

BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2020/21

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Heather Hanlon hh.bwpc@gmail.com
General complaints and playground issues

David Brown dbbwpc@gmail.com
Trees and recreation field

Nick Bould nbould.bwpc@gmail.com
Speeding issues/traffic

Jeanne De Bock jeannemdebock@gmail.com
The brook and general environmental issues/noticeboard

Geoff Shacklock gsbwpc@gmail.com
East Northamptonshire Council related issues

Chris Soans csoans.bwpc@gmail.com
The brook and general environmental issues/ footpaths and bridleways

Graham Wise Gpw.bwpc@gmail.com
Highway problems i.e. potholes, blocked drains etc.

Nicki Phillips (Clerk) barnwellparishclerk@gmail.com

WANTED!!

Do you care about Barnwell?

Do you want to do something positive for your community?

Can you think and act locally?

Elections to Barnwell Parish Council will be held in May 2021.

Why not consider becoming a Councillor?

To find out more please contact the Clerk on

barnwellparishcouncil@gmail.com

or speak to any of the existing Council Members.

Dear Barwellian,

I am sure you will agree that 2020 has been a year to forget! However, now with an effective vaccine in sight, we are so close to an end of this horrific pandemic, we should applaud all the wonderful acts of kindness that have been apparent over the past months. In our village alone the Care and Share Group have done an amazing job and I am sure that many of you have experienced the kindness of friends and neighbours. A willingness to help one another in times of need has long characterised our village. It was particularly in evidence during the travails of the pandemic and I know it will continue long into the future.

From the Parish Council's point of view it has been, necessarily, a quiet year. Nonetheless, the everyday running of the village goes on as you will see from the articles below:

We, in conjunction with the Care and Share Group have been very lucky in securing a grant from Western Power for £1500. This is to be used to offer a meal voucher to the over 75's in the village, Christmas gifts for the children and a food bank - all the details can be found below.

We are pleased that the speed warning signs have FINALLY been installed after a very long battle with the manufacturer. We are aware that the camera on Armston Road is not working properly and we are making every effort to fix it, please bear with us.

Following complaints about the closure on the children's playground gate we are going to install a more sophisticated device which should solve the problem of the gate either closing too noisily or not at all.

I wish you all a Happy, but most of all, safe Christmas.

Heather Hanlon (Chair Barnwell Parish Council)

Some tree action.

It may be a sign of lock down fever but I have been really excited to see Pells (the county tree contractors) arrive to do some of the work which has been the subject of many emails for over a year. They are promising to trim the lime basal growth on the appropriate trees and improve the clearance above the road on the west side. The clearance on the east side was carried out earlier this year.

I have also been asking, for safety and maintenance work on the willow trees, including the cracked willows down at the southern end of the village and the willow outside Crowsons. I have been strongly informed that the county does not cut back trees affecting telephone lines "as this is for BT to do", and will only carry out safety work as designated by Pells.

I will continue to push for work on maintenance of the village trees. If you spot any problems then please drop me an Email or a note.

The village green trees have been cleared of dead branches and some trimming carried out over the short section of highway by our tree surgeon. The Parish Council have undertaken this work for some time. The trees on the recreation ground are being surveyed in the near future to make sure they are safe.

Community Clear up Day

I had to cancel the clear up day in November but we will reinvent it after Christmas, Covid permitting. Thanks to all those who volunteered, David will contact you again with a date. It is hoped to trim the basal growth on the village green trees, side out some paths and paint some bridge railings. If you would like to help please email me at: dbbwpc@gmail.com and I will contact you when a date is sorted.

The recreation field

It's great to see the new football posts being used. We know the field is used for dog walking but please be aware that it is used by both adults and children for games and so it is imperative that all dog waste is cleared up. The Parish Council is hoping to further improve the facilities of the field and any practical ideas would be welcome.

David Brown – Vice Chair Barnwell Parish Council

(2)

Barnwell St Andrews & All Saints history site, a private group on Facebook, lots of history, photos and information about Barnwell's past.

Barnwell 2020- a year in a life of our village, a private group recording wild life, flowers in fields, verges and our stream. Capturing the otter, fox, deer and nightlife and nature in our village. All Barnwellians are welcome.

A Christmas outdoor surprise for children in Barnwell under the age of 12 will be held on the Village Green on Sunday December 20th between 10.30-12. Do join Father Christmas, considering Hands, Space, Face. All above is subject to Covid distancing, restrictions and changes.

If any queries please contact:

Caroline Marriott on [01832-275482](tel:01832-275482)

Pat Rutherford: [01832-272439](tel:01832-272439)

Katie Honor on [07838362420](tel:07838362420)

Helma Veeger- [07590894775](tel:07590894775)

Tim Herring: Barnwellcareandshare@gmail.com

PARSON LATHAM'S HOSPITAL IN BARNWELL

The year began so well. Our residents were settled in their cottages. The Soup and Sandwiches Lunches and the Char and Chat meetings were as popular as ever. The Chapel hall was being used more and more by different groups. We were looking forward to Cream Teas in August. Everything was normal. Then came the shock. At the end of February beginning of March the world was about to suffer a Coronavirus pandemic. We all needed to stay at home to prevent the spread of this terrible infection. It was vital for our residents. In true Barnwell spirit the Care and Share Group was formed connecting us all and providing help when needed. Our special thanks goes to Kate, Judith, Richard and Katie who have done shopping for our residents. As we near Christmas and the end of 2020 we have hope. Vaccines have been developed and in late December and the beginning of next year we will be vaccinated against Covid 19. These are still dangerous times. We, the Trustees, are so proud of our residents who have kept to the rules and stayed safe. We must all continue to do that. Now we have hope for 2021 when normality will return. We are so fortunate to live in Barnwell.

Pat Rutherford Chairman of Trustees

(7)

- E. Identified those who need support through direct contact or referral.
- F. Contacted 175 households in the village, primarily through a personal call and others through a personal letter for residents without telephone contact or email, to ensure all who may need support have our contact details.
- G. Co-ordinating support from other bodies and organisations to support the village during this time.

We linked the volunteers with those who have been identified for support. Provide relevant factual updates on Facebook and consider other ways of communication & maintain our community spirit whilst in physical isolation.

Support provided to date:

1. Practical support in ordering or collecting food or other essential provision for those who are unable to do this themselves.
2. Providing information on firms who provide a delivery service.
3. Telephone support through connecting people in the village who are not meeting as many people as they would normally .
4. A friendly voice on the other side of the line if you have any questions or require support or just a friendly chat.
5. A prescription collection and delivery service.
- 6 Computer advice if stuck

We had an enormous response to our call for volunteers 52 in total from Barnwell alone, absolutely brilliant and a massive thank you.

In addition to this the following is also available.

A virtual coffee morning with Pat: every Tuesday morning at 11.00, do contact Pat on [01832-272496](tel:01832-272496).

Walking with Ruth, every Wednesday morning at 10.30, do contact Ruth on [01832-275482](tel:01832-275482).

A food store at Lower farm: People who are running short of essential foods will be able to collect these free of charge from Lower Farm bed and breakfast Monday-Friday from 8-12. Contact Caroline on [01832-273220](tel:01832-273220) if you have any questions.

(6)

The mowing regime

The mowing of the grass and the trimming of the brook are carried out following a regime which tries to balance conservation with tidiness. Both have been reviewed in the last few months following some disruption from Covid and concerns raised about disturbance to wildlife.

The Parish Council employs the mowing contractor (mainly using a grant from the county) while the Environment Agency carry out maintenance of the brook. In short:

- Verges should be cut to within ½ metre of the brook bank on all but the final cut of the year and a wider area behind the inner row of trees should be left below the ford except on the final cut of the year.
- There are 7 cuts per year
- There are a few areas (3) where wild flowers and other interesting plants should not be mown early in the season.
- The brook is cut twice a year by the Environment Agency, in the spring and late autumn. The prevention of flooding is of primary concern but by making the main cut late in the seasons we hope the environmental impact is minimised, again it is a balanced approach. It was good to see that the contractor used hand held tools to trim this autumn. This is less destructive than the tractor mounted flail.

GRITBINS - If a problem is spotted with either of the bins maintained by Barnwell Parish Council please notify the Clerk. Please remember that the grit is for use only of public roads and paths and is not for use on private property. Problems with the bins maintained by NCC including requests for refilled can be made via FixMyStreet.

The Bus Shelter - I have made the old bus shelter watertight, removed the falling gutter and trimmed back the undergrowth. As there seems little possibility of a bus calling there in the near future it would be great to find a use. Any creative ideas?

(3)

Cllr David Brown

Unlawful deposit of waste in Barnwell Brook

Please see below extract from information received from The Environment Agency.

Barnwell Brook is designated as a Main River, and forms an important part of the drainage basin for the area. It is essential rivers are kept free from debris and waste in order to reduce the risk of flooding.

It has come to our attention that some residents regard the Barnwell Brook as a convenient place to dispose of garden and household waste. This is unacceptable behaviour. Some of the deposited waste will be harmful to aquatic life and some will restrict and cause blockage to the water flow increasing flood risk to your homes.

Dumping waste and rubbish into the watercourse and on private and public land is against the law:

Discarding of waste into a Watercourse is an offence under The Land Drainage and Sea Defence Byelaws.

Fly tipping is an offence under The Environmental protection Act 1991

The Environment Agency has jurisdiction over Main Rivers under the Environment Permitting Regulations 2016, The Water Resources Act 1991, and under The Land Drainage and Sea Defence Bye Laws. We are working closely with your Parish Council to improve your local environment and to reduce the risk of flooding in your area.

We seek your assistance to continue to keep the Barnwell Brook as a valuable resource and feature of your community.

To report any incidents of Flooding or Pollution please call our hotline on: 0800 80 70 60.



To report incidents of Fly Tipping please contact East Northamptonshire Council on 01832 742000.

Image source: Cliparts.co



(4)

Beautiful Barnwell

During this last year most people in Barnwell Village have learned to appreciate even more the beautiful surroundings that we have right on our doorstep!

From the wider Countryside to the Brook the Trees and lots of colourful flowers, Insect life and the variety of wildlife such as Kingfishers, Owls, Grass snakes, Water voles and even the occasional visiting Otter, to name but a few. In order to sustain this important ecosystem we all need to take care and protect these valuable resources for future generations!

To increase our biodiversity we are hoping to start a new project next spring on the recreation field. We will be planting wildflower areas and maybe some fruit trees (community orchard in the future?) If you would like to get involved or have some ideas please contact the PC. We have already funding for the wildflower seeds and hope to start the preparation work on the boundary of the playing field as soon as the weather permits.

Cllr Jeanne DeBock

Barnwell Care and Share

We know many people in the village are involved in supporting neighbours and friends all through the year in our village. Barnwell is known for being a supportive community. However even your support might get ill or unavailable. In addition to this Barnwell Care and Share was initially set up to provide a co-ordinated support during these challenging Covid times and isolation, to ensure everyone is supported if they wish at all times.

- A. This was done through a private Facebook page, called Barnwell Care and Share providing a broader communication network.
- B. In conjunction with other benefice Care and Share Groups we distributed flyers to all residents in Barnwell and benefice providing contact details.
- C. Collating a list of local firms who provided on line ordering / deliveries of food or other essential items.
- D. Gathering a list of helpers and volunteers willing to provide practical or telephone support.

(5)