

e-Newsletter 01.09



News from Salford Priors Parish Council

Parish Council News:

Council Tax

The main item considered at the Parish Council meeting was the precept for the next financial year. This is the sum of money requested from Stratford on Avon District Council to cover the cost of the services provided by the Parish Council such as grass mowing, flower planters, The Other Place salford (TOPs), street lighting, the playing field, etc. and also the contact point for local people with the principle authorities, the District and County councils.

The precept is shown separately on the council tax demand.

Bearing in mind the current economic situation the Parish Council decided to **reduce** the precept from £42500 in 2008/09 to £41000 for 2009/10 a **reduction of 3.5 per cent**. This is equivalent to a payment of £1.44 per household per week for a Band D council tax payer.

Bidford on Avon's Parish Precept 5% increase !

Flooding:

The inspection of locations prone to flooding and possible remedial works, the clerk will be meeting contractors & highway officers over the next few weeks.

Other Issues:

The council will be inviting tenders for the flower planter contract.

An independent safety inspection of the play equipment has been carried out.

The removal of the "crack" willows opposite Bomford Turner in Station Road has caused some concern amongst residents and the Clerk is contacting the Highways Agency to improve the appearance of the stumps and the triangle of land where they are located. The work was carried out by the Agency as a matter of urgency because the trees presented a danger to road users but the Parish Council were only informed on the morning the work was started!

Affordable Homes -Housing mapping event:

The housing survey carried out last year identified a need for a small number of affordable homes for local people.

On Saturday 10th. January, over a hundred residents visited the TOPs Building to make their views known on where these homes might be sited.

Residents found a large scale map of the parish laid out on tables and were invited to place green pins on sites they thought might be suitable for building and red pins where they thought building would not be desirable.

Staff from the Warwickshire Rural Community Council are analysing the results and will report back to the Parish Council.

Allotments:

Parish Councillors and Allotment holders met and agreed on a number of measures to help existing holders and to encourage new people to take up a plot.

The Council agreed to improve advertising of the vacant plots, to permit half-size plots, to seal the gap in the fence and hedge at the Scout Hut end to discourage dog walkers, to provide a 50 per cent discount for pensioners and those on benefits.

The council will consider a rent review at a later date.

It also agreed to provide 8 tonnes of compost to improve the quality of the soil.

Anyone interested in taking up a full plot or half-size plot should contact the Clerk.

Parish Council Surgeries:

Councillors will be in attendance at the Parish Office on the dates below to hear of any problems residents might have and, hopefully, help them to deal with them:

Saturday 21 st . February,	10.00am to noon.
Wednesday 25 th . March,	6pm to 8pm.
Saturday 25 th . April,	10.00am to noon.

Next Parish Council meeting:

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall on: Wednesday 18th. February at 7.30pm.

Your opportunity to raise issues in the open forum, county & district councillors present.

Have you heard about Community Forums?

The Community Forums are an advisory body, which act as a key vehicle for community engagement within the locality. Members of the public can raise issues of concern and wherever possible, together with relevant agencies, solutions to those concerns can be worked out.

The next forum meeting in our area is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday 10th February 2009, 6 pm at Crawford Memorial Hall. Bidford.**

If you have a specific concern or problem, then come along to the local surgery from 5 pm – 6 pm where you will be able to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Team, Warwickshire County Council or Stratford-on-Avon District Council Officer.

If you would like to suggest an issue for a future Community Forum meeting, or get involved, please contact the WCC Stratford Area Office on 01789 290784 or email: stratfordoffice@warwickshire.gov.uk.

For further information on the forums visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/communityforums

A meeting with a difference – An opportunity to get your voice heard!

Fireworks at Ragley:

We have been informed that there will be a private firework display on Saturday 2nd March at 10.45pm for approximately 15 mins.

Appointment of Internal Auditor

The council considered a report presented by the Clerk listing responses to enquires from both Warwickshire & Worcestershire potential auditors.

Mrs Louise Best a qualified accountant was appointed the council's internal auditor, Mrs Best is currently internal auditor for Leamington Spa Town Council and a number of Warwickshire Parish Councils.

Do you know anyone who would like to be on the distribution list for this newsletter?
Do you wish to be taken off the distribution list?
Do you have news you would like to pass on or a village event to publicise?
Please let the Clerk know by sending an e-mail to clerk@salfordpriors.gov.uk
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