



The Brock News

ISSUE 67

SUMMER 2018

Your Parish Council

Chairman:

Pete Wales 622514

Vice-Chairman:

John Wingham 622292

Councillors:

Mark Böckle 624603

Michael Croker 622035

Ian Holden 623408

Maureen Holding 622780

Russell Horne 624389

John Korbey 01425 627746

Henry Mellor 624587

Harry Oram 622500

Kevin Whittle

(Wootton) 01425 615381

Parish Clerk:

Mary Pattison 622829

Admin Assistant:

Mina Beckett

Groundsmen:

Kevin Baker

Ray Rideout

Parish Council meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month, except August and December, in the Village Hall at 7 pm. Planning committee meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of the month. Time is allowed for the public to raise any concerns and ask questions at the beginning of the meetings.

Chairman's Notes

What a summer - too hot for some but the village is busy with holidaymakers taking full advantage of what we are lucky to enjoy all year.

We are, however, concerned about visitor management, particularly at Balmer Lawn Road. We have arranged for the dragons teeth and yellow lines to be renewed and extended. Cones are being used and parking enforcement is taking place. People are still endangering themselves by entering the water and, particularly, jumping off the road bridge into the river.

In an effort to enhance the village features, the Parish Council has taken over the management of the sluice at the Watersplash so that we are able to control the water flow when required.

Equally, in a village noted for its centuries-old thatched cottages mingling with more recently constructed properties, it is also fair to say that Councillors have had considerable discussions about the proposal for a Village Sign. It has been resolved to provide a sign as it will enhance community cohesion and civic pride. Grant funding will be sought towards the cost. Following the recent competition, the two preferred designs will be amended before being reconsidered by the Committee before one is chosen.

In the last Newsletter I wrote that the Parish Council had agreed provisional terms with Brockenhurst Village Trust to build a new Parish Council office. Unfortunately the site next to the village hall has proved to be unsuitable due to the sewers and drains running under it. The resultant costs and liabilities were felt not to represent value for money. We have therefore asked BVT whether an alternative site can be identified, whilst the Parish Council investigates all other options in parallel. Offices to rent are rare in the village.

We are also hoping to upgrade the section of the footpath from New Forest Drive into Armstrong Lane where the old

wooden gate is constantly needing repair and the path gets very muddy. We hope to get grant funding towards the cost of this work too. Letters of support for our application would be very welcome.

In other news, I would like to congratulate Councillor Harry Oram, not only on his appointment as Chairman of the Consultative Panel, but also on his appointment to the NPA Recreation Management Strategy consultation committee. These commitments mean that Harry has stood down from the NPA Development Control Committee. The Parish Council has just made its response to the RMS consultation. Our response to the cycling consultation commented on the effects large cycling events have on the village. We have also responded to the street lighting consultation, suggesting that lights should be turned off at midnight except on the A337 and Brookley Road. Our concerns about pollution from idling taxis at the station have also been allayed by Environmental Health who have confirmed that properties near the station are not subject to unacceptable levels. We have now adopted two of the three telephone kiosks. They are not eligible to be listed to prevent their eventual removal so we will continue our dialogue with the Forestry Commission as they are all situated on Crown land.

A committee has been formed to organise WWI Commemoration events in the village. Dates for your diaries - 3rd November 2018 and 19th February 2019. In November a concert will take place at the Village Hall. Please see the back page for details. 19th February 2018 marks the centenary of the New Zealand flag being handed over at St. Nicholas church as the soldiers left our village, and an event will be staged to mark the occasion. In the meantime, the Parish Council has resolved to purchase large poppies to place on lampposts at appropriate times in the future.

Best wishes

Pete Wales

New Forest Marathon - Sunday 9th September 2018



Information For Brockenhurst Residents

Date: Sunday September 9th 2018

Race Start Times: Full 9.00am, Half 9:55am, 10k 10.25am, 5k 10:40am



NB: Numbers marked on the map indicate mileage markers of the Marathon route

- Rhinefield Road will be closed between the A35 and Beachern Wood Car Park from 9.00am until 1.30pm.
- North Weirs track - Restricted movement while the peak flow of runners pass between 10am-11.00am. Please exit via Burley Road until 1.30pm. Although runners will be using this until 4pm, numbers will be light so we aim to maintain access in and out of properties throughout this period. Please drive with extreme caution and add a little extra time for your journey.
- Burley Road will be closed between North Weirs and The Rise between 9.50am and 11.00am while peak flow of runners cross onto the track leading to Brockenhurst Primary School. Following this period it will be a marshaled crossing point allowing traffic flow.
- Burley Road from Wilverley top to North Weirs will be accessible for residents and businesses before 10:45am only. For access after this please follow diversion.
- Sway Road will remain open both ways with a 1m lane coned off for runners between the school and the T-junction after the railway bridge. (Please drive with caution)
- A diversion route will be implemented access to the Brockenhurst village via Longslade Bottom.

More information can be found on the residents section of the New Forest Marathon Website.

www.newforestmarathon.co.uk or by emailing us at info@newforestmarathon.co.uk

Planning Update

We are privileged to live in a National Park. I have the pleasure of delivering seeds to farms in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Sussex so I see more and more developments using land on the outskirts of built-up areas, which leads me to realise that we live in a "protected area".

Towns and villages, nationally, have been required by the government to provide more housing. On the outskirts of the National Park developments are already taking place which have an impact within it, e.g. Roesht Hill, but this does not count as housing provided within the National Park. Consequently,

parishes are constantly being asked for sites for housing (not forgetting affordable housing).

Another concern is the construction of a development which is not in accordance with approved plans. To this end the idea of a "compliance officer" has been mooted with parishes and the NPA. This would create the ability to monitor a construction right from the start and therefore ensure that approved plans are properly followed, which would in turn reduce parishes and the NPA having to deliberate on retrospective applications.

John Korbey

Superfast Broadband

Having achieved the successful installation of Box 1 near to the Catholic Church, we have turned our attention to the remaining central Brockenhurst area connected to Box 2, supplying residents around New Forest Drive. All permissions have now been granted except wayleaves from the Forestry Commission. These have been delayed pending a renewal of the National Agreement which BT Open Reach have been negotiating with the Forestry Commission. We have been involved with BT Open Reach and their contractor in the work they have started to route the new fibre along Rhinefield Road from Box 1 to Box 2. As expected, this has not been straight-forward but there is now a plan to carry out the work, so we trust that the fibre connection will not further delay the installation once the wayleaves are in place.

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Parish Council Annual Report

The Parish Council has been able to retain no increase in its Council Tax Precept at the Band D Rate of £42.49pa per property. This is helped by the fact that all Parish Councillors have again unanimously agreed not to receive an allowance. The Precept therefore remains well below the Forest average which is in excess of £65 for Parish Councils. There were no significant differences in the budgeted income and expenditure so that the Council were able to retain reserves to invest in the proposed Parish Council office as previously advised. Unfortunately, the actual site next to the hall has been abandoned due to issues with the sewer and drainage so that other options are being considered. Balancing the finances also meant that the renovation work at both the War Memorial gardens and bus shelter outside the College were completed.

Other work beyond our control remains frustrating. After 35 years we have eventually had the metal hoops removed from Rhinefield Road. It has now been four years in progressing the SuperFast BroadBand into the northwest area of the village, three years to take down the 'New lay-out' sign at Hollands Wood, two years for a repair to be completed at the Butts Lawn ford and one year for the village namesign to be replaced at Burley Road. We remain determined that issues will be resolved particularly the flooding at Mill Lane and parking on Balmer Lawn road where the Forestry Commission are to replace the dragons teeth and New Forest District Council carry out parking enforcement.

During the year we have been able to continue to support local organisations particularly Brockenhurst Village Trust's MUGA project, Citizens Advice, New Forest

Disability Information Service and the Royal British Legion.

Councillors have remained busy, with the Planning Committee considering over 100 planning applications. It was interesting that over 90 members of the public attended these sessions allowing them to get their voices heard.

The Business Association, Friends of Brockenhurst, Primary School PTA, Brockenhurst Village Trust and members of the Royal British Legion have all pulled together to ensure the success of community events. These included the Remembrance Day Parade, Christmas Fun Evening and Pancake Races. Volunteers are required to share the load if these events are to continue. If you are willing to get involved please contact the Clerk.

**Pete Wales
Chairman**

**BROCKENHURST
PARISH COUNCIL**

Contact:

MARY PATTISON

Parish Clerk

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Phone: (01590) 622829

Email:
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Website:
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Your Parish Council Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 10 am - 12 noon. Other times by appointment.



Non-Native Invasive Plant Species

At this year's Annual Parish Meeting there was an exhibit of non-native invasive plant species, which was visited by several interested and appreciative people. In order to spread the information more widely I thought it worthwhile to note that Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and New Zealand Pigmyweed have been identified in the Brockenhurst area and American Skunk-cabbage near Boldre. It is, of course, essential to identify non-native invasive species as early as possible in order to best protect the natural plant life of the Forest and we can all play an

essential part in this by identifying outbreaks, noting the location (GPS co-ordinates from Google maps if possible) and reporting it to the Parish Council office, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (02380 424205) or the Non-Native Species Secretariat nss@alpha.gsi.gov.uk. Finally, be "plant-wise" and dispose of aquatic plants responsibly by composting them in your own garden and NEVER dump them in the wild. More information is available at www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise

Henry Mellor

**Newsletter
via email**

Don't forget that you can have your newsletter delivered straight to your inbox. Please email the Parish Council with your name and address, stating E-newsletter in the subject line.

'Flu Clinics

The surgery is once again holding 'Flu Clinics this autumn for eligible people, such as those over 65, pregnant or with particular vulnerabilities or illnesses.

Please collect an appointment card from the surgery, for completion and return on the day.

9 am - 12 noon

**Brockenhurst - 20th October
Sway - 22nd September**

**Friends of
Brockenhurst Station**

Volunteers are sought to encourage greater community use of the station and enhance its environment. Station users will have noted further new flower planting as a result of a £200 donation from the Lymington/Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership. Watering is a particular problem. If you could spare an hour or so to help out it would be much appreciated. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you'd like to assist.

**Allotments Association
Quiz Night and Supper**

Save The Date!
Saturday 29th September,
Church Hall, 7.00 pm
for 7.30 pm start.
Ticket price will include
an Indian Supper,
Bring Your Own drink.
Teams of six or eight.
Look out for posters
nearer the time.

**WWI Commemorative
Concert - 3rd November**

**Save the Date!
Saturday 3rd November
1914 - 1918**

Commemorative Concert

An evening of music, songs and readings featuring the national award-winning Michelmersh Silver Band
7 for 7:30 pm Village Hall
£12 Adults, £6 Students
(Not suitable for Under 12s)

Brockenhurst Directory

A new edition of the Directory is in production so if you would like to change any existing details, have an entry for your group or advertise your village business please contact the Parish Clerk.