

COUNCIL FREEZES PRECEPT - AGAIN

The Finance and General Purposes Group of the Parish Council met interested residents in November to discuss the budget for the next financial year. It was a very useful meeting and following this, at the next Council meeting, it was agreed to maintain the precept at £47,000. For a Band D property this represents a cost of £1.65 per week. This will be the third year that the precept has been at this level.

THE LIGHTS

At last we can see an end to the issues relating to the footway lights. There is probably a novel waiting to be written describing the whole saga that started back in 2009 when the Parish Council decided to carry out an independent inspection of all its lights. From that moment there has been an inexorable progress to where we are now. Our dealings with Western Power Distribution have been tortuous with key staff being terminated as that company goes through yet another restructuring. Now, nearly all the wooden poles have been disconnected and most have been removed by our very efficient local contractor, Roger Small from Harvington. Some of the poles were found to carry other services such as BT wires or special power gear and the liability and ownership of these have been taken over by the companies concerned.



Cross-sections from two of the rotten lighting poles

Several consultations took place regarding lights on the main estate areas and after much discussion the Parish Council decided to retain those lights on Steel or Concrete

columns and part-night timers have been fitted to all of them. As has been explained before, these timers take a while to re-adjust in the event of a power outage but residents should be assured that the Council pays a calculated sum for each light so even if it is on all day whilst it is re-adjusting there is no extra charge to us.

The Council has also looked at specific locations where residents feel that a light really is very important and has agreed to provide new lights where possible. An order has been placed to locate a new light in the path between Ridsdale Close and School Avenue. A light on the shop is being discussed with the owner and an order has been placed to move one of the solar lights from the Playing Field to School Road opposite the entrance to Orchard Farm. At the Playing Field, the height of the hedge has been lowered so that the light in the corner of the car park can illuminate most of the path to the scout hut.

CIVIC RECEPTION

Two former Salford Priors Parish Councillors were awarded the title of Honorary Freeman of the Parish at a Civic Reception on Friday 7th October. The honour was conferred on ex-chairman Kim James who was a member of the Council for 26 years and on former Cllr. Reg Francis who has served the community in many roles for 37 years. More than ninety local residents attended the ceremony which also recognised the work done by former parish councillor Peggy Pane, former District Councillor Brian Slaughter, and former parish clerk, Eddie Clarke. Cllr. James continues to represent the parish as a member of Stratford on Avon District Council.

NEW COUNCIL

Elections to the new parish council will take place on Thursday 3rd May. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor and would like to know more about what is involved please contact the Clerk.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All residents are invited to attend Parish Council meetings. These are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors. This year, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 5th. April, also at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall where there will be items about the local Community Forums and also from one of the major employers in the parish.

MILLENIUM OAK

We are sorry to have to report that the Millenium Oak planted on the Green at Iron Cross in 2000 has had to be removed because it developed a genetic fault; the trunk split in two and was in danger of falling to the ground. The Council has decided to replace the oak with a new tree to be named the Diamond Jubilee Oak!

MAKE SAVINGS ON THE COST OF YOUR HEATING OIL

The Parish Council has been considering whether residents could make savings on the cost of their heating oil by joining together as a co-operative. We have found a local supplier, Rix Petroleum, who operate a very simple community scheme where they do all the work! By bulk buying and by concentrating deliveries to discrete areas savings can be achieved. In addition, a small sum is passed on to a good cause in our area such as the local school. If you are interested in using Rix as your supplier please e-mail your details to the Clerk so that we may see if there is sufficient interest to proceed.

SNOW WARDENS

The County Council has launched a network of voluntary snow wardens to aid the community in the event of a spell of snow and ice. Snow wardens will endeavour to enlist help from their neighbours and clear pavements and drives and in so doing, greatly assist the local community and vulnerable people. During severe weather, snow wardens will also provide information to the County Highways Team and will advise on local needs. The Government Snow Code states that there is no law stopping you clearing snow and ice on the pavement

outside your property or nearby public spaces.

METAL THEFTS – WATCH OUT!

We have had a spate of metal thefts in Dunnington - gates have been taken from the Baptist Church and a private house adjacent. The contents of a van (power tools etc.) were also taken. Several hundred gully covers have also been stolen. Please look out for any suspicious activity.

ALCESTER CAFE

Alcester Cafe has just opened its doors to people with dementia, their carers, families and friends. It is run entirely by volunteers who want to help by providing information, care, and support. Meetings are held at Globe House every Friday from 10.30am to 12.30am. Contact number is 01789 488 088.

PICK IT UP OR FACE A FINE!

Inconsiderate dog owners beware! A Bidford resident has been fined £60 because they did not clear up after their dog. If you walk a dog take a supply of bags with you and deposit any dog waste in the nearest bin.

E-NEWSLETTER

From time to time the Clerk sends out items of parish news, the Police newsletter, and information from the District and County Council to residents who have provided their e-mail addresses. If you would like to receive this information please send an e-mail to the Clerk. If you used to receive this, but don't now, it may be because your e-mail address has changed. Please contact the Clerk.

COUNCILLORS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Cllr. J.R.Stedman	Tel: 01789 773 999 Chairman of the Council
Cllr. L.Wright	Tel: 01789 7784 96 Vice-Chairman of the Council
Cllr. A.W.Wolfe	Tel: 01789 773 610
Cllr. D.C.Penn	Tel: 01789 778 670
Cllr. L Robinson	Tel: 01789 774 545
Cllr. A L Quiney	Tel: 01789 490 639
Cllr. L Maude	Tel: 01789 765 295
<u>Clerk to the Council</u>	Office Tel. 01789 491 336
Mr. Michael Philpott	Home Tel. 01789 772 934
E-mail to Clerk	clerk@salfordpriors.gov.uk
Website	www.salfordpriors.gov.uk

The Parish Office is situated at the rear of the Memorial Hall in Salford Priors and is generally open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.00am to Noon