

BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL

NEWS UPDATE

13 AUGUST 2022

FIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION



We are all too aware of how dry the ground has been over the last month and the significant increase of wild fires.

The Parish Council is looking at short term action that can help mitigate the risk of wild fires spreading in the immediate village and also longer term planning. We are expecting to see higher extremes in all types of weather conditions - fire and flooding are both key issues we need to plan and adapt to address the risk,

Fire destroys thousands of acres of countryside, open space and wildlife habitat every year. Sadly, many of these fires are started deliberately but, by following a few simple precautions, many others can be prevented:

- Dispose of smoking materials responsibly and make sure they're completely out.
- Never throw them to the ground or out of vehicle windows
- Avoid having an open fire in the countryside
- Don't leave camp fires or barbecues unattended, and extinguish them properly after use
- Clear away bottles, glasses and any broken glass to prevent them magnifying the sun's rays and starting a fire
- Flames aren't games – explain to children the personal and environmental dangers of playing with fire
- If fire breaks out, call 999 immediately. Be clear about your location, mention any landmarks – perhaps a church or pub – and, if phoning from a phone box, stay nearby so you can direct the fire engines to the scene
- If you can do so safely, prepare for the arrival of firefighters at a pre-arranged meeting point by unlocking gates, etc
- Don't attempt to fight the fire yourself unless it is very small and can be put out with a bucket of water – grass and crop fires can travel very quickly.

It is important to provide as accurate location information as possible. This can be done by using assistance such as Grid Reference Finder, Google Maps or What3Words.

Please pay extra attention - An early call could mean the difference between a small, easily controllable fire and a widespread, devastating fire.



Sadly a very high proportion of wild fires are caused by humans - either intentionally or negligence. Please keep a look out for any activity that is likely to increase fire risk or suspicious activity. Please keep a eye on your neighbour's property especially if they are away on vacation given the increase risks.

The Parish Council meets bi-monthly, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, at the Village Hall at 7pm. The public are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings can be found on the parish council website: www.barnwellparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Councillors:

David Brown (Chair). Jeanne DeBock. Catriona Forrest, Heather Hanlon, Tim Herring, Chris Soans, Graham Wise

Contact Details

For items requiring attention of the Council, please contact Nicki Phillips, the Parish Clerk: barnwellparishclerk@gmail.com