



Brickleton News

Issue 239

January 2022

Brightwalton Fete 2022 Update

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time and services for fete this year. There was a great response and most major areas are now covered. We do still have plenty of room for additional helpers particularly assisting in the build up to the day, collecting bottles, putting up tents etc. Please do get in touch if you would still like to get involved.

The fete will be on the bank holiday weekend on **Sunday 1st May**. All the usual events will be there including the BBQ, may pole dancing, the dog show, bluebell woods tractor rides, the bottle stall, the bar, tug of war, tea and cakes, mayhem corner, the Wantage Silver Band and many other attractions and stalls. We will also be having the pre-fete event on the Saturday night before the fete in the tent with food, drinks and entertainment for all the village.

We hope to see you there.

Dave Judge and the Fete Team

We have heard that Russell Stockdale died. He lived in the lovely old thatched cottage at the East end of the village.

From Annie Agnew

Fingers crossed, there is going to be a Brightwalton Village Fete on Sunday 1st May 2022 - and our new addition is the jam, marmalade, chutney, and handmade produce Stall.

I would be MOST grateful if any willing villagers could commit to making an extra jar or two of whatever home-made delight they've created and then donate it to the Stall to be sold. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of the Village Hall.

The Cake Stall will still be running independently for bakers, so this new stall is anything homemade or home-grown, whether it be honey, lemonade, eggs etc.

With big thanks - Annie Agnew

*Mid-January has surprised us with a settled spell of anti-cyclonic weather. Daffodils are sprouting everywhere, and aconites and primroses are already in flower. We try to ignore all the mud and imagine how the countryside will be in dry warm weather to come. Nature is undisturbed by Covid, so we should look there for calm and contentment as the world adjusts to a new way of life. This year **will** be better.*

Notice to the keen off road cyclists / scooter users

A small team gave up their weekend time and worked extremely hard to remove the donated Cricket Nets poles and boards from West Ilsley, in the hope that these could be used to rebuild the Brightwalton Cricket Nets and allow keen cricketers to practice within the village once again.

It was extremely disappointing to therefore find then that these had been moved, boards had been broken and tree stakes had been removed in the bid to build 'jumps' on the edge of the playing field.

Please respect the time that volunteers give to improve the village and its facilities, and leave these items alone. Perhaps consider building jumps in your own back garden where volunteers don't have to clear it all up again.

Thank you – Brightwalton PC



Tree Planting

A huge thank you to all those that gave up precious weekend time in the run up to Christmas to get the avenue of flowering cherry trees planted. There was a huge amount of work involved to get these 19 trees in - clearing the space, carefully planting and wrapping them so they get the best start.

We had a wonderful team that made this happen and we look forward to watching them grow! Thank you – Brightwalton PC.



Here is the editor practicing for the Wantage Silver Band performance at this year's fete.

NOT TO BE MISSED!

Put the date down in your diary before you forget.



Thames Water finally connected the church to the water mains. Now there are facilities available at the back of the church—a much needed innovation.

In November Judith gave us an impromptu rendition of Bach's Toccata and Fugue to show off the beautiful new organ. Things are looking up.

RUBBISH

West Berkshire Council has introduced a new online registration scheme for access to our Household Waste Recycling Centres, replacing the current paper permits with a digital system. Online registrations opened to residents on the 30 November 2021. *Paper permits, including green car permits that have already expired will continue to be accepted until 28 February 2022.* More information at this website -

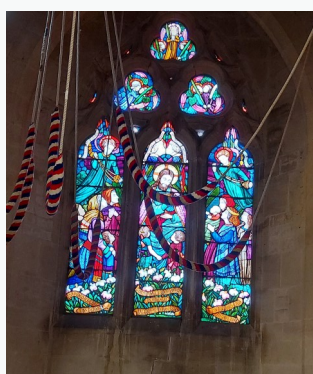
<https://www.brightwalton.org.uk/brickletonnews/new-registration-scheme-for-recycling-centres>

Carol Service (Judith writes)

It was so sad that the increase levels of Covid in December led to the cancellation of the Benefice Carol Service in Brightwalton on Sunday 19th December. The choir had practised hard, and we were looking forward to celebrate the Christmas festivities with the new organ and servery in the church, funded by the Aspire project. However, about 50 people came to the short service held around the Christmas tree in the churchyard later that week, and fuelled by delicious mulled wine, enjoyed singing carols and hearing the traditional readings.



A very Christmassy buggy ride!



View from inside



View from outside

And one of the many wonderful Christmas displays this year.



Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

With all the lovely community spirit at the moment and neighbours getting to know one another, it is the ideal time to keep this going by setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in part or all of your road.

If you would like me to send you details of how to set up a scheme, please phone me, Angela Money on 01635 40866 or forward your email address to ajmy5m7@gmail.com and I will make contact with you. All we ask is for you to be the receiver of the Police/NHW/Action Fraud Alerts and forward them on to your neighbours. Neighbourhood Watch signs, stickers and leaflets are free plus all neighbours receive various local discounts.

It is important for more schemes to be set up as this will help combat crime and make the community a safer place to live.

Tracey Stone, Neighbourhood Policing Administrator.



Do you recognise this picture. It is not surreal art but a picture deep beneath Brightwalton showing parts of the old council house sewage system. Estimated to be between 73 and 98 years old, it has definitely gone well past its sell-by date. What to do about it? If you have any views, let us know. We can't just ignore the problem.

FARMING - from Evelyn Bracey



Ah, those lovely summer days in the pastures! Now we are all tucked into the winter quarters ready for calving in a month or two.



And the fields are all ready for planting this year's crop to provide grain for the drier.

YOUNG FARMERS MEETINGS AT BRIGHTWALTON VILLAGE HALL

Wednesdays

19 January

30 January (Public Speaking)

2 February

2 March

12 March (Quiz Night)

16 March

30 March

20 July (Rounders on the field)



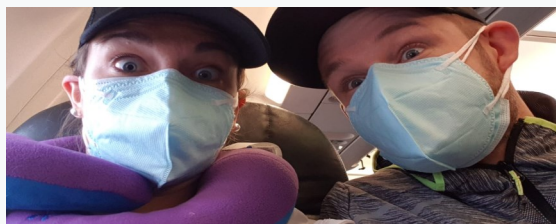
Why not join them?

SHEFFORD YOUNG FARMERS

Shefford YFC have enjoyed a variety of meetings over the last couple of months including our very popular Christmas yule log decorating competition, which this year was taken very seriously by the members! There was serious competition! We also held our annual Carol singing evening outside, which was the first time in 2 years we have been able to hold it. It was a lovely evening singing carols around a firepit with many members, parents and Vice Presidents coming together again.

Our first meeting back in the New Year was a games night, where members bought along many 'family favourite' games including Uno & the Sprout Game (which was different!!). We have many exciting meetings planned for the next few months including Lego challenges, Climbing Wall visit, Lambing visit and many more.

YFC is open to anyone who is aged 10-28 and you don't have to be from a farming background, just have an enjoyment of being in the Countryside. If you would be interested in joining the club please contact Shefford YFC on sheffordyfc@hotmail.co.uk



These two are looking into the problem wearing multi purpose masks.

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AT THE MARCH MEETING

ISSUE 239

Meeting Held on Monday 10th January 2022 8pm in Brightwalton Village Hall

See the Brightwalton website for a full copy of the minutes, plus other news and events – www.brightwalton.org.uk

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

Declaration of Interests: There were no declarations of interest.

Open Session:

Councillor Clive Hooker apologised for being unavailable for a few of the recent meetings, he reported being very busy in his new role as Chairman for West Berkshire Council. Cllr. Hooker provided an update on the Local Plan which had been delayed following the Government's insistence that this should now be a 30 year plan rather than 15 years. This requires further work to get it to a draft stage ready for the next step of public consultation. A general discussion was held on the use of the benefits of Neighbourhood plans alongside Parish Plans, which gave the Parish Councillors something to consider. It was noted that the call for sites for residential development was now closed.

Committee Updates

Village Hall Committee: The report was received: Regular users are making good use of the hall. As well as the nursery, regular hall users include the following and welcome new joiners: Relevé Dance, Brickleton Babes, Young Farmers and temporary home to West Ilsley table tennis club. The hall is available for private and club bookings. Plans are afoot for a fete in 2022 after an absence of 2 years. The fete is a major and vital fundraiser for the village hall so we hope we can make 2022 a big success. We've kept the books balanced through covid but it's prevented any significant maintenance or improvement projects and this can't continue indefinitely. Thank you to Dave and Gill Judge for taking on the lead for the fete and all the current volunteers. We'd love more volunteers and fund raising stalls if any villagers would like to get involved. Thank you to Jeremy Snow for his lead on the previous three years' fetes – although two had to be cancelled.

PCC Update: Report received that the School House had now been let. Church warden reported that The School House is owned by the School House Trust. This is a charity for the advancement of education in Brightwalton and asked if anyone has a good suggestion as to how the trust's income could be spent for the benefit of any age group, to get in touch. The Christmas Carol services with drinks served after was also noted as a success, note to be published in the Brickleton News. **ASPIRE:** Major fundraising is underway for phase 2 of the works, grant for chairs had been received and final fundraising for the Village Co-ordinator was underway in the hope that recruitment process would start soon.

Matters Arising

Brightwalton Hill Tree Planting: Thanks to the volunteers that gave up time on the weekends in the running up to Christmas to get the 19 flowering cherry trees planted. All are successfully in the ground. Highways have requested photographs for their records. **TW to action.**

Superfast Broadband coverage: Clerk had sent out email to the rural parishes across West Berkshire to understand if other parishes were in the same situation with a percentage of properties left on FTTC. Limited response to date, Cllr. Hooker confirmed that it was the same situation for West Ilsley. One local PC had provided a good contact to help assist further. **SY & TW to action**

Planning – Local Plan: This topic had generally been covered in the open session. Councillors were interested to hear that WBC is considering having an independent planning consultant on the team that can provide input to Parish Councils. All agreed that it was worth holding some money in reserve, should the need arise to seek planning consultant advice on a contentious application. Councillors discussed with Cllr Hooker the difficulty the Parish Council has arguing some cases; having expert advice on the relevant policies could really help strengthen arguments.

Brickleton News November Articles: Tree planting, Christmas Carol Service plus note on Cricket Net materials.

Queens Jubilee: S Orpen agreed to set up a Zoom call to check if the VHC, Fete and potentially school had any jubilee plans before trying to get a team together to set up a village celebration. **SO to action**

Finance

Review Current Year to Date Spend and Agree 2022/23 Precept

Clerk provided a copy of the 2021/22 budget together with the year to date spend and a proposed 2022/23 budget. PC expected to carry forward £11,321.43 of Parish Council Savings (compared to £12,002.86 starting the financial year), £907.97 of CIL funds and £370.35 of Pop Up Drinks money. General day-to-day running expenditure for 2021/22 was £6,261.80, as the PC had used CIL funds to help with Dunmore Tree work and playground maintenance (£1,245). PC had additional adhoc expenditure of £1,670 that came from precept and reserves, including the fees for the 20 year lease renewal.

2022/23 Projects for Budget Setting

With small expected increase across all expenditure, the day to day spend for 2022/23 was forecasted to rise to £7,353.66. Councillors agreed a 5% increase on the precept to meet this increase in cost. Which results in an equivalent of £42.43 for a D Band house (up from £40.36 last year). Projects such as an information board for the Old Churchyard, replacement Holt notice board, re-build of the Cricket Club nets, establishment of the wildflower corner and playground improvements would be met by grants and some reserves held. Clerk to produce draft pie chart of expenditure and additional information for the Brickleton News for review at the March meeting.

Balances, invoices and receipts since the November meeting: Balance of the Current Account as of 10/01 will be £2,980.78 Deposit Account £9,035.57. The following transactions were reported: 01/12 Jadecliff Christmas Tree £156.00 (including £26 VAT); 02/12 Imprint November Brickleton News £67.00; 28/12 Clerk Q3 wages £546.85; 28/12 HMRC Q3 PAYE £136.60; 04/01 Penwood Nurseries – trees, stakes and ties £598.30 (inc £99.72 VAT); 04/01 Oakleaf Trees – Dunmore £620 plus additional storm damage branches £100 - £864 (inc £144 VAT); Duplicate Q3 PAYE payment to HMRC for £104.60 made 4th January, agreed with HMRC that this would be held on account and taken off the April liability. Clerk will make note for auditor. Councillors approved the following payments, Clerk to set up payments: 15/01 Arkells – use of Chairman's Allowance £74 supply of refreshments for the village Carol Service; 15/01 Annual donation to the Brightwalton & Catmore PCC towards Churchyard upkeep £250.00

Planning: Received as adjoining Parish 21/03172/MDOPO, Leckhampstead Farm – Application for the removal of S106 condition on planning granted in 1999. PC agreed a response of No Objections.

Any Other Business

Dog Fouling: Continual problems noted with dog fouling on the playing field, particularly in front of the hall where the Pre-School use. It was noted that the bin was full on a couple of occasions. Clerk requested that this be reported to the PC or direct to WBC as a matter of urgency.

Accident on the junction opposite Keepers Cottage noted due to black ice. Clerk reported that salt bins were full and being checked regularly. It was also noted that this was an issue on that day all around the villages.

Cricket Nets: it was noted that the Cricket Net poles that had been saved from West Ilsley for re-use had been moved and were being used to be build jumps in the corner of the playing field. In addition, stakes had also been removed from the newly planted trees. Items had been picked up and moved back to where they should be; note to be published in the Brickleton News.

Meeting Time: It was agreed that the Parish Councils meetings would be moved forward to 7.30pm as meetings were often finishing after 10pm.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm

The 2022 Meetings will be held: 14th March, 16th May (AGM & Parish Meeting), 11th July, 12th September and 14th November – 7.30pm Start