

Shipton Parish Newsletter

February 2021

www.shiptonvillage.com

shiptonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Precept

At the Parish meeting, early last month, it was decided to lower the Parish precept. This is a small amount paid to the Parish Council from those who pay council tax and who live within our boundary. The Parish Council have decided to reduce this because the interest rate on the loan taken out to pay for the Reading Room project was lowered before we borrowed it. This effectively means we would be running at a large surplus in the Parish bank accounts. We therefore felt it appropriate to reduce the precept to avoid this occurring.

Highways

If you notice a defect of any kind on our roads, bridleways, or footpaths, please report it to Highways immediately on <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

There are occasional checks on our roads, but they're not frequent enough to be able to pick up all issues. The more an issue is reported, the quicker it climbs the repair list. It is best not to assume that someone else has reported a defect. Even if someone else has, it will only benefit to report it again. It's the number of complaints about the same issue that makes the difference. Remember, Highways do not have the largest budget in the world, and they must prioritise mainly based on safety. If you believe it to be a safety concern, you must get that across in your written explanation.

Local Representatives

Gloucestershire has a multi-tier local government structure. This means powers lie with different authorities.

- **Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP.** Responsible for national government representation on all matters. cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk
- **Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).** Responsible for Education, Transport, Public Safety, Social/Healthcare, Libraries, Trading Standards, Fire and Policing paul.hodgkinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- **Cllr Robin Hughes, Cotswold District Council (CDC).** Responsible for Waste Management, Council Tax, Housing and Planning robin.hughes@cotswold.gov.uk
- **Shipton Parish Council.** Responsible for Allotments, Bus Shelter, Community Centres, Planning Consultation, and dog offences shiptonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Elections

We are due to have elections on 6th May 2021. For residents in our Parish, this will be for our County Councillor position – currently Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, as well as for our Police and Crime Commissioner – currently Martin Surl. Normally these would take place in the Reading Room. However, this will be out of action because of the renovation and extension project. It has therefore been decided that our polling station will be at Andoversford, where a Covid- secure site will be in operation at their Village Hall. However, the safest thing for all residents to do is sign up to postal voting. This is simple and easy to do. The forms can be found at -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

Postal voting is a perfectly safe way to vote and will allow for your ballot to be cast in the most Covid- secure method available. It also means you can vote at your leisure over a longer period. We have some forms available, so please get in touch.

Remember there are two elections taking place and therefore two ballots to be cast.

Thank you to the Christmas tree team and all their work to make winter a bit brighter for us all!

Man's best friend

I know it sounds disgusting, but it's a thing you have to do. If you live with man's best friend, you have to pick up poo!

Winter makes things tricky when the leaves fall to the ground. It's like playing spot the poo in different shades of brown.

The most important thing of all, if you own a dog—when they do their business, poop scooping is your job.

Don't ignore the doggy mess, it may end up on a shoe, make sure you always pick it up, the responsibility is down to you.

Although a light-hearted poem, it serves to point out that all dog owners have a responsibility to pick up all canine deposits and put them in the bin. Our countryside is a shared place of leisure and work and a particularly important facility during the Pandemic. Horses, sheep and cattle can all eat poo bags, possibly resulting in death. Dog poo is a legitimate danger. It carries worms and disease. It's not a fertiliser and shouldn't be left in fields or on bridleways. Shipton provides four poo bins for public use, as well as two poo bag pick up points. Please respect others' land and those that use it.

Bag it, Bin it.

A message of thanks

The Parish Council would like to pass our thanks and gratitude on to all the residents for their diligence and support during the Coronavirus Pandemic. While it is still with us, we must be vigilant and cautious in our behaviours, the actions of our community have done us proud. We would like to give our gratitude to Dan Bleaken and Kate Hathaway for their prompt response in setting up their community support group. This will stay active for a while yet just in case their support is further needed by us. Our green spaces are open, but users must remain socially distant.

Village Email List

This exists to keep you informed of Village social events, Parish Council matters, Church events, Reading Room updates and other important information.

If you would like to be added to the Village email list – please send an email to Susan Livesey at slivesey@clara.co.uk or Lindsey Crane at lindsey.crane@btinternet.com. Everyone in your household can be included. If you think you are already on the list and not receiving regular emails, please send an email to Susan or Lindsey to check. There are various categories of emails which you can choose to subscribe or unsubscribe to.

If you know of a friend or neighbour without email, please let us know if they want to be notified via other methods.

Footpaths

You may notice that the County Council have recently scraped a significant amount of detritus from the A40 footpath to Andoversford. Please use this footpath, and others to ensure that the growth is kept to a minimum to enable the rest of the community to be as active as possible. If there is an issue with roads or paths, please report it to the County Council. Please note, the public footpath behind Little Paddocks, Kilham lane has been officially and permanently diverted! It now runs from the style, parallel to the road then turns right across the top. You'll also notice an entry gate to the path slightly further up Kilham lane, just beyond the driveway for those with access needs – thank you Robin.

Village Spruce

The Parish Council would like to ask for volunteers to help give the villages a bit of a spruce. We're looking for folk who'd be willing to give a bit of a wipe to signs, trim some foliage and ultimately some litter picking. The Parish Council would like to thank those who already do these jobs and if you do, please let us know so that we can recognise your work. All you need is a set of Marigolds (other brands are available) and some willingness – it might do us all a bit of good to get out. If this appeals to you, please contact Harry on the Parish email to get the ball rolling. Any activity will be in line with Covid guidelines.

Speed Awareness

Paul Morrish has handed over the management of the Speed Awareness project to Nick Giles. Thank you, Paul, for your efforts with this project over the years and a warm welcome to Nick. Best of luck!

Vacancy

We may not be the biggest Parish in the world, but we have a council which should have 5 members on it. Currently we have 4, but we'd like a 5th member to join us so we can better reflect the age and gender diversity of the parish. We would warmly welcome someone to fill our vacancy who feels that they would provide some expertise or energy to the Village. It's a voluntary role which isn't demanding in the slightest. We formally meet four times a year for just an hour or two at a time. However, we often meet informally to discuss developments but also to keep the positive energy on the up. If you're interested, please do drop us an email to discuss what the role involves. There are no formal requirements, other than to live or work within the Parish (or 3 miles of its boundary). For those of you who have just moved to the area – this could be a great way to meet people and learn a little about our small piece of the Cotswolds. To be eligible you must be 18+, live in or close to the Parish (currently or within the year before standing) and be a Commonwealth or British Citizen. You do not have to be political at all, but you are elected or co-opted to the role for a term of 4 years.