

Meetings and Surgeries, Etc.

Because of unsatisfactory conditions in the Village Hall, we've moved our meetings and surgeries to the Church Room on Church Lane.

On 10th May, we'll be holding the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 p.m. This is your opportunity to raise issues regarding the village. Reports by village organisations will also be given, together with our Chairman's annual report and a financial report. The highlight of the evening will be presentation of awards for the 2004 Misterton Citizen of the Year and Junior Citizen of the Year competitions. Our monthly Parish Council meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting.

The next Councillors' surgery will take place on Tuesday 31st May from 6.15 to 7.15 p.m., with the one after that being on Tuesday 26th July - same times. Remember, if you've any complaint, suggestion or observation about Misterton or local services, then come along to a surgery. They're advertised in the Parish News and on the notice boards.

As well as being able to attend Councillors' surgeries, you can also visit the Clerk to the Council at The Old School House. He's usually there on Thursday mornings from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., and will be happy to talk to you.

Adult & Community Learning Service (ACLS)

Are you aged 19 or above? Would you like to do some free courses?

The Adult & Community Learning Service (ACLS), which is part of Nottinghamshire County Council's Regeneration Division, works with local learning providers to offer free learning opportunities at local venues in your village. Karen Bonsall is the ACLS Partnership Worker for Misterton.

Misterton also has a Local Learning Community Operation Group (COG), which is a partnership of local residents, learning providers and organisations who have an interest in providing demand led, local learning. The COG meets around once every two months at the Old School House in Misterton.

If you, or a group that you run or are part of, would like to talk to Karen about doing some learning, or to find out more about the COG, please ring her on 01909 474029.

Last Word

The next newsletter will be out in July, preceded by the Annual Report, but don't forget our surgeries or the availability of the Clerk to the Council. You can also use the contact details below. We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Parish News. You can also read approved minutes of meetings, etc. at the Library and Post Office, pubs, club, various shops and cafes and on the web site: www.mistertonvillage.org.uk

Contact Details

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Spring 2005



Misterton
Parish Council
Newsletter

SPRING 2005

Introduction

Lots of interesting things are still happening, and so we've again decided to concentrate on the most important issues.

Dog Dirt

This is a cause of concern in Misterton, where the 'couldn't care less' attitude of a small number of dog owners is dragging the place down. Dog dirt is a problem for everyone, but especially children, who run about on grassed areas, and older people, whose sight may not be as good as it once was. This results in dog dirt being brought into homes, shops, the school, etc. Dog dirt is also a health concern, with serious disease a potential threat.

Responsible dog owners already clear up after their dogs and use the village litter bins. Now, in an attempt to draw attention to dog owners' responsibilities, we've decided to invest in a number of red dog-waste bins, to be located around the village.

South-East Misterton

Three meetings have now taken place between MAP and Spawforth Associates, architects for Langley Homes, with a view to getting social benefit from redevelopment of the Jenkins Newell Dunford factory site. The situation remains promising, and a further meeting is planned in late April, when hopefully MAP and the Parish Council will find themselves able to support a planning application for the site. Watch this space!

Another matter of concern which we're talking to the authorities about is flooding during times of heavy rain and the surcharge of sewers. A local resident asked us to look into the problem, and we're working on it.

Village Hall and Victoria Institute

Unfortunately, we've not been able to resolve the problems of the Village Hall and Victoria Institute. We were hoping that the two remaining Village Hall trustees would agree to trusteeship being vested in either MAP or the Parish Council, with a power for sale. We could (with the agreement of the Charity Commission) then have taken over trusteeship the Victoria Institute as well and hopefully used capital receipts from the sale of the Village Hall to improve the Victoria Institute and bring it back into use as a community facility.

However, the two Village Hall trustees have used their legal powers to appoint three further trustees in addition to themselves, and have offered a proposed arrangement under which a new trust would be established comprising five trustees, two of whom would be Parish Council nominees. Unfortunately, that wouldn't give us the certainty it needs, as we'd be in the minority. In the circumstances, we've decided that we cannot continue committing taxpayers' money to maintain the Village Hall, and have passed back all responsibility for management and financing of the Village Hall to the five trustees. The Village Hall is now closed.

At least the Village Hall has its trustees, but the Victoria Institute, which is uninsured, has been abandoned by its trustees. The current situation is unsatisfactory regarding both buildings, and talks are now taking place between the Charity Commission, the Village Hall trustees and the Parish Council in an attempt to make progress.

Packet Inn Site

Unfortunately there's nothing to report regarding the Packet Inn site, and we're waiting to hear from the owners, Andromeda Holdings Ltd., as to fresh developments.

Skate/BMX Park

The plan to build a skate/BMX park on the front of the multi court is now very much on track. We've been offered grants of £1,000 each from Bassetlaw District Council and the Lincoln Co-operative Society, together with a conditional grant of £20,360 from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd. (WREN). WREN has been very good for Misterton, having previously given us £30,000 for the ball court in 2001. The money comes from the Landfill Tax. Misterton Parish Council is to provide the third party Landfill Tax funding contribution of £2,240.

The skate/BMX park is to be built by GBH Engineering Ltd., of Poole in Dorset, and, all being well, it will be up and running by the end of June.

This is the first big achievement coming out of the Misterton & West Stockwith Joint Parish Plan, and will hopefully be the first of many. Congratulations are due to everyone involved with the Plan, including members of MAP and the Recreation and Sport Theme Group.

Community Contact Point

We're on a knife edge as to whether we get the Community Contact Point at the old Co-op shop, with talks at a delicate stage. If the project goes ahead we'll have a civic building of our own in Misterton, which will be the first of its kind in rural Bassetlaw. We need something like this if we're going to be a Quality Parish.

The Contact Point will provide offices for the Parish Council, Bassetlaw District Council and the Police, together with an interview room, reception area, public lobby, toilets and kitchen. Firm details of services to be provided are not yet available, but we will, at long last, have a base for the Police once again in Misterton. We also know that Bassetlaw District Council is to provide video conference facilities. It's likely that, once the place is up and running, other organisations will wish to join us.

We're keeping our fingers firmly crossed!

Council Tax

Our precept (local council tax) has risen from £30,630 to £43,570. This amounts to £62.91 per year on a band D property. The increase is mainly due to new national pay scales for parish clerks (now based on work carried out as opposed to population), a contingency in respect of the Victoria Institute, the skate/BMX park, rising maintenance costs, increased administrative overheads and a contribution to restore balances to a more-acceptable level. It's a big increase, but we can't make it any less. Hopefully, next year we'll be able to trim some off. The phased abolition of Concurrent grant from Bassetlaw District Council is also having a big effect on us.

On an encouraging note, Bassetlaw District Council has begun a dialogue about double taxation affecting parished areas, and we hope that action will be taken to address this problem. A good example of double taxation is maintenance of our sports field, which is funded from the Parish Council element of the Council Tax, i.e. the Parish precept. However, Misterton residents also have to pay the Bassetlaw element of the Council Tax in respect of playing field provision in the non-parished parts of Bassetlaw. Clearly, Misterton residents are paying twice, and it isn't fair.

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