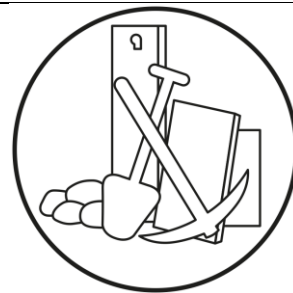


Keinton Mandeville Parish Council Newsletter April-June 2024



New Councillor

In April, the PC formally welcomed their new councillor – Debbie von Bergen. Debbie has only recently moved to the village and will be ideally placed to give the perspective of a relative newcomer to the PC's discussions and decisions. We still have a vacancy for one more councillor.

Somerset Council

Somerset Council is facing serious financial issues. There will be a 20% reduction in the workforce and some of these, but not all, will be voluntary redundancies. Some services formerly undertaken by South Somerset District Council will have to be taken over by Parish Councils and we are still working on the details of this.

The PC has requested a meeting with Somerset Council's Chief Planning Officer to discuss outstanding S106 payments (which could be used to fund various projects - especially improvements to the Village Hall) and the accuracy of some of the Planning Authority's village data on which planning decisions are based.

Due to Somerset Council making a substantial increase in the fees charged for their "Ranger" service, the PC have agreed to discontinue using this service. We will therefore be looking for contractors to undertake tasks (such as footpath clearance, fence maintenance etc)

Maintenance

The PC are aware that some footpaths have become overgrown, as we are still looking for a contractor to replace the Somerset Ranger.

A new kissing gate has been installed on the footpath adjacent to Newcombe Farm and the PC have requested maintenance works to be undertaken on the Church Street – Chistles Lane footpath. We understand this is the responsibility of the Lakeview management company.

The telephone kiosk on Castle Street is to be incorporated into the village Heritage Trail as an information point and possible additional book swap library. Signage for this kiosk is on order.

The PC have purchased a second "Tommy" silhouette to be placed at the eastern approach to the village to match the one who guards the western gateway at Remembrance time.

We will also be acquiring a new mower and gate for the Happy Tracks play area.

Residents whose homes are adjacent to a public pavement are requested to make sure hedges do not become so overgrown as to obstruct the footway. Sadly, there are some places where this is a serious problem, forcing pedestrians into the roadway.

Grants

Between May and June recipients included the Methodist Church, helping them continue their project to establish the Church as a community meeting space, and Keinton Environment Group.

Traffic report and follow-up survey

There have only been 42 responses at the time of the July PC meeting. Any outstanding questionnaires should be submitted via the box provided in the village shop by 31st July.

The majority of responses state that the main issues are around the village centre and speeding. Most responders support the changes to speed limits as suggested by the Moss Naylor Young report.

There is additional support for establishing a traffic flow priority system for the village centre.

Services

The PC would like to draw residents' attention to two new services. "Fix My Street" is an app that will make reporting problems such as blocked drains or potholes easier and, we are told, will get a quicker response than "conventional" channels. We would also encourage residents to try out the new "Slinky" bus service – also available through a phone app – and to give us feedback on the value of this new service.

Since installation of fibre broadband to the village, many residents will have lost their conventional phone lines. If this applies to you, please be aware that, in the event of a power cut, you will need to be familiar with the SOS call facility on your mobile phones in order to make an emergency call.

Village Calendar of events

Public sessions at the recent parish council meetings have called for a Village Calendar to be co-ordinated so that events are less likely to clash. Therefore a volunteer is being sought to be able to perform this task. Please let the parish council know if you are interested.

Next Meetings

The next parish council meetings are on 3rd September and 1st October. There is no planned August meeting, but the 6th August has been reserved in case an extraordinary meeting is needed. All meetings take place in the Village Hall and start at 7.30pm. Public sessions will take place at 7.30pm immediately before the formal meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Newsletter Subscription

This newsletter can be downloaded from the PC website and a few printed copies will be available from the Quarry Inn, Village Shop and Newlands Farm café. If you would like to receive your own copy via email, contact the Clerk (see below) to be added to our subscribers' list.

Keinton Environment Group (KEG)

Four areas of wildflowers have been planted and we are now encouraging members of the public to also do some planting in areas of their own – such as roadside verges as well as gardens. The Community Copse near the Village Hall could do with more volunteers to help maintain the trees and identify any that are under stress and KEG will be producing an "adopt a tree" scheme for residents to help with this. KEG's Environment Day (June 15th) was not as well attended as last year's but was an enjoyable and informative event nonetheless.

Neighbourhood Planning Group

Neil Bain, who was the mastermind behind the launch of the Neighbourhood Plan for the village, has had to step down as Chair due to work commitments and we are pleased that Hugh von Bergen has stepped into the role. The group still requires volunteers to assist with the final stages of drafting the plan, which is constantly in need of updating as new developments and planning policy changes occur. The draft sections of the plan can be viewed via the PC website (see below)

Contact the Parish Council

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Contact the Environment Group

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