

Crookham Village Parish Council

Parish News



Issue 8 November 2010

Chairman - Councillor Simon Ambler

It's been a busy year for the Parish Council. Taking over the Zebon Copse Centre has been a steep learning curve for all involved, but is going smoothly thanks to the efforts of the Council's newest member of staff, Claire Rowe. I would also like to thank the volunteers who have organised highly successful events at the centre.

All along we have been aware that the other Parish Projects shouldn't be neglected and need to be progressed. Amongst other things these include a footway for Pilcot Road and Traffic Management Measures for Crondall Road.

In the next financial year we also have the prospect of swingeing budget cuts being imposed on Councils by Central Government. Whilst there is currently no suggestion that Parish Precepts will have restrictions imposed we will be left with difficult decisions. When the District and County Council cut services in order to balance their budgets, does the Parish increase the precept and step in to fund the services or let them go? Something we are watching closely is the emerging Local Development Framework.

This is a plan which determines land supply and site allocations for development up until 2026. This is currently in its early stages of consultation, but one site that keeps popping up to the top of the list as meeting the criteria for development is Grove Farm. A large number of houses on this site would completely change the character of the Village; one of the key factors being the loss of the strategic gap between the village and the urban area of Fleet.

Please keep your feedback coming in on topics in this newsletter and any others.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone in the Parish.

Simon Ambler



Simon Ambler

Parish Clerk - Carol Leversha

Dear Residents,

I have been your clerk for some 27 years and have seen many changes in population of the parish during that time.

For those of you living in Netherhouse Moor – the farmland on which your lovely estate stands was home to many a local horse show and the electoral register for the parish was around 400 people.

The village itself has had some small development during this time – most notable the Rural Exception Scheme known as Knights Close. The Parish Council supported this scheme despite strong opposition from neighbouring properties. So, surplus land from the then "Tudgey's Nursery" became homes for local people who had strong connections with the village.

There was a village Fete which took place on The Crescent Green (adjacent to Knights Close) where many stalls were set up and tug of war was enjoyed and a band sat playing through the afternoon. Everyone lent a hand to return tables and chairs to the WI hall but it was sometimes difficult to prise the chairs from those still enjoying their pints at the beer tent. Nowadays the village fete takes place on the open space at the Zebon Copse Centre. It is timed to occur a week or two before the long established Horticultural Show which occurs in Dogmersfield.

With the completion of the Netherhouse Moor development the parish electoral register almost doubled in size. Then, after many many years of appeals the Zebon Copse estate started to develop. The farmland on which this sits was where I once kept my horse and at the Redfields Lane end the Velmead Farm Stud was located. Your Parish Council of that day fought hard to have the Community Centre located in the centre of the development but was unsuccessful. Originally, at the end of Danvers Drive there was to have been a school and the children would have used the Centre and the open space for their outdoor pitches. The school was never built and the money from the developer went into improving the facilities of the school on Gally Hill Road.

The old village has a Newsletter which is distributed to its CVA members and Zebon Copse has a Newsletter which is delivered to its ZCRA members. Both are successful Associations and welcome new members.

Today, the electoral roll for the parish stands at around 2,400 residents.

There are 5 Councillors to represent Zebon Copse Ward, 2 Councillors to represent Netherhouse Moor Ward and 1 Councillor to represent the Crookham Village Ward. Cllr. Peter Crawley is the longest serving Member of the Parish Council. At the moment there is still a vacancy for one councillor in Zebon Ward - volunteers welcome !

Your Clerk



Carol Leversha

Councillor Brian Whyatt

Seasons greetings to you all. This is my second attempt at writing an informative column since my becoming a member of the Crookham Village Parish Council.

The Council have been very busy since taking over "Zebon Copse Centre" formerly "Velmead Community Centre". The staff we have engaged have worked very hard to get as many bookings as possible into the premises to make it a viable and enjoyable community amenity. Remember the Centre is for the benefit of all Parishioners and not restricted to Zebon Copse residents, if you have a requirement for a family party or business function please call for competitive prices. Please note that a hearing loop system is installed and the centre is friendly to disabled visitors. There are two very well equipped play areas - one for toddlers and one for more adventurous youngsters complete with a climbing wall,. There is safe free parking so give it a try.

I am still actively engaged in the running of the Almshouses situated adjacent to the War Memorial. There are 16 units which offer help and support to unfortunate local residents. We have recently had a survey carried out to ensure that all the units are maintained to a high standard and I am pleased to say that my input and contacts have helped in this.

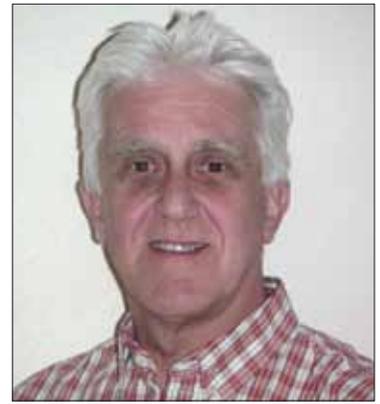
The volume of traffic and traffic speeds are a constant cause of concern to all Parish councillors. With the Hitches Lane and the QEB developments traffic will increase so calming measures should be adopted. To that end we are seeking meetings with the HCC highways engineer with support of our local County Councillor Jenny Radley and Doug McCallum, a professional traffic engineer and consultant, in an endeavour to get physical measures put into place. The success of the Post Office thanks to Dave and Caroline offers some natural traffic calming in The Street during business hours, but cars still race along at other times.

During the recent closure of Redfields Lane a traffic survey noted that 2623 vehicles per day used Crondall Road. The preferred measurement of the 85th percentile showed that during the day the vehicle average speed was never below 36mph and at 5.00am the measured speed was over 47mph. These averages are repeated throughout the village so you must agree that some form of restriction needs to be enforced by the Police.

Don't forget to support the Zebon Copse Centre and also the Crookham Village Mummies who perform at various sites around the Village during Boxing Day to raise monies to help the less fortunate at Christmas..

God Bless you all.

Brian Whyatt



Brian Whyatt

Walks in the Parish

The parish is blessed with a good network of public footpaths and other rights of way to help you explore and enjoy our beautiful local countryside.

Very detailed maps are available on the HantsWeb site, which you can access via a search for "definitive map" in the search box at <http://www.hants.gov.uk>. The link to the 10,000:1 maps is near the top of The Definitive Map page on the right. Our parish is split between four sheets: 19.21; 19.22; 20.21; and 20.22.

There are also two areas of Public Access in the parish - both are in private ownership and part of Zephon Common on the village side of the canal not far from the Swing Bridge. Details are on OS maps with access from FP1 and the track towards Riverside Cottage respectively. Land adjacent to rights of way is mostly not open to the public, who should stay on the proper route and not stray elsewhere into the fields.

Despite signs saying 'no access', there have been regular intrusions from the Zebon Copse Centre playing field into the horse grazing field at Hillyburrow, which is not open to general access except on the actual rights of way - none of which are close to the playing field. Please keep to the proper routes and do not force your way through the boundary fences/hedges of Zebon Copse Centre, even if there is snow and Hillyburrow looks very tempting for tobogganing. Unfortunately there continue to be many complaints of dog fouling on footpaths, playing fields and on other public areas. If you are a dog walker, PLEASE clear up EVERY TIME after your dog. Use the bins provided or take it home.



FP501 towards FP5 from the canal stile

Contacting the Parish Council

Correspondence should be addressed to the clerk at:

Daegmarsfield Farm . Church Lane . Dogmersfield . Hook RG27 8SZ

01252 810568 clerk@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk

Contacting individual Councillors and Officers

All email addresses have the format: firstname.surname@crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk

Visit the web site at www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk

for latest news, contacts, minutes etc.

Clearing Snow and Ice Yourself

New Government guidance published 22 October 2010

Last winter many people helped keep pavements and public spaces around their homes clear of snow. However, many people were put off doing so because of fears of being sued. Read on for advice on your rights and responsibilities when clearing snow and ice from public areas.

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

If an accident did happen, it's highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- are careful
- use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

Tips and advice on clearing snow and ice

- start early - it's much easier to clear fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- don't use hot water - this will melt the snow, but may replace it with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- be a good neighbour - some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths from their property
- if shovelling snow, think where you are going to put it so that it doesn't block people's paths or drainage channels
- make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on
- spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help stop ice forming - table salt or dishwasher salt will work, but avoid spreading on plants or grass as they may be damaged by it
- pay particular care and attention to steps and steep gradients
- use the sun to your advantage - removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath; however you will need to cover any ice with salt to stop it refreezing overnight
- if there's no salt available, sand or ash are good alternatives



Gally Hill Road/Brandon Road junction 7 January 2010

Source: Direct Gov Newsroom Wednesday 3 November 2010

More on Directgov <http://www.direct.gov.uk>

Safety in extreme weather (travel and transport section)

Reporting problems with pavements and maintenance of private streets (home and community section)

Travel disruption and your rights at work (employment section)

Local Facilities

Most major roads in the parish are on HCC gritting runs.

Put in your postcode at <http://whereilive.hants.gov.uk/wintersaltroutes/saltroutes.aspx> for details.

Other areas are left to self help. There are now 6 salt/grit bins on Zebon Copse Estate: the original 2 from HCC and 4 extras purchased by the Parish Council after last winter's snow problems. Please only use the salt/grit on the roads and pavements near the bins. Salt supplies for clearing your own driveways and paths can be purchased from garden centres and hardware stores.

Footpath No 1 near The Street



With materials from the Parish Council and with help from the Community Payback Team (supervised unpaid work by offenders), the section of footpath 1 next to The Old Forge in The Street has been repaired and a step up installed to make it easier to climb over the stile. The adjacent ditch was also restored to improve drainage.



Christmas and New Year Refuse Collections

Hart Council's refuse, recycling and glass collections will continue on normal collection days between Christmas and New Year, but there will be no garden waste collection during this period. There will be collections as normal on Monday 27 December and Tuesday 28 December 2010 even though they are bank holidays this year.

Collections will resume on Monday 3 January 2011 even though that, too, is a bank holiday.

In the event of service interruptions due to bad weather or any other reason, check on the Hart Council website www.hart.gov.uk for details of any consequential changes to collection dates. Look under the ENVIRONMENT tab.

Zebon Copse Centre Administrator - Claire Rowe

Hello! I am Claire and I joined CVPC in April this year as the Administrator for the Zebon Copse Centre.

My first 6 months in the role have most definitely been a challenge, particularly as this period has incorporated the transition of operation from Hart District Council to CVPC. We are very fortunate to have such a great facility within our Parish, but it has been quite an eye opener as to how much goes into overseeing its smooth operation on a day to day basis. Dealing with bookings is obviously a major part of my role, but liaising with contractors and ensuring compliance with a range of legislation are also key responsibilities – as of course is making sure that our users are happy!

The Zebon Copse Centre hosts a variety of activities such as Playgroup, Toddler Group, Bridge Club, Art Classes, Yoga Classes, Baby Sensory, Karate, Junior Ballroom Dancing and Youth Football every week and as well as ensuring that we retain such fantastic user groups, we are endeavouring to encourage more activities here so as to offer 'something for everyone'.

In addition, the Centre is proving to be a very popular venue for training courses and corporate functions as well as Children's and Adult's parties alike and also provides a great setting for community events such as the recent Halloween Disco and Christmas Fayre.

For more information regarding activities at the Centre, to make a booking, or to provide feedback on the Centre and its facilities please visit our website at www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk/zcc or contact me on 01252 615003/07980299217.



Claire Rowe

Are YOU Making Best Use of Zebon Copse Centre ?

Zebon Copse Centre is an ideal location for private parties as well as regular users. If you have a major family event coming up, why not contact Claire and make an appointment to have a look around and investigate cost and other aspects of a private booking?



Tabby Powell

The Parish Council is also very keen to see events being held in the Centre which parishioners can attend. Two such events recently were the Halloween children's party on 30 October and the Christmas Fayre on 20 November. Tabby Powell was lead organiser for the party and Kirsty Arnold for the Fayre, but both ladies were major players in making both events so successful. The Fayre also raised £200 for the Willow Foundation, a charity dedicated to bringing special days to the seriously ill who are between the ages 16 and 40 years of age and live in the United Kingdom.



Kirsty Arnold

More public events would be very welcome to help enhance the sense of community amongst parishioners. What is needed is more people who are prepared to think up an idea for a community event and do the necessary organisational work. To get involved, please make initial contact with Claire at the Centre.

There is now an impressive list of regular users of the Centre whose activities might interest you. If you would like to find out more about them, please contact Claire.

Isvara Yoga - www.isvarayoga.co.uk

Yoga for Babies, Yoga in Pregnancy, Power Yoga
Every Monday 11.30 - 12.30

University of the Third Age - www.fleetu3a.org.uk

Art 5 - every Wednesday 14.00 - 16.00

Art 12 - every Monday 13.30 - 16.00

Duplicate Bridge Practice - every Thursday 13.45 - 16.45

Improve Bridge - every Friday in term-time 13.45 - 16.15

Yoga For All every Monday 13.00 -15.00

Abercorn Playgroup Pre-School

Monday and Friday 9.15 - 12.15.

Tuesday and Thursday 9.15 - 15.00.

Wednesday 9.15 - 13.15.

Crookham Village Duplicate Bridge Club

Bridge Sessions every Monday 19.00 - 22.15

Heal Yourself Now Yoga - www.healyourselfnow.co.uk

Yoga Classes Every Tuesday 19.00 - 20.30

Zebon Copse Centre Toddler Group

Mother & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday in term-time 9.30 - 11.00

Baby Sensory

Every Wednesday in term-time 12.00 - 16.00

Breathe Easy

Last Friday in every month 13.45 - 16.00

Karate

Every Tuesday in term-time 18.00 - 19.00

Strictly School Dancing

Every Monday 17.30 - 18.30

Meetings of the Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month (except August), alternating between the Zebon Copse Centre, Danvers Drive, Zebon Copse and the WI Hall, The Street, Crookham Village.

Meetings start at 7:45 pm and there is an opportunity for members of the public to make 3 minute representations near the beginning of meetings. See www.crookhamvillage-pc.org.uk for further details.