**WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

[www.westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk)

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*Chairman:* Mrs Diane Bohm *Clerk:* Mrs Jane Mullane

**Parish Clerk Update – 3rd July Parish Council Meeting**

1. **Highways Meeting – 12th June 2019**

Diane, Ruth and myself had a very productive meeting with Matthew Timms, Highways Officer from Oxfordshire County Council regarding the verge and bollards on B430, opposite North Lane.

**AREA CLEARED ON B430** – Council will not plough up nettles as they will just return. The suggestion is we dig up the area and plant wild flowers to the rear and see what takes and cut the grass verge adjacent the B430. Matthew confirmed any work done by the PC is covered under OCC liability insurance as long as they are aware of what works PC undertaking.

If the Council agree with the suggestion above we need to provide him with a plan to gain approval.

**DITCH CLEARING** – Matthew Timms has confirmed he has put the ditch on their programme to be cleared.

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON B430/BOLLARDS** – I am arranging a meeting with Mike Wasley (Principal Traffic Scheme Officer) to discuss whether bollards are required on the B430 and if so where they should be located. Once decided we can discuss the type and number eg. a wooden bollard would cost the PC £50/wooden bollard (incl VAT & installation).

**WESTON HIGHWAY INSPECTOR** – Matthew confirmed that Chris Grain is our Highway Inspector and he has requested a meeting with Neil and myself to discuss the Old Police House issue and the number of Fix My Street’s we recently added.

**VERGE CLEARANCE AROUND BOLLARDS ADJACENT GALLOSBROOK STREAM –** this has been reported on Fix My Street and should be included in the forthcoming grass and verge cutting programme but the inspector reportedly will continue to monitor it.

1. **Thames Water Update**

The Parish Council wrote to Thames Water to highlight the outstanding issues on the state of some areas of the village following their recent works. The clerk met with a Thames Water representative and the contractor on Friday 28th June 2019 and ran through what was required. It was confirmed that Thames Water’s contractors will repair the damaged verge areas and will fix the dip in the road at the B430/North Lane junction. The road repair will not be done immediately as it takes time to apply for permits for highway works and it will also involve a 3 way traffic control.

1. **Environment Agency - Chicken Farm**

I have received some feedback from Robert Iles at the Environment Agency regarding the chicken farm smell.

For breaches of the operating permit to be recorded the legislation specifies that the Environment Agency must verify the odours as being from the site. Clearly this is not easy if the odours are transient or not reported immediately. He has put in a procedure to get an officer out if there is a chance to verify these odour issues and the severity, clearly a late report or one after the event will not enable them to do that.

The information that we have provided has been shared and can be helpful in seeing if there is a pattern or a particular activity that is the source cause.

Dealing with or identifying sources or causes of odour is not easy and being such a new and clean facility he can’t put it down to an obvious poor management practice or old building or infrastructure issue yet.

However he has been considering this issue recently and the farm is due an audit shortly and he has been working on a list of possible sources to investigate with them.

Some of the reports were from A34/Service Station area rather than in the village itself and he questioned if or how those reports were impacting on people or business, although clearly it is a symptom of odour getting off the site. He mentioned that he knows the site will argue that a) the Council appreciates this is a rural location and rural business and also b) if odour on a busy road like the A34 is a really a cause for concern?

This is obviously a difficult issue to resolve. I have requested to be kept informed of any further developments following his audit.

1. **Councillor Email Update**

Unfortunately it has come to light that the email addresses now need to be on an Exchange Mailbox which costs £120+VAT/year each and therefore that would be £860+VAT/year for all of them. We will look into an alternative solution.

1. **End of Year Finance**

To confirm all required finance documents have been placed on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council response to the Internal Audit Report observations has been sent back to the Internal Auditor. The period of exercise of public rights (10th June – 19th July 2019) has been placed on the noticeboards and website.

We have also received an email from external auditors Moore Stephens to acknowledge receipt of the AGAR Part 2 exemption certificate for Weston on the Green Parish Council.

1. **The Chequers**

A thank you letter from the Parish Council has been given to The Chequers to thank them for all their village support. I also found out that they have been looking after the verge around the gate on the road to Wendlebury/A34 and they also recently picked up a large amount of unpleasant rubbish at the gate near them.

1. **Village Gate Planters**

The remaining planter has very kindly been adopted by Patsy Parsons.