Council would like to thank Councillors Shorthouse and Justice for all their hard work. If you are interested in filling one of the vacancies and being involved in the first tier of local government please contact the Parish Clerk, Jo Gadney or the Chairman, Sue Gaines contact details below. In order to be eligible you must be over 18 and be either a resident, property/landowner or work in the Parish.

Volunteers: Many people give their time to make the Parish a better place to live doing such things as regularly picking up litter, looking after the planters, clearing vegetation or cutting grass in common areas, delivering newsletters, footpath volunteers, pest control and so much more. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to say thank you - it really does make a difference.

Barton Stacey website: The original Barton Stacey website has now been removed. The village owes Andy Glenister a huge debt of gratitude; he designed the award winning website and was webmaster for many years. The Parish Council would like to thank both Andy and Antony Bearpark who has designed and established the new website. **The new website address is: bartonstacey-pc.co.uk** but can also be accessed through the domain name: **bartonstacey-pc.org.uk**. This website is a work in progress so please tell us if there is anything you would like added or changed - a form can be found at the end of the website for residents and/or local organisations to submit comments and requests to our Clerk, Jo Gadney, who is the webmaster. Please spend a little time getting used to navigating the site; there are links to local organisations, Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. The graphics are very good and include changing scenes of the Parish, one of which is All Saints' Church.



Parish Councillors email addresses: Parish Councillors now have a councillors email address in addition to their private email addresses: - firstname.surname@bartonstacey-pc.co.uk (see list of councillors at end of newsletter).

Footpaths: There is now a notice board at the end of the footbridge at the corner of the Rec which provides information on accessing the footpath network when the red flags are flying indicating the firing range is being used. In order to guide walkers using Postman's Walk following cultivation (footpath 6) the Estate is placing marker posts on the beetle banks. The Estate maintains its own footpath network and, when time permits, is cutting parts of the rights of way network, 9, 12 & 19 which can be accessed by machinery. The Parish Council is very grateful as the HCC Rights of Way department is much reduced because of budget cuts. Walkers should stay on footpaths and Rights of Way paths and not trespass on private land. The path which runs from the top of Postman's Walk (on left hand side) down to the back of Ringbourne Copse and looping back to the start of Postman's Walk is part of the Estate and should not be used as a way back to the village. The bridge has now been installed over the Winterbourne at Ringbourne Copse and forms part of the permissive path which will be open to the public once the grass is established on the paddock.

The Winterbourne: A band of 13 volunteers assembled at the end of November armed with a variety of tools and cleared The Winterbourne through the Rec and Allotments down to Church Farm. Most of the Winterbourne has now been cleared which we hope will reduce the risk of flooding. Hampshire Highways are clearing the drains in the area of Greenacres and a dry autumn has meant that the Government Weekly Published Ground Water Levels show that Harestock water levels are below the long term average for the area.

Forest Edge Kart Club: The Club gave a very informative presentation at the November Council Meeting. They explained the strict rules that the Club must adhere to, these include safety regulations and noise levels. Noise levels have to be logged at each meeting and sent to the Motorsports Association. The Club appreciates that the tannoy system can still be heard in the village and are working to reduce this. Members ages range from 8 to 69 and meetings are held over nine weekends during the year. Although the Club dismantle their equipment after each meeting there are some facilities that remain in place so they would like to see more local organisations making use of these and track. The site warden is Dean Howard (contact via the Clerk, Jo Gadney).



The Green: Two Indian Bean Trees (Catalpa Trees) have been planted on The Green. They are deciduous trees of spreading habit, with handsome, large leaves and showy, bell-shaped flowers in late summer; followed by persistent, slender bean-like seed capsules (these are not poisonous). Some local residents have agreed to water them while they are establishing if conditions make that necessary but the trees will not survive if mistreated either by accident or deliberately. Unfortunately some of the established trees are at risk because of disease and remedial work will need to be carried out in the next few months. The overgrown copse behind the recycling bins has been transformed by the efforts of a small group of local residents. However help is now needed to remove the large pile of branches etc. Can you help? The Parish Council investigated hiring a chipper but that is an expensive option. Do you have a trailer or similar to transport the waste to a local facility? If you do please contact the Clerk, Jo Gadney (contact details below)

School car parking: Barton Stacey School suffers from a lack of car parking provision, as do many schools, as more children are now taken to school by car. Please take care when parking as there are more pedestrians and children in the area during the 'dropping off and collection periods'. Do not park or turn on the grass as this damages the surface making it uneven thus creating hazards and making grass cutting more difficult. Local residents are also being denied car access to their properties as cars are being parked in front of drop down curbs and drives.



The Allotments: There are only two half allotments, one of which has been cultivated, and one full size allotment available to rent. If you are interested in renting one please contact the Clerk, Jo Gadney.

Accident at Hill Farm Garage Junction: There was another serious accident at 12.15am on Friday 2nd December at the staggered junction of the A30 and A303. Although the driver of the car escaped with only minor injuries he caused £30,000 of damage to two cars on the forecourt of the garage. The Parish Council raised concerns about this junction yet again at the October meeting, which was attended by our County Councillor Andrew Gibson. He was asked to refer this to HCC Highways. The Parish Council has been in contact with our Borough and County Councillors since this latest accident and will continue to lobby for measures to be taken to make this junction less dangerous.

Recycling: 23.32 tonnes of glass and 3,408 kg of textiles were recycled in Barton Stacey during the period March 2015 and March 2016. TVBC have a recycling initiative, Recycling Stars, which aims to reduce waste and increase recycling. Two drawing competitions were launched during 2016 for the borough's primary school children. Please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars or visit the Facebook page www.facebook.com/recyclingstars. There will be a presentation from a member of the Recycling Stars team at the January Parish Council Meeting.

Contact details of Clerk, Jo Gadney 761287, 07798 502905, bartonstacey.pc@gmail.com

Parish Councillors: Sue Gaines (Chairman) 760564, Jan Lovell (Vice Chairman) 761170, Abi Bettle 07929 214556, Nigel Cooper 761807, George Sarnicki 07549 231266, Cheryl Sherwood 761196, Charlotte White 761680

Also contact details can be found on the website www.bartonstacey-pc.co.uk

AND FINALLY ...A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

