



Spring Newsletter

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MELKSHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk Teresa Strange & Chair John Glover

GRANTS

The parish council provide grant funding for a variety of organisations based in the parish, as well as from the wider community that benefit the residents of Melksham Without.

Grants totalling £38,000 were presented at the Annual Parish

meeting last week, the meeting is always interesting as we hear from such a wide range of groups providing activities, support and venues in the parish and the council are always amazed at the sheer volume of volunteers giving up their time to help others locally.

REAL TIME INFORMATION ON BUS ROUTES



The parish council are delighted that they are finally able to move forward with a project we have been working on for several years, to install Real Time Information in bus shelters.

The first installations will be in Mitchell Drive and Kestrel Court in Bowerhill, with others planned in the

Market Place, as we are joining up with the Town Council to ensure that the service is across the two communities, and then plan to roll out across the wider area of both town and parish.

The pilot installations are jointly funded with Wiltshire Council's Passenger Transport team.

SHURNHOLD FIELDS

This public open space is a joint project with Melksham Town Council. One of the remaining major tasks to complete is the construction of a small car park and improvements to the entrance.

Unfortunately, there have been some holdups with this project while discussions were taking place between the Environment Agency and the Land Drainage team at Wiltshire Council in respect of flood prevention. Wiltshire Council has been successful in obtaining grant funding from the Environment Agency for a flood alleviation scheme in the area, which includes

bunds being created to help protect the properties in Dunch Lane, which will need to be completed before the car park and entrance improvement project can commence. It is hoped that the flood prevention works will start later this year once land drainage consent has been received.

A new wildflower meadow area is proposed to be planted by Wessex Water as a biodiversity offset for their first-time mains drainage project installed in Beanacre.

Thanks go to the Friends of Shurnhold Fields for their regular working parties to improve the area for the enjoyment of all.

MELKSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Melksham Neighbourhood Plan steering group is made up of representatives from the parish and town council, Wiltshire Council and members of the community.

They are just coming to the end of their review of all the many comments received from the community, developers, landowners and statutory bodies following the consultation at the end of last year, with amendments to the Plan where appropriate. Once complete this will be consulted on again, be examined by a Planning Examiner and go out to you as the public to vote on at a Referendum next year. It's a lot of detailed work, but important as the Plan, alongside Wiltshire Council's



Local Plan, sets out where development will be in the next 15 years, and the infrastructure to support it.

ASSET MANAGEMENT



The parish council maintain assets ranging from play areas and sports fields to bus shelters, noticeboards and bins.

These all need regular maintenance and a programme of replacement on a rolling basis. These things are often unseen; the grass cutting, cleaning, weed spraying and bin emptying, but would be very noticeable if not done. A big thank you to the volunteers who check the defibrillators and keep the noticeboards up to date every week, whatever the weather.

The parish continues its successful partnership with the town council to fund the Market Place toilets and continues with the deployment of its own Speed Indicator Devices (SID) to deter speeding on our roads.



REPLACEMENT BUS SHELTER AT BEANACRE

SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The parish council have jointly funded an Age UK project worker specifically for the Melksham and Melksham Without area for the last year, with some great results in helping members of the community to live a good life in later years.

It has also taken on the legacy of Melksham Community Support which was originally started in covid. The parish council are pleased to continue to support this in the coming year, with the town council and Area Board support. Please get in touch if you know anyone who would benefit from



some targeted support with benefits advice, getting things from the shops or chemist, advice on aids and adaptations at home, or being a bit more active with some support. The service is primarily aimed at those over 60.

VILLAGE HALLS

The council has facilitated some meetings with representatives from village halls and community centres in the wider area so that ideas and information can be shared.

This has gone well with a WhatsApp group being set up so that information can be shared in one place and provides a framework of support for all the volunteers giving up their time to run these valuable community spaces. Please get in touch if you run a community building in Melksham and the wider area and would like to join the group.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the resignation of Cllr Andy Russell for health reasons, there is now a vacancy for the Bowerhill Ward.

Please look out for details of the forthcoming vacancy.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish council meetings are held in public, and the aim is always to be as transparent as possible.

A recording of the meeting is shared on YouTube the following day, and then removed once the minutes for that meeting have been approved and uploaded to the website. The parish council meetings are held on a Monday evening at their offices on the first floor of the Melksham Community Campus from 7pm. Please check the agendas for more details, these are posted on local noticeboards and are on the website. You can also pop into the office to talk to officers about issues you wish to raise, or if you are seeking information. It's always manned Monday to Thursday 10am - 12 and 2 - 4pm but you will often find officers there outside those times.

NEXT MEETINGS

PLANNING COMMITTEE Monday 29th April	FINANCE COMMITTEE Monday 20th May
ANNUAL COUNCIL Monday 13th May	PLANNING COMMITTEE Monday 10th June
PLANNING COMMITTEE Monday 20th May	FULL COUNCIL Monday 17th June

WHO IS MY COUNCILLOR?

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COUNCILLOR VACANCY

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