



The Occasional Parish Council Newsletter Number 5 March 2013



Welcome to **The Occasional**, your Parish Council's newsletter. Our plan is to produce a copy every three months or so to inform you of Parish Council news and events.

We think this newsletter is important because, hopefully, it will enable you:
to find out what your Parish Council is doing and thinking of doing;
to tell us what needs doing;
to find information about the parish;
to make contact with North Somerset District Council.

We like to hear of your concerns and of any issues that you wish to bring to our notice. You can do so using any of the following:

calling at the Parish Office, Community Centre Building, 11 Sandford Road, BS25 1JA,
(open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am - 12.00pm);
telephoning (01934 844257);
emailing (wincombe@ineone.net)
or writing to Lynne Rampton, our Parish Clerk.

In the future, paper-copies may not be hand-delivered but available from selected places within the parish. Hopefully, you will agree to receive a copy by email. The advantages of receiving an email copy is that it will give you: much more information that cannot be included in in: i-size paper-copies; links to various additional information, colour, and photographs.

However, if you cannot get out to collect a paper-copy, let the Office know and we will drop one in especially for you.
Contact - Gerald Lloyd
lloyd@wincobesandfordpc.org.uk

Housing development in your parish.
North Somerset Council is producing a new Sites and Policies Plan which, once adopted, will supersede the remaining policies in its Replacement Local Plan 2007. The new plan, effective to 2026, will include the development of Woodborough Farm residential site with some 120 houses. The consultation for this plan runs from 28th Feb. to 19th April 2013, and parishioners are encouraged to send in comments to NSC. The information and comment procedure can be found on the following link:
www.nsomerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies

An invitation to the annual Parish Assembly
7.30 pm Thursday
14 March Winccombe Community Centre

Parishioners are invited to the Annual Parish Assembly to meet your Parish Councillors and
Mrs Sue Mountstevens,
our new Police and Crime Commissioner.
She would like to hear your views.

Please forward this newsletter to whoever you think will be interested, and send any comments about any of the items included to the Parish Clerk, using the details above.

To send you a copy of future newsletters by email, the Parish Council needs your permission.

If you would like to be sent copies, let your Council know by email.

wincombe@ineone.net

All information will be treated in strict confidence.



Allotments Over the past twelve months flooding has been quite a problem at the parish allotments in Ilex Lane due to the extraordinary amount of rainfall we have seen. To help improve the drainage and hopefully prevent on-going flooding on our allotments, the drainage ditch to the rear of half of the allotments has been extended to a further six plots.



The success of this work was immediately visible as the new trench started to fill with water even as it was being dug out. If this trench extension does not fully solve the flooding problems further drainage work may have to be considered, but for now we wait and hope!

Contact - Mike Williamson -
mwilliam@wincobesandfordpc.org.uk

Litter is rubbish, and dropping it is against the law.



Did you know that Winccombe and Sandford have a merry band of twenty-three volunteer Litter Pickers. We all cover either an area close to where we live or one where the litter is particularly annoying.

Come and join us. Contact Sue Kent on telephone number 843972. You will be given a Litter Grabber, a Hi-viz Waistcoat and a leaflet on how to litter-pick safely.

If you are unable to become a volunteer, but you see an area which could do with a clean up please contact Sue or the Parish Office, though if the litter is not too objectionable to pick up, pop it in a litter bin.

Contact - Sue Kent -
kent@wincobesandfordpc.org.uk



Cemetery The peace and tranquility of our Parish Cemetery in Ilex Lane has recently been disturbed with people exercising their dogs, off leads, on the bottom end of the Cemetery, totally ignoring the notices stating that



"Dogs must be kept on a lead"

The Parish Council would ask all dog owners to respect the sanctity of the Cemetery and to adhere to any signs put up in that area in order to maintain the quiet solitude for those visiting the graves of loved ones.

Contact - Mike Williamson -
mwilliam@wincobesandfordpc.org.uk

It is for your convenience You may have noticed in the Parish Plan published in 2010 that 90% of parishioners who responded wanted to retain the Public Convenience by the Millennium Green. You will also appreciate that North Somerset Council are required to make considerable savings over the next few years and have been looking at transferring assets and services to Parish Councils. Therefore your Parish Council is in negotiation with NSC and, subject to contract, have decided to take over the running and ownership of the Public Convenience with effect from April 1st 2013.



During the recent precept negotiations, savings were made in a number of areas to allow the Parish Council to take over this facility at minimal cost to the community. Due to these NSC savings, in the future it may be suggested that the Parish Council take on other services and facilities. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact the Parish Office as above.

Cresten Boase has recently been elected as a Parish Councillor. She writes: I'm enjoying finding out more about the workings of the parish. I am on the Environment Planning and Finance Committees, and the Award Land Working Party.

Good News! Recently, we all were delighted to find that a mystery community hero had voluntarily repaired a collapsed footpath bridge, helping the task of keeping up over twenty-six valued miles of parish footpaths. Thank you, mystery community hero!

Getting out for a good walk is a great joy. I met my neighbours and their dogs, and I know it does me good. Free footpath maps are available from the Parish Office.

Not So Good News! Let's all be on the alert, and look out for our neighbours. PC Steve Church, our community officer, reports a scam targeting older or vulnerable parishioners. A gang calls on people in their homes, offering to jet-clean patios, and other maintenance services. The people targeted are overcharged, and can be pressurised into paying more, in one case driven to a bank to draw out more cash. So, beware!

It's good-bye soon to Steve, who has looked after us so well, and we wish him a happy retirement. We will let you know who his replacement is to be, once we're told. Contact - Cresten Boase -
boase@wincobesandfordpc.org.uk

Yet another merry band of volunteers.

You may have noticed that the area behind the public toilets has been cleared of not only the 'jungle' that had grown but also the rubbish dumped there, perhaps by people sitting on the Mabbett Seat and within six feet of a litter bin. This merry band of by no means youngsters, working with Councillor Chris Ballard, may be seen on most Mondays, often in yellow overalls, working away not only on Strawberry Line tasks but also on those tasks desperately needing completion by the Parish Council.
We all owe them much thanks.

Community Connect - to help raise the profile of this Service in Winccombe and Sandford, the area will be declared an 'Action Area' from 11th March 2013 for one week. There will be a co-ordinated programme of events, with a range of services being available in and around the Parish and run by 'Age UK'. The services will provide information, advice and services to help people stay healthy and independent. Experts will be giving free advice on topics that vary from fire safety to finances, social opportunities to housing options, carers' services to care services, staying warm and well, and keeping safe and independent.

www.nsomerset.gov.uk/actionsare

is where the programme of events will be found, and they will shortly be published.

Contact - Geoff Luckett

lucett@wincobesandfordpc.org.uk