



Listening to you

Bishopstoke Parish Council Newsletter

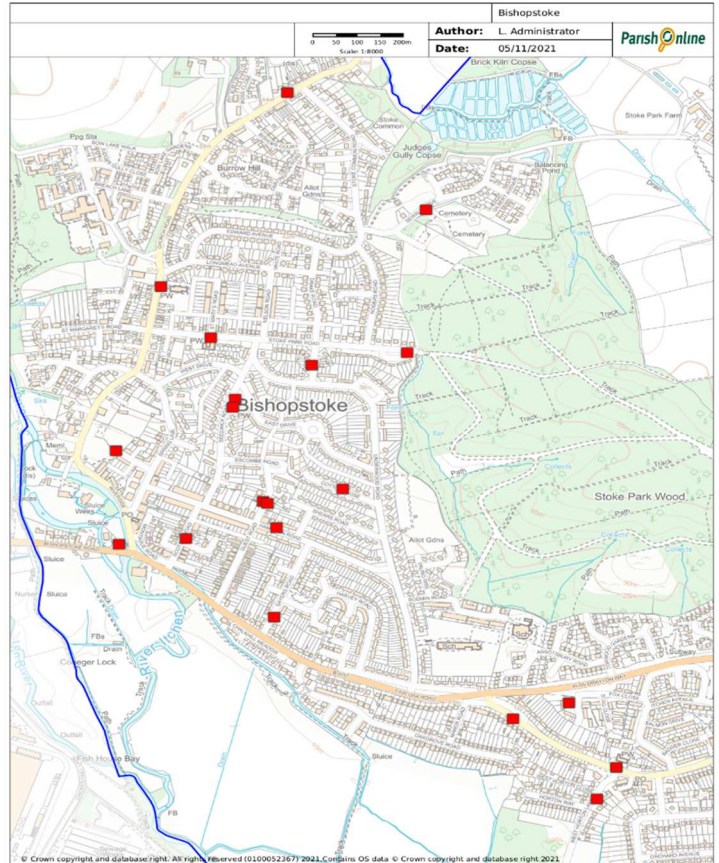
Winter 2021

The Newsletter from Bishopstoke Parish Council for Bishopstoke residents with news of the Parish Council, local voluntary organisations and residents

Christmas 2021

Christmas is fast approaching, and Bishopstoke Parish Council hopes you all have a wonderful festive season. Christmas is also the time when the Council considers its budget for the following year and there is information later in the newsletter about some of the projects that are being looked at for the coming years.

As we move into the colder part of the year those of you who use Travel Tokens can request a top up – we hope they help when you go visiting over the holidays. If it gets icy, we may need to use the grit bins. If you spot one of these is empty, feel free to let us know and we will pass the message on to Hampshire County Council.



Christmas Tree Trail 2021

See Church leaflets for further details



Message from the Chair – Cllr Ray Dean

As Chair I am hoping to drive forward projects that will enhance the area for the residents of Bishopstoke. We are looking forward to taking over two new allotment sites, a community orchard and a new cemetery extension. We also have big plans for Glebe Meadow and the Memorial Hall that I hope everyone will be excited by.

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

You can call us on 023 80643428 or find us on www.bishopstokepc.org . We're also on Facebook.

The Parish Office is currently closed but appointments can be arranged if needed.

PARISH CLERK: David Wheal 07368 487464 clerk@bishopstokepc.org

ASSISTANT CLERK & RFO: Sophie Thorogood 07444 798083 finance@bishopstokepc.org

CEMETERIES OFFICER: Jen Wilkie 07555 658621 cemeteries@bishopstokepc.org

PROJECTS OFFICER: Cheryl Taylor 07521 735539 projects@bishopstokepc.org

Allotments allotments@bishopstokepc.org

Carnival carnival@bishopstokepc.org

Committee Updates



Planning Committee

Cllr Anne Dean

The Planning Committee meets twice every month to discuss every application, big or small, in Bishopstoke. Major developments nearby, such as One Horton Heath also get discussed and we attended a recent meeting of the Horton Heath Development Management Committee to voice our strong objections to the proposed changes to the Blackberry Drive / Fair Oak Road junction. Fortunately, these plans have now been dropped.



Assets Committee

Cllr Gin Tidridge

The Assets Committee is responsible for the Parish Council's buildings, land and equipment, including allotments, benches, trees and cemeteries. Projects underway include commissioning and installing new gates for the cemetery, new fencing and equipment at Church Road play area and upgrading play areas at Blackberry Drive and Templecombe Road. The biggest project is replacing the Memorial Hall which, sadly, is to be demolished due its poor state of repair. Finding a new home for our Parish Office is also part of this project. We aim to consult local residents on all major projects.



Finance Committee

Cllr Lou Parker-Jones

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing how the Council raises and spends money. Most of the Council's funding comes from Council Tax - the Bishopstoke Parish Council portion is around £65 per year at the moment - but we do have other income from the allotments and Bishopstoke Cemetery. Our work is mainly focussed on ensuring the Council's money is dealt with appropriately, but we also get to approve grant requests from local groups and individuals. For example, we recently awarded a grant of £2,000 to Bishopstoke Guides towards improving their fire safety and security equipment.

If you would like more information on Bishopstoke Parish Council grant scheme and how to apply, please visit the website at www.bishopstokepc.org/grants or get in touch with the Clerk.

Next Meetings

Full Council: Jan 11th, Mar 8th

Assets: Nov 23rd, Jan 25th, Mar 22nd

Finance: Dec 14th, Feb 8th

Human Resources: Feb 22nd

Planning: All dates above

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of the Parish Council and its Committees are currently taking place at the Bishopstoke Methodist Church on Sedgwick Road. More details about the meetings can be found on our website, www.bishopstokepc.org.

Glebe Meadow

The Glebe Meadow Working Group has been busy looking at how Glebe Meadow can be updated and improved so that when the new Memorial Hall is built it will be part of a fantastic site, created for people of all ages to enjoy.

As we go forward the Council will be consulting with local people on ideas for what could be included on the Meadow, and what the best designs are for those things.

The group would like to see the new Hall expanded to include the space where the Parish Office currently sits, with as many windows as possible looking out onto the view of the Meadow. A patio area next to the Hall could be a wonderful place to sit, chat and maybe even have a coffee or a snack whilst your children play in the new play area just the other side of the entrance.

A proper path across from Church Road to Portal Road would let runners, walkers and commuters get from one side to the other without soaking your shoes or slipping in the mud, and a new “wheels” park would make better use of the top left corner of the Meadow, ensuring that it isn’t just for skateboards, but for roller skates, scooters, wheelchairs and bikes too.



Finally, the top right corner could be reclaimed, properly planted with wildflowers, and have new trees to provide shade for a new picnic area, possibly even using one of the springs as a water feature.

If you have any ideas or thoughts on how Glebe Meadow could be improved, please contact the Clerk and he will pass your ideas on to the Working Group.

Other News

The Council has again decided not to increase the cost of allotments and burials this year. To celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee the Council will have a larger grant fund for the year. Please make sure you apply early for your projects and events. As part of the Jubilee celebrations, Bishopstoke Parish Council would like to mark the occasion. If you have any ideas for how then please contact the Clerk.

Future Plans

Allotments

As well as potentially taking over two new allotment sites, the Council is looking at the possibility of removing the current allotment shop and machine shed at Underwood Road and replacing them with a brand-new building where the machine shed currently sits. Both current buildings are in poor repair and the Council feels there is a an opportunity to give Underwood Road a building to be proud of. The Council is also considering updating the toilet blocks at both Underwood Road and Jockey Lane.

Cemetery

The Council is hoping to improve the path between Bishopstoke Cemetery and Stoke Common Cemetery by replacing the steps between the two with a gently sloping ramp, allowing full access from the car park to both Cemeteries. Also being considered is a boardwalk ranging from the roundabout in the Cemetery round the back through the wooded area and then connecting back up with the new Cemetery near the back. This would allow the creation of a designated ashes scattering area and also a sensory memorial garden.

Play Areas

The Council currently manages six play areas along with other equipment at both Glebe Meadow and Blackberry Drive. These play areas only last 10 to 15 years and so the Council is considering creating a fund that would allow them to be replaced as needed, rather than having to find the money in a rush to allow emergency work to be completed.

Your Ideas

If you have any ideas for projects or improvements the Parish Council could make at any of its sites, please get in touch with the Clerk or your local Councillor. We would love to hear from you.

What's On

Do you run a group in the village?

If you would like future events, or details of your group's classes, contact details or social media pages included both here and on the Parish Council website, please send an email to clerk@bishopstokepc.org.

Newsletters are published quarterly, but the website can be added to at any time.

www.bishopstokepc.org/whatson

Carnival Update

Carnival will be back in 2022. Plans have already started for a number of events. Starting in June with the Bishopstoke Jubilee Walk and Picnic, our usual quizzes in July, a scavenger hunt in August and an extended three-day Carnival in September. We are looking for local craftspeople, stall holders, parade entries, organisers, helpers, raffle prizes, sponsorship and a whole host of other things too. If you took part in the front garden sale last summer and would like to do something similar in 2022 we would like to hear from you. Contact the Carnival group by emailing carnival@bishopstokepc.org if you are interested.