



The Occasional Parish Council Newsletter Number 17 March 2016



Hopefully, this Newsletter will enable you to:

- find out what your PC is doing and planning to do;
- tell us what needs doing;
- find information about the parish;
- to contact North Somerset Council - 01934 888 888

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;
- opening times: Monday and Thursday: 10am to noon;
- telephoning, 01934 844 257;
- Emailing, winscombecp@lineone.net;
- writing to **Lynne Rampton**, our Parish Clerk.



Winscombe Retained Fireservice.

The Avon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service is seeking to employ additional Retained Firefighters at the Winscombe Station. Further details can be found on:
<http://www.avonfire.gov.uk/recruitment-home/retained-firefighter>

Collecting questionnaires - Neighbourhood Development Plan

We are seeking volunteers to help deliver questionnaires for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). These are to be delivered to every household in the parish in early 2016. Since the questionnaire can be completed online we anticipate that volunteers will only have to collect a proportion of those delivered.

Many hands make light work, and we hope that with a considerable number of volunteers, each will only have to deliver to a small number of addresses in the parish. Would you be willing to help? If so, please contact the Parish Clerk, at the Parish Office, or email to: ndp@winscombeandsandford.org.uk.

Once the questionnaires have been analysed, the NDP policies will be drawn up. Work is ongoing, and everyone in the parish is invited and encouraged to help write the NDP. The working group normally meets on the last Thursday of the month at Winscombe Community Centre at 7.30 pm; all are very welcome. More details about the NDP can be found at: <http://www.winscombeandsandford.org.uk/ndp.html>.

Dates for your diary

Full Parish Council Meetings 7.30 pm				Annual Parish Assembly
21 st March	25 th April	23 rd May	27 th June	7.30 pm 16 th May
Sandford Village Hall	Sidcot Arts Centre	W. Community Centre	W. Community Centre	W. Community Centre

Man's Best Friend



One of the pleasures of living in our parish is the range of public spaces available for all to enjoy. Activities may range from biking to running, and from competitive sport to a leisurely saunter with the dog. It is perhaps timely to remind dog owners who use these spaces that there are some very clear “do’s and don’ts” which are embedded in law.

Under the Dog Control Orders Regulations, dogs are prohibited from Winscombe Memorial Recreation Ground (except in the car park) and from Sandford Play Area (off Winnowing End). Signs, like that shown here, are clearly displayed, informing everyone that dogs are prohibited. A failure to follow these directions may lead to an owner being subjected to a significant fine.

In addition, where dogs are allowed, owners have clearly defined responsibilities for cleaning up any dog mess (i.e. faeces) deposited in public areas. Bins are provided by the Parish Council at a number of sites for this purpose; please make sure you use them. Again, a failure to adhere to the regulations can result in a significant fine.

Please, be a responsible owner; be aware of your responsibilities and help to ensure that all, man and his best friends, continue to enjoy the open spaces in our parish.



Policing in the Parish

The last quarter of 2015 was marked by an increased number of crimes in the parish. Generally we are fortunate to have a very low level of criminal activity. However, economic pressures on Avon and Somerset Constabulary are likely to result in a more limited police presence, especially in routine interactions with the Parish Council.

Normally a local police officer attends each meeting of the Parish Council. There, the Community Policing Priorities are discussed. In addition, time is given when parishioners are encouraged to give their views on this and any local police matters, including the monthly crime report. All can remain abreast of parish issues that relate to policing via the Parish Council website:

<http://www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk>

All can also gain important information regarding local police issues, including local police priorities, as well as contact details for the local officers, through the website:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/>

A new home for tired trousers and forlorn frocks!



It's that time of year. As parishioners look in their cupboards to find clothes that they have not worn for a long time, the question may be: Well what shall I do with these? An easy and convenient answer has recently arrived in the parish. With the support of the Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council a new Textile Recycling Facility has been installed in the car park at the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Winscombe. It could not be simpler; the facility accepts shoes, clothing and textiles, but please put all donations in bags. And the monies raised are for an important local charity, the Great Western Air Ambulance:

<http://www.greatwesternairambulance.com/>

Although you do not need those old clothes, you never know when you may need the services of an Air Ambulance. Your support will be most appreciated.

**Winscombe
Community Centre
Development**

**Winscombe
New Space**

WiNSPACE



What is this all about?

For the last two years a Development Committee, on behalf of the Community Centre, has been looking at the possibilities of developing the Centre, creating a fantastic opportunity to deliver a sustainable facility for future generations.

The History of the Centre

The Community Centre Association was formed 35 years ago, with volunteers running the Centre for the benefit of the community. This includes maintaining the buildings, fund raising and putting on events that many of us enjoy. Many of the initial volunteers are still helping today!

Why do we need to Develop The Centre?

Running the centre costs around £40,000 p.a. with 40% of income raised going directly into maintenance. With the buildings not getting any younger we need to look to the future. The Parish is now much bigger than 35 years ago and most likely will be bigger still in another 35 years. The current buildings as they are, especially the youth club and annexes, are not sustainable.

What is The Vision?

We want to create a modern venue for the Parish, to provide a Hub for the whole Community, a place that everyone feels ownership of, serving all age ranges, and a facility that all the Community can feel proud of and use.

The Rules we set ourselves

As we are at the early stages of planning, we are considering all options and as a Community asset we are taking into account the wider stock of halls and meeting venues, when considering future needs. We need to think long term, 40 years or more. The development will need the support of the Community and we will consult and listen to views before reaching any decisions, although we recognise it will never be possible to please everyone.

What is Happening Now?

An architect is being commissioned to create an outline design. This will allow the Development Committee and Trustees to put forward to the Community a draft plan (hopefully in June). This will include large and medium function halls, youth facilities and new Parish offices, plus many other features. This is a major project and we will need hundreds of thousands of pounds for which we are looking at all funding ideas. We see this as a once in a generation, thrilling opportunity to create facilities for everyone for many years to come and we are looking forward to exciting times.

Contact

If you have any comments, ideas or questions on the above, please get in touch at:
info.winspace@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch - Somerset

The aims of the scheme are as follows:

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime;
- Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime;
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities;
- To tell the police and neighbours about suspicious incidents in your neighbourhood

What can it bring to your community?

Messages forwarded to co-ordinators to inform them of crime trends, public information and crime reduction information.

- Newsletters
- Discounts on house insurance – available from many insurance companies for members of schemes registered with the police
- Most active Watch areas see a reduction in crime and increase in the sense of community spirit and well being



How do I set up a scheme?

Setting up a scheme is easy, simply contact Lindsey Stone in the Watch Schemes Office, Bridgwater Police Centre, Phone 01278-644799 during office hours (Mon-Thurs 8.00am - 4.00pm) or Email on:

lindsey.stone@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Lindsey will be able to give you pack of information about Neighbourhood Watch which you can read at your leisure.

The pack will ask you to complete a survey of your immediate area to see if there is sufficient interest to start a scheme. The recommended size of a scheme is ten to twenty properties.

If there is sufficient interest, then arrangements are made with the local Beat Manager to meet with you and your neighbours.

A volunteer completes the necessary registration forms and when returned to the office records are completed and the scheme formally registered.

Age UK Drop In Sessions

Age UK Somerset hold free confidential Information and Advice 'drop-in' sessions at the Winscombe Doctors' Surgery, Hillyfields Way, on the last Tuesday of each month from 10am – 12 noon. The session is for people over 60, their families, friends or carers on a variety of subjects including: welfare benefits, housing issues, care assessments, moving into a care home and much more.

If you have any questions, queries, or need information or advice on any topic, feel free to call in to discuss.

For more details call Age UK Somerset on 01823 345613



Email version of your newsletter. To email you a more detailed version of this newsletter, the Parish Council must have your permission. To give this permission use the panel on the front page of the 'new' parish council website.

www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk

All information will be kept strictly confidential.