

A message from our Chairman

Dear Residents

May saw the arrival and the outcome of the National, Borough and Parish Council elections. Most people I spoke to here were only too glad that finally the day to vote had arrived after what had seemed like weeks of political argument and counter argument on the television almost every night.

As a result the ruling Conservative party maintained its position nationally with a small overall majority. Borough Councillors representing Hunsbury Meadows maintained their seats but with a new Borough Council leader. The Hunsbury Meadows Parish Councillors standing for re-election were unopposed, therefore reinstated for a further period of four years. However we currently have two Councillor vacancies at Hunsbury Meadows. We urgently need residents' willingness to support us if we are to make this a really compelling area to live in. Come and talk to us for more information on what being a Councillor really means. As Chairman and Leader of the Parish Council I believe that there is much more that can be done to improve the residential environment here at Hunsbury Meadows.



The Parish Council is always busy making improvements, and we recently ensured the swift arrival of the Borough Council's grass cutting contractors. With the grass now mowed, the area is looking much more presentable ready for summer. However, there's always more to be done, and we now need to address the grass which has been left all over the pathways, as well as the weeds. We've set the wheels in motion by requesting treatment with selective herbicides, and are awaiting a positive response from the Council.

Councillors in conjunction with the Police have been in contact with David Wilson Homes to request a partnership approach to ensure a children's play area at Pineham Lock that meets the needs of older children as well as our younger ones. Regrettably David Wilson Homes has turned down any further opportunity for discussion siting that planned work was already imminent and would be in breach of local planning. Meanwhile, the children's play area off Banbury Lane has once again been vandalised, with severe damage to the safety surface making it dangerous for young children and adults alike. The Police are aware and investigations under way.

The issue of speeding on Banbury Lane has been raised again and the Council intend to open discussions with the police regarding this. We will enquire about the possibility of a mobile speed camera, particularly during morning and evening rush hours on odd days. Parking on pavements, most notably on Riverstone Way, is also becoming a growing problem. This doesn't just hinder road safety, but also affects access for emergency vehicles. Residents are requested to park in drives or garages wherever possible.

Your Council continues to push for the completion of the towpath works; we believe the completion is close now but keep your fingers crossed. A further litter pick day will be announced soon as we had in excess of 20 residents attend in April with almost 10 complete bags of litter being removed from our hedgerows. Many thanks go to all those who attended. Further initiatives will be announced on our Parish website and our brand new Twitter account

Enjoy the holiday period and we look forward to seeing more of you attending the Parish meetings, held on the first Wednesday of every month bar August and December in 2015.

Steve Jelley - Chairman, Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council

Four ways to keep in touch with us, with regular updates and local news issues for Hunsbury Meadows.

www.hunsburymeadows.co.uk



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Email: hmpc13@gmail.com

Parish Council Elections

As parishioners will know, elections for the Parish Council were due to be held in May for the eight seats available on the Council. In the event, elections proved unnecessary as there were only seven nominations put forward. Consequently, the following candidates were automatically appointed to the Parish Council:

Debbie Hammond	165 Riverstone Way
Stuart Hemming	58 Riverstone Way
Stephen Hiscock	11 Lynmore Close
Sandy Hudson	3 Cobblestone Court
Steve Jelley	3 Quarterstone
Alan Maskell	11 Towpath Avenue, Pineham Lock
Janice Peach	4 Quarterstone

Subsequently, Steve Jelley was re-elected as Chairman and Debbie Hammond re-elected as Vice-Chair.

Janice Peach has, since the election, had to tender her resignation due to family commitments elsewhere.

Consequently, there are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council, which the Council is now able to fill by co-option (unless sufficient residents demand a by election to fill the vacancies). The Council is anxious to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. Would anyone who is interested in joining the Council please contact any member at the above addresses, or get in touch via the website. The Council would be particularly pleased to receive applications from the younger members of our community. Anyone living within the Parish who is 18 or over can apply (with one or two minor exceptions).

Why do we need a Parish Council?

The question arises, from time to time, as to why we need a parish Council in Hunsbury Meadows? Hopefully, reading this newsletter will provide some of the answers.

By having a Parish Council, we are able to ensure that the standards of maintenance etc throughout the parish are at a higher standard than they otherwise would be. On your behalf we have regular contact with all local service providers; Councils, Police, etc to ensure that any problems within the parish get attended to promptly and without fuss. Consequently, we hope and believe that we contribute towards a safer and more comfortable environment in which to live.

The cost to residents is not excessive; the exact amount for each household is shown on your Council Tax bill. The Band D equivalent is just £29.08 per annum (the actual amount your family pays depend upon the Council Tax band of your property.) Furthermore, because of the expanding nature of our community, there has been no increase in this amount, compared to the previous financial year. Your Parish Council believes we offer considerable value for money.

Parish Council meetings are held in public and are generally held on 1st Wednesday in every month and are held at Parsons Meade Community Hall in West Hunsbury (almost opposite the Hunsbury Hill shop) commencing at 7.15pm. Why not come along and express your views – you will be made most welcome. The minutes of Parish Council meetings are displayed on parish notice boards. Please note there is no meeting in August.

Banbury Lane Trees

The Parish Council is currently liaising with the County and Borough Councils to arrange for the street trees on Banbury Lane to be reduced in height and to be generally tidied up. This will be a major operation and it is hoped that it will be completed some time in the autumn.

It is a difficult problem to overcome, because the land upon which the trees stand is in the ownership of different Councils and a financial arrangement with those involved will therefore be necessary.

Residents are also reminded that trees or hedges that grow alongside a right of way are the responsibility of the property owner or occupier. So please where your hedges, trees or shrubs endanger or obstruct the passage of pedestrians keep them maintained in a tidy manner.





Litter Collection

The Parish litter collection held on 11th April was a huge success. Around 20 residents attended on the morning and collected around 8 bags of litter, which were collected by the Borough Council.. Many thanks to all of those who took part and to the Borough Council's contractors who supplied all of the equipment.

Such was the success of the day that the Parish Council wishes to make this a half-yearly event. Please include Saturday 10th October in your diary for the next Parish clean up.

Banbury Lane / Upton Valley Way Development

Residents, particularly those who live near to the proposed development on the land adjacent to the junction of Banbury Lane and Upton Valley Way (by the traffic lights), will be aware of the recent proposals to build on this Site. Your Parish Council is monitoring this situation as it develops and will endeavour to ensure the most favourable outcome for the Parish and its residents. In the meantime, the Council will continue with minimal maintenance of "The Mound" to ensure that the area remains as tidy and attractive as possible.

Northamptonshire Local Offer (for young persons with special needs)

Do you help to support someone with a disability or special educational need aged up to 25? Or are you yourself requiring support? Then the Local Offer is for you!

The Local Offer is for young people living with special needs in Northamptonshire. It signposts services and facilities which are available across the county, providing information for young people, their family and carers alike.

For more information contact:-

T: 01604 368567

W: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/localoffer

Youth Ambition Awards 2015

2015 marks the third anniversary of the annual Youth Ambition Awards. This fantastic scheme showcases some of the achievements which our young people are making at school, at home and within their local community.

Nominations are now open and we'd love to see as many people as possible nominate a young person they know who deserves recognition.

You can find out more information about the awards, including how to submit a nomination, by visiting www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/youthambition, or click on the banner below.

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YOUR ADVERT HERE

Your Parish Council is keen to provide a facility for local tradesmen and businesses to advertise their expertise in this newsletter; which will be distributed free to every household in the Parish, whilst at the same time helping the Council to reduce the cost of newsletter production.

The cost of an advert this size is just £24 per issue, or £60 per annum (a minimum of 3 issues) inc VAT. Please contact the Council to place your advert in the next issue.

There continue to be sporadic minor acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour around the Parish, which distress residents and cause senseless damage (which has to be repaired at public expense.) The Parish Council will take action against anyone caught damaging Parish property and has already recorded successful prosecutions against persons causing such damage



The public are reminded that the 101 Service is there for anyone spotting wilful damage being caused to



property or generally causing a nuisance and that the police will respond as quickly as they can to any such calls. Previous prosecutions have been successfully made thanks to residents calling this number, so your vigilance is always appreciated.

You will also have received a leaflet from Northamptonshire Police for Street Watch. If we can get one up and running in Hunsbury Meadows it will help prevent crime, assist the police and increase the feeling of safety. Please read the leaflet and we would welcome and support residents wishing to participate in the scheme.

VACANCY

Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council has a vacancy for a parish clerk and responsible finance officer. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, although training will be offered and enthusiasm to learn will be seen as an alternative to formal qualifications. The parish clerk will be responsible for the administration of the business and finances of the council.

The post includes some evening work and mandatory attendance at monthly Council meetings. The successful applicant would be expected to have, or be prepared to obtain, CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration). He or she must be computer literate, with good communication skills. Friendly and positive outlooks are essential.

20 hours per month (5 hrs a week) Work from home.
Salary to be discussed

Please apply in writing to:- Debbie Hammond
Vice Chairman, Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council
165, Riverstone Way, Hunsbury Meadows
Northampton NN4 9QW
01604 475071 or 07791 001203
or Email hmpc13@gmail.com
Closing date 24th August 2015

Village Hall Questionnaire

The response to the questionnaire included in our last newsletter was very disappointing, with only a handful of questionnaires being returned. Such was the poor response that the Council was unable to draw any conclusions. Consequently, we will defer consideration of this idea for the time being.

Children's Playground

The Council has included some provision within this financial year's budget to maintain and upgrade the equipment in the children's playground off Banbury Lane. The Council would welcome any ideas or views from residents as to what should be included (within reason!) We are eager to provide equipment which is popular, and will be well used by children of all ages.

**CALL YOUR
LOCAL
POLICE**



101

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

WHEN SHOULD I USE 101?

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, if:

- Your car has been stolen
- Your property has been damaged
- You suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood

Or to:

- Report a minor traffic collision
- Give the police information about crime in your area
- Speak to the police about a general enquiry

You should always call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.