

Update for Melksham Area Board

Name of Parish/Town Council	Melksham Without Parish Council
Date of Area Board Meeting	7 November 2018

Headlines/Key successes

New Meeting Venue & Office Premises

The Parish Council office relocated to the Sports Pavilion at Westinghouse Way, Bowerhill during the Summer and has kept the same phone number, so please continue to contact us on 01225 705700. This move has had no impact on the changing room facilities which remain the same. The office opening hours are now Monday-Thursday 10-12 and 2-4pm with a car park available for visitors.

All Council meetings (unless otherwise stated) are being held at St Barnabas Church in Beanacre (just off the A350 via the layby). Meetings are held in the church hall which also offers disabled access and toilet facilities, a community defibrillator and car park for those attending the meeting

Grant Awards

Applications for grant aid are invited from organisations who can prove that they benefit residents of the Parish. The closing date for applications is 31st January 2019, with awards to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 1st April 2019. For application forms please contact the Parish Council office or download from www.melkshamwithout.co.uk

2019/2020 Budget

The Parish Council will be setting the budget for the next financial year in January. If you have ideas and requests that you would like to be considered by the Council next year then please let us know before the end of November.

Community Speed Watch, Beanacre

The co-ordinators of the Speed Watch team in Beanacre recently met with members of the Parish Council and their local MP Michele Donelan, and have a number of actions coming from that meeting to try and combat the excessive speeding vehicles on the A350 in the 30mph zone.

Projects

Hornchurch Road Public Open Space, Bowerhill

An additional 120m footpath has been built to ensure that there is a circular route around the public open space for all to enjoy, whatever the ground conditions underfoot. This was paid for by Melksham Without Parish Council with a contribution from the Melksham Area Board with a "Pathways Improvement Grant" of £4,000.

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Mains Drainage for Beanacre?

Some residents have requested that Wessex Water consider putting in mains drainage for existing properties in Beanacre. Wessex Water want to see how many residents are interested in taking this further before they consider starting preliminary investigations. Whilst this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, it is acting as a facilitator between the various parties to initially gauge the interest of those residents in the Parish living in Beanacre. A survey has been conducted by the parish council, with an almost 50% response rate, and the information gathered has been passed to Wessex Water for them to consider their next steps. We will be in touch with residents as soon as we hear more.

Melksham Neighbourhood Plan

Melksham Without Parish Council and Melksham Town Council continue to work together on a joint Neighbourhood Plan, with the draft Plan almost finalised now that assessment work by independent consultants on sustainable housing sites has been completed. To explain the Plan's policies and what it means to residents several short videos have been filmed over the last few weeks to explain the different policies and how they will affect residents. These will be made available widely when the draft Plan is published for consultation so you can all have your say.

Friends of Shurnhold Fields

The "Friends of Shurnhold Fields" has now officially formed and you can contact them directly by email on shurnholdfields@gmail.com. Their first main job will be to plant trees in commemoration of those that fell in the Great War. The land transfer from Persimmon to Melksham Without Parish Council (on behalf of the Parish and Town council) is imminent, with the paperwork now signed by both parties.

Forthcoming events/Diary dates

WW1 Commemorative Tree planting at Shurnhold Fields (ex George Ward Playing Fields) on Saturday 10th November at 10am. All welcome.

Signed: Teresa Strange, Clerk, Melksham Without Parish Council

Date: 2nd November 2018