

Parish Council Meeting 12/5/08

This month's parish council meeting saw the annual election of our chairman, vice chairman and committee members; Barry Page was re-elected as Chairman as was Bob Martin as vice chairman. Due to Jane Sanger standing down as a parish councillor, we also had a space to elect a new councillor and very unusually we had more than one person interested! We didn't want to turn either of them away, so we elected Nishwan Shaboo as parish councillor and we co-opted Rebecca Day to the Publicity and Media committee to utilise her knowledge in this area and to give her an initial insight into the way the council works.

It has been decided that we must contact KCC Highways, following a very and standard speech from the Highways representative who spoke at the Annual Parish meeting. We will be voicing our grave disappointment that the speech did not address any of the issues we have regarding the state of our roads and particularly note that the 'patching up' of potholes is not an effective solution. We will also point out that our roads have to deal with a lot of heavy goods traffic so the pothole problem is a common one!

On the day of the Annual Parish meeting, a letter was received to inform us that we have a new village policeman, Nigel Rowe and our PCSO will no longer have 'village boundaries' due to the introduction of a new rule that means all PCSOs must have a 'ward boundary'. For us this means that our PCSO will now be required to cover Badgers Mount as well as Knockholt and Halstead. We will be inquiring further into the situation and the implications that it will have, and also express our grave displeasure at the lack of notice given to us of these changes.

In a recent parish newsletter that went to all residents we included a survey requesting to hear from anyone who would be interested in having an allotment in the village and we received 14 responses from those interested. The amenities committee will undertake the task of coming up with ideas for a suitable site in the village. If anyone has any land that they would be willing to offer for these allotments then please contact Doreen Jones, our clerk – we would be very happy to hear from you!

There was very little to report on regarding Fort Halstead this month, but there will be a meeting of the working group on 22nd May so hopefully more will be reported at our next meeting.

Finally, we heard from parishioners that they recently took their daughter up to the recreation ground and discovered a lot of dog mess there, that their daughter very nearly fell in, and would like to know if we can do anything to remedy this problem. We have notices up at the entrance of the rec stating that no dogs are allowed, but this is blatantly ignored and most that do walk their dogs there, clearly do not pick up their dogs' mess and put it in the dog bin that is near the rec entrance. We will discuss this issue with our PCSO Nick Barker, to ask him to monitor the situation; PCSOs have the power to issue on the spot fines for dog fouling.

Please feel free to join us at our next parish council meeting on Monday 2nd June, when we will be welcoming our new parish councillor Nishwan Shaboo for his first meeting!

Emma Crafter