

NEWSLETTER



HEYTESBURY, IMBER AND KNOOK PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to Heytesbury Imber and Knook Parish Council's first quarterly newsletter. We are the local government representative body for the villages of Heytesbury, Imber and Knook, incorporating Tytherington. The Parish Council has up to 11 Councillors, at present we have three councillor vacancies.

We provide:

- a play area
- allotments
- dog bags and dispensers
- community benches
- litter bins
- noticeboards

We also look after the Blind House and War Memorial.

ISSUE 001 OCTOBER 2023

Your Parish Council is keen to establish a closer partnership with all residents. For our part we would like to explain some of what we do, what powers we have and what powers we do not have. We would like to highlight current and future issues as we see them and to explain what actions we are currently taking and report to you on progress. We will also try to provide occasional pieces of useful information that you might have missed but that you may find helpful.

To this end, we are producing this quarterly newsletter to be hand delivered to every address in our Parish and available via the internet at: www.heytesburyparish.co.uk

Have Your Say

We hope to develop the newsletter into a forum for the exchange of views and ideas between the Parish Council and all our residents on matters of interest such as how to improve community facilities and services and to jointly identify and discuss any current or future community issues. How do you see our community developing over the next five, ten or even 20 years? What is or will become of critical importance to us? What will our community needs be in future? How can we work together towards achieving our goals? Are our ambitions even deliverable?

What your Parish Council can and can't do where planning is concerned?

All planning applications must by law be submitted to the Parish Council for comment. Your views on any planning matters are therefore important to us. Our powers are limited but where we hold strong views we are sometimes able to 'call in' plans for further detailed scrutiny by Wiltshire Council's Planning Committee. In reality, we have very few planning powers and our views are only ever considered to be advisory.

What have we done recently?

- Gave 150 FREE coronation medals to children living in the Parish and who attend Heytesbury school and pre-school
- Resolution of the long-term puddle problem at the entrance to the playground
- Tree planting with "Best Kept Village Competition" prize money
- Entered the three villages again for "Best Kept Village Competition 2023"
- Contacted our local MP over safety concerns on the A36
- We are holding Councillor Surgeries at events around the Parish. Look out for dates and times! If you want to raise a local issue, do come along for a chat. Dates below
- We have started a Heritage Blue Plaque trail around the Parish
- We have approved the Future Planning Working Group's recommendations and agreed that the Parish should develop a Neighbourhood Plan
- We have arranged for slow speed markings on Tytherington Road and at the entrance to the village together with white gates at the speed limit markers near the school
- Applied for parking restriction markings by the school entrance and the west-bound bus shelter
- Held another children's colouring competition for posters to discourage dog fouling
- Carried out a tree survey on the Knook allotment site
- Introduced transparency as Trustee of the Raymond Hall Trust by encouraging public attendance at our regular meetings and publication of agendas and minutes
- Ordered emergency flood equipment and made sure our grit bins are full

What's up and coming

We face some imminent difficult decisions: on rural housing and protecting our green spaces.

We have set-up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. If you have a particular interest or skill in this area and would like to get involved, please contact us.

The owners of the sports grounds decided earlier in the year to sell their land, they were also considering revisiting their 2017 plan with limited housing that would have seen the Sports Ground come into community ownership.

The Parish Council applied for an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Should the land come up for sale, then any community or organisation wishing to buy it, is allowed, by the ACV, a 6 month window in which to organise and make a bid. However, the owner does not have to accept any community bid. *Eligible groups need to register their interest by 30th October. (See more over page.)*

What your Parish Council can and can't do and what are we now obliged to fund?

We are currently responsible for all safety inspections required to underpin our parish council insurance and also for all maintenance and necessary repairs to our War Memorial, our parish owned lock up and for all of the parish owned children's playground equipment (now out of guarantee). We are also responsible for the Knook allotments, including the regular tree surveys. Our council owned property inventory includes the ownership of extensive amenity seating, dustbins, salt bins, dog bag dispenser units, parish council noticeboards and many sundry items.

In the past much of this maintenance was funded for us directly by Wiltshire Council but this has stopped, so that most repairs and replacements are now funded by us; directly from our precept. Another major expense is the cost of our grass cutting and footpath maintenance contracts. We are legally obliged to employ a Parish Clerk, no councillor possesses all the expertise required to undertake the tasks involved. We still run a limited budget line to provide basic training for new Councillors.

What is our 'Precept' and how is it raised?

The 'Precept' is the name given to the grant made to our Parish Council each year by Wiltshire Council. The Precept is raised by a levy on the council taxes that we all pay and is how all parish councils are funded.

Sports Ground and News from our Partners

Heytesbury Sports Ground

For 20 years, the Sassoon Family Trustees attempted to meet both their legal obligations to benefit their beneficiaries, with their desire to dispose of their last land holdings to the advantage of our local Community. Their last proposal (2017) was for a limited enabling development of 23 houses (including seven affordable houses tied to those with village connections) and in return to provide a village hall (gratis) and to gift all of the parkland into village ownership in perpetuity; at no cost to the Parish.

There was strong opposition from some residents and the then Parish Council voted against the proposal with a 6:5 majority. The plan was then withdrawn and full planning permission never sought.

A decision has recently been reached by the owners to sell all 16+ acres including both sports grounds to a developer for future large scale residential development.

A group of villagers is attempting to submit a bid to purchase all 16+ acres of Sassoon land outright. The Parish Council awaits details. If this fails then, because the Sassoon advisers have indicated that they may still be prepared to reappraise their 2017 proposal or something similar, we seek your opinions. That is, whether under these new circumstances, we should revisit this option in order to save the Parkland.

Is it better to accept a limited development now, with the benefits offered and own all the land at no cost to village, or lose this open space totally to a residential developer whose long term aim may be a large scale housing development? Your views are sought via your Councillors.

The MY WILTS reporting app Wiltshire Council customer services Telephone 0300 456 0100

If you are an internet user, may we please encourage you to download Wiltshire Council's 'My Wilts' reporting App? You can report potholes, blocked drains, faulty street lighting, fallen branches, fly tipping and many other nuisance items wherever you spot them. The more often an individual item is reported the quicker we find that it is fixed - so your help here will always be very much appreciated.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Wiltshire police (Warminster Rural)

Wiltshire Police is split into eight Community Policing Teams (CPTs). Each CPT is led by an Inspector and made up of Sergeants, PCs and PCSOs. It is supported, as required, by additional officers, from the wider area, to help serve the Community and help keep you safe.

Teams work closely with local authorities, organisations, partners and residents to decide policing priorities. This helps teams find long-term solutions to local problems.

Find out crimes by postcode and much more at:

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/area/yourarea/wiltshire/warminster/warminster-rural/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust
(WBVT) provides a free [home security service](#) and [online safety service](#) for over 60s, 18+ with a registered disability and people experiencing domestic abuse throughout Wiltshire and Swindon.

Telephone: 01225 256867
<https://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/>

Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
Supports Safer Communities and other support agencies whose work supports good neighbourliness and community engagement

<https://wiltshirenhw.org/>

Wiltshire Council's draft Local Plan Review is open until 22nd November:
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19>

*****A SHEET TO KEEP*****

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Our Parish Council's full quota is **11 Council members** who sit to represent our two separate electoral wards. Ten Councillors represent the larger ward of Heytesbury (together with a part of Tytherington) and one Councillor represents the small separate ward of Knook.

1. **Caroline Barker Bennett**, Tel: [01985 840323](tel:01985840323). Email: carolinebarkerbennett@gmail.com
2. **Charlie Blake** Email : charlieraine04@gmail.com
3. **Ben Coombes** Email : bjcoombes@hotmail.com
4. **Trish Fellowes**, Tel: [07484 683470](tel:07484683470) or [01985 841001](tel:01985841001) Email: pmdfellowes@icloud.com
5. **Susan King**, Tel: [07568 574918](tel:07568574918) Email: susanking21@mail.com
6. **Vanessa Sturme**y, Tel: [07847 941133](tel:07847941133). Email: vsturme@hotmail.co.uk
7. **Nick Williams**, Tel: [07799300778](tel:07799300778). Email: nick@nickwilliams.com
8. **Anthony Wilson**, Tel: [01985 840223](tel:01985840223). Email: ant.wilson3@btinternet.com

PARISH CLERK – clerk@heytesburyparish.co.uk Tel 01985 217144

Our Regular PC meetings

These are currently held in the St Johns Hospital Residents Hall, by kind permission of the Trustees. The meetings start at 7.15pm and all are welcome. Agendas are published on our website and also posted on each of our three Parish Noticeboards (in Heytesbury Tytherington and Knook).

The list of our scheduled PC meetings until the end of 2023 is as listed below:

31st October

28th November

No meetings in August or December

Councillor Surgeries:

8pm Friday 3rd November at the Red Lion

10:30am Wednesday 6th December, Christmas coffee morning at St Johns resident's hall

We have Vacancies!

The role of a Councillor is to offer community service by attending meetings and making relevant decisions, helping with events, delivering information, discussing issues with local residents, other councillors informally or in working groups on bespoke projects.

Councillors, upon appointment, are also members of the corporate trustee of the Raymond Trust Fund (Registered Charity No 305523), set up in 1986 to provide land or buildings for a new village hall. This is a different and separate role to that of being a Councillor.

Councillors are often retired people because they have more available time. This, however, might give the Council only a partial view, so we also want to attract people who represent all age ranges and backgrounds within our Parish

Council vacancies are advertised on our web site and noticeboards.

The Raymond Trust Fund Charity

The aim of the Raymond Trust Fund is to carry out the original objects and purposes which are laid out in the byelaws, section 3. The grant policy will clarify how the Trustee intends to distribute funds within its powers, and in accordance with current Charity Law. The role of a Charity Trustee is separate and different from that of a Councillor; their duty is to the Charity.

<https://heytesburyparish.co.uk/raymond-trust/>