

Newsletter



WARNDON PARISH COUNCIL



**Parish Council
Open Meeting
20th May**

Spring 2020

Chairman's message

As we near the end of our financial year, it's a good time to reflect on the past 10 months of your new Parish Council.

In our Autumn Newsletter, we wrote that the Parish Council were seeking to appoint a new Clerk/RFO. A good number of high-quality candidates applied, which was very encouraging. After careful selection, we are pleased to announce that Susan Howell has joined us.

Susan takes over the reins from Ray Morris, who has been Interim Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on a voluntary basis, giving much-needed continuity and background to long-term Parish issues, as well as ensuring our duties are performed correctly.

We all owe Ray a huge 'Thank you' for his valuable help and his many (15) years of service as a Warndon Parish Councillor. It's worth emphasising that all Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, so Ray's long service is commendable.

Recent purchases by your Parish Council include:

- A new VAS machine for use in the Parish. We hope the defective old one can be repaired; if so you will have two mobile traffic-calming devices for use on the approved roads.
- Two benches for public use (read on for details).
- We committed significant resources to the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan; this is progressing well and the volunteers deserve our thanks for their hard work.

Your Parish Council also funds extra grass-cutting and hedge-trimming, plus Parish Warden activities. Trevor and Luke have been very busy clearing overgrown and fallen trees recently, also supporting local litter picks and volunteer groups including the 'Friends of Warndon Villages'.

We are representing you within the County Council's Public Transport Consultation, the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review, and City Council planning matters within the Parish.

Please keep in touch via facebook or our Clerk if you have any concerns.

New Parish Clerk

The Parish Council are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Susan Howell as Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer for Warndon Parish.

After a short period of induction, she will be taking over from Ray Morris, who has been acting as interim Clerk & RFO for the past few months. Susan is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant and has spent most of her career working in financial and business management roles within the Local Authority and local schools and colleges.



Susan and her family lived in the Parish for several years until recently, when they moved to neighbouring Whittington. She remains a frequent visitor to the local shops and services, so please do say "Hello".

However, it is worth knowing she has an identical twin sister living in the Harleys!

Susan would be pleased to hear from you about parish matters and can be contacted by email warndonparishcouncil@outlook.com

Reporting

Road signage, potholes and street lighting are the responsibility of **Worcestershire County Council**.

Any issues relating to the above can be reported via the website <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/> using the 'REPORT' tab and the map to identify the location. There is also a facility to upload photographs to enable you to provide more detail with the report.



Overgrown shrubs and trees should be reported to **Worcester City Council** via <https://www.worcester.gov.uk/> again selecting the 'REPORT IT' tab, this time you will provide a description of the location and can upload images.



Criminals are increasingly targeting members of the public with a range of fraudulent scams to extract money from them. This maybe by automated calls stating that the recipient has been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription or the criminal tells the victim they are due a refund for an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account. The recipient of the call is informed that fraudsters have used their personal details to subscribe to an Amazon Prime subscription, and are instructed to Press "1" if they'd like to cancel the purchase. When victims do this, they are automatically connected to criminals posing as Amazon custom service representatives who attempt to remotely access the victim's computer in order to steal personal and financial details.

The criminal tells the victim the Amazon Prime subscription was purchased fraudulently and that they need remote access to the victim's computer in order to fix a security flaw that will prevent it from happening again. The victim is instructed to download an application called Team Viewer and asked to log onto their online banking account. The software download grants the fraudster remote access to the victim's computer and allows them to see the victim's personal and financial details.

Action Fraud has received over 500 reports from people about an automated call scam impersonating Amazon.

Also be aware of telephone callers pretending to be police, HMRC or from other official bodies. Courier fraud is where fraudsters call someone, pretending to be a police officer or bank official, warning that there are corrupt bank staff, intent on stealing their money and ask for their help. Typically, the caller then tells the victim to withdraw a sum of money and a courier is sent to collect it.

Police officers, HMRC, banks will NEVER ask for account details or PINs over the phone.

A Worcestershire resident on the 9th Feb* was the latest victim of telephone fraudsters. They received a phone call from a person claiming to be from HMRC and informed the resident that they owed an amount of income tax. The caller then asked for some personal details and instructed the resident to obtain cash and gift cards which an "officer" would come round and collect. The caller also requested the reference numbers off the back of the gift cards.

*at time of producing this article



"Unsolicited requests to remote access your computer should always raise a red flag. It's easy to feel embarrassed when faced with unexpected or complex conversations but its okay to stop the discussion, if you do not feel in control of it.

If you've received an unexpected phone call, or other communication, stop and take a minute to think about whether an organisation would get in touch with you out of the blue in this way. Instead, contact them directly using a known email or phone number."



What can you do to protect yourself?

Action Fraud is reminding people to never install any software as a result of a cold call.

If you receive a call by someone claiming to be a police officer, HMRC, Bank or other official body asking for money, hang up immediately, wait 10 minutes and call 101 using another phone if possible.

Remember, if you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to **Action Fraud** online <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or by calling **0300 123 2040** or if you or someone else is in immediate danger, for instance the crime is in progress then dial **999**.

Over the past two years there have been 3,188 victims of courier fraud; numbers have risen sharply in the last six months.

Older members of our communities often fall victim to fraudulent activity, by exploiting their trust in the police and their bank. Please make older family members and friends aware of these types of fraud.

Even whilst putting this article together, I have received a scam call from an international number, but displayed a UK number, supposedly from **Openreach** advising me I have a problem with my broadband, which I hadn't. I politely terminated the call and reported it to **Action Fraud** online.

Please remain vigilant and on your guard. Make your neighbours, family and friends aware... 'to be forewarned is to be forearmed'.

Geo-caching in the Parish



Do you know about Geocaching?

It gets you outside!

It's fun for the whole family.

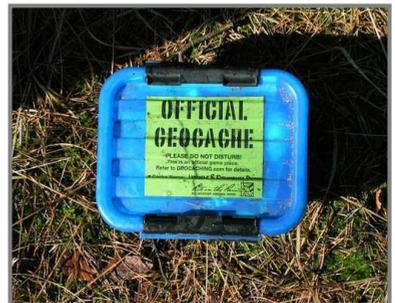
It's a great way to stay healthy while having fun.

Discover places you never knew existed right in your own neighbourhood.

It's a game that takes you out and about, sometimes to interesting places off the beaten track. With the landowner's permission, people hide a container with a log sheet, then put details of the location on the Geocaching website, with information about the area or specific points of interest. Using this information, when you have found a geocache, you write in its log and record your visit on the website, via your computer or your phone.

Caches are ranked for ease of access, some are wheelchair/pushchair friendly, others are high on craggy hillsides. They can be very tiny ('Micro') although many are click-lock plastic boxes, which are reasonably weather-proof and are often large enough to contain swaps – much loved by youngsters ('geokids')!

They may also contain 'travel bugs', trackable tagged items with specific missions whose progress you can follow on the website – mine are supposed to head back to their home cache beside a milestone in West Yorkshire but one has just headed to the USA instead. Another went to Germany and came back by post.



Warndon Villages is home to a variety of geocaches – my first find locally took me to discover our splendid St Nicholas Church! There are more than

Geo-caching in the Parish (cont'd)

thirty caches within a mile radius of Lyppard Grange with a dozen along Woodgreen Drive, set by Messrs Waffle and Jones - and more on Newtown Road. Some form part of a 'cache and dash' series, which can be done by car; safe parking instructions are always included in the descriptions. Some will bring you to the impressive oak trees that are a feature of our locality such as on Cangle Lane.

To find out more, head to the website www.geocaching.com run by Groundspeak - membership is free but if you are bitten by the bug, you can pay a small subscription to become a premium member and access some additional caches. Download the app for £7 – be sure to read the long description to really enjoy your discovery experiences - or print off the details. Do remember to take a pen, too. You can also highlight caches that are easy to find, suitable for newbies. And in some areas, cachers hold meet-ups in local pubs; it's fun to meet the people behind the pseudonyms..... Happy caching, all!

Highway Hazel (aka Jan Scrine)



Parish Council Annual Open Meeting

will be held on

Wednesday 20th May 2020 at 7.30 p.m.
at the **Lyppard HUB**

- Come along and meet your Parish Councillors
- Find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the last 12 months.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Financial Update

March 2020.

This has been an interesting year (2019/20), with new councillors and an interim Clerk. The old Council set a Precept with a view to meeting some large costs which have not materialised, and several projects have been delayed for various reasons.

The much-expected large election costs of the 4-yearly election turned out to be less than expected and the subsequent by-election cost, which was un-contested, was invoiced at £243.00!

Our budget for the Clerk's salary was set at £8,826.00 but less than that will be spent (£2,825), the Clerk's position having been temporarily filled by an ex-Councillor (By law, it is illegal for a Parish Council to pay a salary to one of its former members during the first 12 months after they vacate their office as a councillor).

Other smaller items have made up for some of these underspends. The total underspend, as estimated, is some £7,000.00. This leaves our balances much higher than anticipated and we have set up a new deposit account with Redwood Bank, which will provide us with an additional monthly income.

The result of all this is an ability to spend more in 2020/21 and release several new projects in the Parish.

The good news is that we do not intend to raise our Precept this year ! It will remain at £109,588.00 for the second year running.

**** No Increase in Precept for 2020/21 ! ****

Plantation Drive speeding

Plantation Drive Speeding

Some of you will remember that we had plans to install a permanent, solar powered, vehicle activated traffic sign at the by-pass end of Plantation Drive along with white village gateways to encourage people to slow down.



This scheme was put on hold due to the County Council announcing a new pathway installation as part of the warehouse development at Warndon 6 (now known as Sixways Park). So far, we have heard nothing more from the County Council despite our requests. The 'white gates' were purchased along with the road signage and are still in stock at our contractor's premises.

We are hopeful that this scheme goes ahead during the coming year. In the meantime, the Parish has invested in a new Speed Indicator Display (SID) which is slightly different to the one we use currently. It shows the speed of motorists and indicates, by use a smiley or angry face, whether they are under or over the speed limit.

Hopefully, as residents, you will only ever see the SMILEY face!



This machine has the ability to collect data on offenders and show which times of day the offence(s) take place it's also possible to connect this to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) in the future!

Waste Removal

Whenever you are considering arranging for anyone to collect any waste from your household, always carry out the following checks:



- Don't be afraid to ask questions - **you** have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent someone else dumping your waste unlawfully. Always ask a carrier what exactly is going to happen to your waste and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately. A legitimate, professional waste carrier who wants your business should not object to being asked reasonable questions.
- Ask for details of their waste carrier registration - if you are using a waste carrier to remove household, garden or construction waste you can check if they are registered waste carriers by searching online, the Environment Agency's public register of waste carriers or by calling **03708 506 506**.
- Record the vehicle registration numbers of any vehicle used by a private waste carrier to take your waste away. The waste carrier may be less likely to illegally dump your waste if he is aware that his vehicle registration and details have been recorded and that he can be traced.
- Ask for a proper invoice and receipt. Never pay cash. A legitimate waste carrier will be happy to accept card payments.
- Never accept unsolicited offers to have waste taken away.
- Get more than one quote and expect to pay a reasonable fee - the fees that legitimate waste carriers have to pay to dispose of waste that they collect are not cheap. An unusually low quote, or an offer to take rubbish away for free in order to profit from any scrap metal that may be among it, should be treated with suspicion

Waste Removal

If you regularly create a lot of garden waste and you have space to store an additional bin, you may wish to consider a 'garden waste bin'.

Collected fortnightly it is an easy effective way, of disposing of all your garden waste and saving

on trips to the recycling centre. The annual subscription fee is £62.50 per brown bin, plus the registration fee of £10. For more information please contact **01905 722333** or go to



www.worcester.gov.uk/recycling-waste/garden-waste-collections/apply-for-garden-waste-collections



A brand new footcare service that AGE UK Worcester and District has launched to the residents of Worcester City.

It is widely recognised that NHS podiatry services are being cut and that the over 50s struggle to access foot care for a reasonable cost.

The service provides regular basic toe nail cutting, creaming of feet and filing of the nails for £15*, the clinic is currently being run in our Worcester City office in Shaw Street, Worcester WR 1 3QQ, but as demand rises we will look at other venues in the city.

Clients can contact us on the details below for a form that needs a health care professional at their GP to sign confirming it is safe for us to undertake the procedure.

01905 724294

Email: footcare@ageukwd.org

or visit ageuk.orguk/worcestershireanddistrict

Find us



*also requires a one time purchase of a personal nail care kit from us for £15.00 which you will need to take with you every time you visit.

Neighbourhood Plan

We mentioned in the last Newsletter that a Questionnaire similar to the one sent out to all residents, was being sent out to all local businesses, asking about their experiences operating a business in the Parish. We had a fantastic level of interest, with 40% of the 125 businesses in the parish responding. This has given us a better understanding of their intentions, issues and how they view the parish.

Unsurprisingly people are travelling to work either by car/van/motorcycle/bike; generally lack of parking was not stated to be an issue other than in the north of the business park area. Some businesses would like to see better public transport, with better bus connections into Worcester. Respondents also felt it important that footpaths and cycle paths connect into business development to reduce reliance on cars.

Traffic volume in the area was stated as a weaknesses, although at the time of the questionnaire the improvement works at M5 Junction 6 were taking place, which could have influenced the comments. However, transport links and access to the road network are seen as the area's greatest strength.

Local facilities and the quality of the environment are also seen as two of the area's main strengths, evidencing that Warndon Parish is a good place to do business, with one respondent saying that *'Warndon is a fantastic place to live and run a business in'*. Businesses are performing well with almost three quarters looking to remain the same over the next five years and over a quarter looking to increase their workforce. But there is no evidence from local businesses (and residents) to support allocating further land for employment use in the Parish above the additional sites allocated in the SWDP.

Brodie Planning Associates are now in the process of producing the Policy document. Once completed the Neighbourhood Plan must be published



Neighbourhood Plan cont'd

for consultation. The Parish Council conducts the consultation on the draft plan which must run for at least six weeks. Following any amendments which may arise out of the consultation, the draft plan will then submitted to Worcester City Council which is published for 6 weeks . People can make



comments on the plan and these will be passed onto the Independent Examiner appointed by the City Council, for their consideration. Once complete a referendum is held, which if you are in agreement of the Plan, will require **your support** for it to be adopted. As you can see we still have a way to go, but we are now getting tangibly close. **So watch this space!**

Warndon Parish Council are pleased to once again sponsor the
Warndon Villages Summer Fete



Hope to see you all there!

Parish Matters

New benches

A request was made by the local walking group for additional seating in the Parish, to provide a welcome resting spot during their weekly walks. After consideration the Parish Council agreed to fund two additional benches in the north of the parish, one to be placed in the green space behind Dunster Close and the second in the green space behind Brecon Avenue. These will both be in situ very soon. Anyone interested in joining the walking group who meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, please contact the **Lyppard Hub** for more details.



Outdoor Table Tennis

This facility has proved popular in other areas of the city and the Parish Council are looking to install a table tennis table here in the Parish. Additional funding is currently being sought and discussions are taking place with the City Council, regarding an appropriate location.



Lyppard Ponds Viewing Platform

The long awaited work on the viewing platform by Lyppard pond has finally been completed. The rotten supports have been replaced and the platform now has non-slip boarding. This project was funded by the City Council. Thanks go to Councillor Andy Roberts for the regular updates on this project, which overran slightly due to the bad weather.



Parish Matters

Brecon Avenue Astro turf 'Kick about area'

Earlier in the new council's life we discussed; the state of the astro turf play area behind Brecon Avenue. Your City Councillors have picked up on this matter and have started to petition the City Council to improve things.

The issue of unadopted land has also been discussed; this impacts residents because it is not always clear who is responsible for small pockets of land around the villages. The unadopted land issue also impacts the Neighbourhood Plan, inasmuch as there are some green spaces which residents have identified as being significant which have yet to be adopted by the City Council. Once again City Councillors have listened to the Parish Council and we are now working together with City Council officers in an attempt to resolve the issue of unadopted land.

Environment Sub-Committee

The Council has also agreed to amend the terms of reference of the Environment sub committee to include a strategy objective; we want to find out '**how you want to use the green spaces**' in the Parish now and in the future. Please watch out for further information, as the sub committee will want to hear your views on this important matter.

Wildflower planting

The City Council are currently considering a number of sites within the parish for the further sowing of wildflowers. Part of the green biodiversity strategy is to allow nature to find its own way and so more focus will be given to integrating planting schemes into the green corridors. Therefore the Marsh Avenue roundabout, which last year gave us a colourful display, has not been re-sown, but there are green shoots appearing, which are likely to be self-seeded plants, hopefully giving us another wonderful display this summer!



New Parish Website



The Parish Council will be changing web site provider, moving from the County Council provided service to a more modern and attractive site. The new site will be up and running shortly, so please watch out for announcements on the Parish Council's Facebook page or the Parish Noticeboard.

We will be updating the site with some drone footage of the villages, hopefully taken during the summer when the Parish looks its best. The Parish Council is also looking for some still photographs to add to the website, highlighting residents' favourite spots within the villages.

So the Parish Council has decided to run a Photo competition. To qualify you must be a resident in the Parish, the photograph can be taken on your phone or camera and it must be of a view or special place in the Parish. The top three photographs will be selected by the Parish Council to appear on the Parish Website, so you must be happy for the Parish Council to use your photograph for these purposes. There will be no payment, other than the prize monies.

If selected the entrants will receive prizes of £75, £50 and £25. For further details please go to www.WarndonParishCouncil.org

Please email a copy of the photograph to the Clerk Clerk@WarndonParishCouncil.org, stating where it was taken.

The deadline for receipt of entries will be midnight **June 30th 2020**.

So grab your cameras/ phones and start clicking!



Parish Matters



Dog Waste

With spring and summer weather ahead of us, we all want to get out and about to enjoy our lovely surroundings and do not want to be faced with our streets and green space covered in dog faeces. As well as it being unpleasant if stepped in, it is also a health hazard *Toxocara canis* is a roundworm found in dogs and their waste, which can easily be picked up by young children. This causes stomach upsets, sore throats, asthma and in rare cases, blindness. The eggs can stay active in the soil for many years, long after the dog mess has weathered away.



It is also not acceptable to collect your dog waste and hang it in the bushes for others to collect. Please be a responsible dog owner and dispose of the faeces safely, by taking it home with you or by using the bins provided.

Just a reminder that you can now dispose of your dog waste in ANY of the bins provided as all waste is now being incinerated, it can also be deposited in a bin marked 'litter'.

So this is an appeal to ALL dog owners, please be considerate to other residents in this Parish and clean up after your dog and dispose of it appropriately.



Volunteering in the Parish

Friends of Warndon Villages have continued to meet through the winter months, despite the wet weather conditions.

If you like fresh air and meeting people, then come along and join us; whatever your energy levels, there are jobs for all abilities.

The Group meet on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month 10.30 am-1.00pm. You can keep up to date with the Friends activities on the **Friends of Warndon Villages** Facebook page or contact Dawn Merriman (details below)

You will find a list below of events planned for the next few months.



April 28th	New Plantation
May 26th	Bearcroft Rockery
June 23rd	Trevithick Park
July 28th	Tattersall Park

Anyone wishing to join the monthly **Litter Picks** which are held on the **second Thursday** of the month, we meet at the **Lyppard HUB** at **10.30 a.m.** Events will be held on 9th April, 14th May, 11th June, 9th July, 13th August, 10th September. Equipment is provided.

The Parish Council are aware of the increasing number of residents who take it upon themselves to litter pick around our Parish. On behalf of the community we would like to say a **BIG “thankyou”** to you **ALL** for your hard work in keeping our streets and green spaces looking good. If you are finding it difficult to dispose of the litter you collect, please contact **Dawn Merriman** Dawn.Merriman@WarndonParishCouncil.org or **01905 729250** and an arrangement can be made for the City Council to collect it.

The Villages Environmental Group (The VEG) also meet on a regular basis and have recently been clearing overgrown areas in the Trotshill Orchard. The Group meet on **third Sunday** and the **third Tuesday** of the month. For more details follow the group on their Facebook page or contact **Paul Snookes** on **07742111239**.

Parish Matters



Parish Allotments

It would appear that allotment gardening is still very much in demand with seven residents currently on the waiting list. Two plot holders have recently relinquished their plots, but these vacancies have soon been filled with locals keen to start growing their own produce.



There has sadly been a recent spate of break-ins to sheds, so be aware and if you see any suspicious activity, please report it to the police.

Allotment gardening really is something that all the family can get involved with, what better way to keep the grandchildren busy! The people currently on the waiting list have all registered in the last 12 months, so if you think you would like to grow your own produce, please contact **Councillor Dave Carney** allotments@warndonparishcouncil.org.

This summer we will be introducing a '**Best Allotment competition**' which will be judged at the end of June and the results announced at the **Warndon Villages Summer Fete**. No need to enter all plots will be assessed and points awarded for cleanliness and tidiness of plot, range and quality of produce and environmentally friendly aspects of gardening i.e. water conservation, composting and mulching and how wildlife friendly the plot is. Prizes of £50 & £25 gardening vouchers will be given respectively to the Winner and Runner up.

Debdale Avenue Play Park

The City Council will shortly commence work on the refurbishment of the Debdale Avenue Play area. There will be dinosaur themed play equipment with a new natural rubber mulch surface. It will be necessary to close the park whilst the work is carried out.



Your Parish Council

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Clerk to the Council

Susan Howell

(Telephone number not available at time of printing)

E-mail: Clerk@WarndonParishCouncil.org

The Council meets on the first Monday in the month (except Bank Holidays & August)
at 7.30pm in the Lyppard Hub.

**PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND SPEAK DURING THE FIRST 30 MINUTES BY
PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Please contact the appropriate Councillor(s) or the Clerk on any matter with comments,
complaints, or if you just need advice or information.

web site: www.WarndonParishCouncil.org

or follow us on facebook.com/warndonparishcouncil

