

Parish Councillors

Because there were only seven nominees for seven places, there was no need to have a Parish Council election this year. We welcome Ian Outram as a new Parish Councillor. Ian has had an association with the village over many years and especially a long involvement with the cricket club.

Housing needs for Pavenham

Many villagers will remember that after our own village appraisal the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) conducted its own survey of housing needs in Pavenham (which achieved less than half the response of our own village appraisal). Our own survey showed that there was no need for additional social housing and the Pilgrim Housing Association confirmed that they had no Pavenham people waiting for Tandy's Close houses. However, the BRCC survey said that there was a need for seven houses for people to rent. The results of BRCC are not site specific but if you are looking to rent or part-purchase a house in Pavenham will you please contact the Clerk and register your details with him. The Parish Council is considering these results and the response it should make to them. Any comments would be gratefully received.

Highway Matters

The surface-dressing of part of the High Street near Long Row which should have been done two years ago but was not done then because the road was partially blocked by parked cars is provisionally programmed for August ~ It is however a weather dependent job so please watch for signs to get the exact date. If you are likely to be away on holiday on the programmed date then please do not leave your vehicle on that stretch of road or alternatively please make arrangements for somebody to move your vehicle on that date so the contractors have a clear road to work on.

Proposed Temporary Road Closure for gas main replacement work - Church Lane and bridges, Oakley. This is programmed to start on 15th August and is likely to last for at least 10 days 24 hours a day - Specific dates will be advertised locally closer to the time. Length Affected: From St Mary's Church entrance to Park Road, Stevingtonl Oakley Road, Bromham.

A number of parishioners have been writing direct to the Borough Council regarding highway matters. Such letters are highly effective and we actively encourage parishioners to take the trouble to write as it offers great support to the Parish Council. We ask any parishioner who writes or communicates direct with the Borough Council to notify the Clerk in order that the PC is aware of the issues raised.

Speed restriction - centre of village

Speeding remains a key issue in Pavenham as in all surrounding villages. As a Parish Council we have been campaigning for a number of years to have a 20 mile per hour limit through the centre of the village and a speed restriction on Pavenham straight. The Chairman recently raised this matter at a meeting with the Borough Council and was told the authorities have no money to introduce such restrictions but the parish may be able to pay for the cost itself. We are currently investigating what expenditure we would be letting ourselves in for and whether such a scheme can be funded locally.

We thank David Evans and his volunteers for carrying out a speed check. The team recorded 95 registration numbers which have been passed on to the police. We are assured that every individual concerned will have received a letter from the police.

Open Gardens –result

Despite the appalling weather, the sum of £2078.85 was raised (with a further donation of £20 since). The organisers would like to thank all the supporters and volunteers who helped make this possible. Next year the gardens will be open on 10th June –let us hope the sun shines!

Village Litter Pick –27 February

We thank Jane Roff for organizing the litter pick which produced a number of bags of litter which had been thoughtlessly discarded –presumably by people passing through the village.

Village Hall - Proposals for extending changing rooms and showers

In order to comply with latest league requirements both for cricket and football, opposing teams should have separate changing rooms and showers and there should also be separate facilities for the referee/umpire. Plans have been drawn up to improve the changing rooms and showers which the Village Hall Committee has approved. The project is expected to cost approximately £30,000 and the proposed main sources of funding are £7,000 Section 106 money from the Orchard Close development, £20,000 WREN grant and £5,186 BC Rural Grant (which includes the Third Party Funding for the WREN grant). The Parish Council has applied for the WREN and BC grants over recent months. The BC grant was approved in April and a decision is expected on the WREN grant in mid August.

Vehicles have been reported gathering in the village hall car park late at night. If you think the drivers are acting suspiciously please take the registration number of the vehicles and tell the police.

Village Appraisal

This was presented at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 27 April. Any villager wanting a copy can view it on the PC website (pavenhamparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk) or alternatively contact the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Watch

Village crime is on the increase in adjacent villages. Can we ask our dog walkers and others walking around the village to carry mobile phones and if you see a potential crime or a crime happening call **999**, otherwise call the Beat Officer, Dave Hawkins based at Riseley on 275175 or when Riseley is closed call 841212. Please also keep your Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator up to date. The Village Co-ordinator is John Stamford on 823041 and the Deputy is Roger Whilding on 824893. Every house has a street co-ordinator. Should you be a victim of crime within the village it should be reported to the Police initially and also your street co-ordinator. If you cannot get hold of your street co-ordinator, then contact either John or Deirdre Stamford.

Bus Services

The Parish Council wishes to thank Jane Lewes for her campaign to obtain better bus services for

the village. Jane presented her findings to the Borough Council on 20 July. The Borough Council is arranging a new bus timetable, which will be published on 21 August so we will have to see how this affects Pavenham. It has just been announced that Palmers will be the new operator for rural services. This will provide improved local connections with emphasis on services routed to train and bus stations, doctor's surgeries etc. www.businfo~bedford.gov.uk

Queens Diamond Jubilee —2 to 5 June 2012

The Parish Council has decided that the village should have an event or series of events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We invite proposals from anyone –especially younger members of the parish –with ideas as to how we should commemorate the occasion and are able to encompass all members of the village.

Please contact the Clerk or a councillor as soon as possible with any suggestions for consideration.

Volunteer Rush Cutters are required –please contact Iam Outram on 07826 849647 if you would like to help harvest rushes and which are needed to keep a Pavenham tradition and craft alive

Next meeting of the Parish Council: Wednesday 21 September 8pm Village Hall