



January 2022 Newsletter

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As you may know, we decided not to hold our Parish Council meeting face-to-face this month because of the high rate of Covid cases in our area. Regulations forbid holding our meeting on Zoom - such is the divorce from reality prevalent with bureaucrats in Westminster. Hence, we reverted to our holding an unofficial meeting and delegating powers to Jane, our clerk, to enact any decisions which is deemed acceptable. We also concur with the Village Hall committee's decision not to hold their grand opening on 29th January. Therefore, we won't be able to discuss first hand about the forthcoming elections for our parish and indeed the new unity authority at that event.

Elections

We now have all the details from HBC regarding the process for electing a new parish council. To those of you who may be interested in being a candidate, here are some of those details:

14th February: nomination papers and information will be sent to our parish clerk

7th March: Notice of election will be posted in noticeboards

8th March – 5th April: submission of nominations BY HAND TO A RETURNING OFFICER AT HBC

5th May: Election at the polling station at the village hall or by postal vote

Annual meeting of the new parish council must take place within 14 days from the council coming into office (which is on the fifth day after the election).

We really do need a strong parish council to look after our interests, especially in the transition phase between the current two-tier system and the new unitary authority. If you're interested in becoming a candidate, please talk to one of the current councillors or our clerk or - as happened last week with one resident - join in on our next meeting, although that will be the last one before submission of nominations.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We have previously asked for suggestions from parishioners but, apart from one proposal, no-one has come forward with any ideas for a community event. A beacon could be sited on a suitable village high point. We will be writing to various groups in the parish to see how we can achieve the same spirit of unity as we have with Carols on the Green. There's not much time left to prepare but it would be a shame if we didn't celebrate a once in a millennium event in our parish. Please put any ideas on an email to Jane, our clerk.

Carols on the Green

This, despite the horrendous weather preceding the event and Covid 19, had its largest attendance yet. The Parish Council match-funded the collection of £250 and some £80 was additionally donated tax-free online. Frank's Fund has, therefore, been presented with some £580. One of the problems at the event

was soggy carol sheets due to the weather. In view of this, we'll get together with Mr Iain Ward-Campbell and the church to provide some new sheets with popular carols and laminate them so they can withstand a little precipitation at future events.

Parameters Plan (PP)

The long-awaited draft of this plan came out last week and we have scrutinised it. To all intents and purposes, it looks more like a design review benefitting the developers who co-wrote it with HBC. There is really nothing that affects us in it because the main element (transport and traffic) was hived off to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) at around the beginning of December with no completion date confirmed. We have no idea why the most critical part of the PP was omitted but it has been postulated that because HBC stated that planning applications in the Western Arc would not be heard until the PP was signed off, the transport part was taken out of the plan and therefore nothing contentious is left within it. This is not the collective opinion of our Parish Council but is nonetheless an interesting viewpoint. There is a stakeholder meeting this week about the PP and we will report back in the next newsletter.

Planning Matters

HBC closed ranks after receiving criticism of their handling of various planning matters. We received communications that questioned the temerity of our daring to challenge HBC. No-one is above challenge in public life . . . neither central government nor local government nor indeed your Parish Council. While HBC claims everything it did was legal, questions still remain over the manner in which some decisions were taken. There is a huge difference between legality and what is right, proper, moral and reasonable. However, we have decided not to enter into further communication at this stage as this would prove fruitless.

Parishioners will no doubt remember the complete about-turn of voting on 7th December for the former Police Training College decision (from 8-1 against to a majority in favour within the same meeting). In normal decision-making meeting practice, once a vote is taken, that would be binding unless an alternative amendment had been agreed. This is where the Parameters Plan issue was a central point and perhaps why traffic and road infrastructure were taken out of the plan and shifted to the IDP but, again, that is just supposition.

Dunlopillo

There is a revised Prior Notice of Permitted Development (PNPD) in place for the old office block for 38 flats. It is not a planning application as the development has already been permitted. This is intended to replace the original PNPD for 48 flats which everyone (except HBC) thought was obtrusive, out of character with the village, overlooked properties, etc. etc., so the Parish Council has objected to the second PNPD on the same grounds as for the original. However please appreciate that the original has been approved by HBC, so the chances are that the revised version will be too under current legislation - it could be the lesser of two evils, sadly, but it doesn't stop us or you objecting!

Speeding in the Parish

A request has been made for more provision to stop speeding at school times. We appreciate the concerns of residents and, particularly, that the safety of our children is of paramount importance. As far as we are aware, police do not enforce 20MPH speed limits nationally as other measures (chicanes, road humps, crossings, etc.) are supposed to regulate traffic speeds.

Fortunately, we have our SID data which has been analysed thoroughly, thanks to Mr Peter Talbot who gives up a lot of his time to produce the statistics which are used by NY Police. Peter made a "like-for-like" comparison at school pick-up and drop-off times of speed on Main Street on normal school days and at

half term. This demonstrated that there is no appreciable difference in average speeds and that all those averages are within the speed limit of 20MPH.

There will always be those who exceed limits and if police are not prepared to act in 20MPH limits, there's little we can do. Deploying Community SpeedWatch on Main Street at school times has proven to be a waste of time as often congestion and parking limits speed anyway. The SIDS appear to do their work.

Neighbourhood Plan

We're just waiting on a few additional bits of information before finalising the draft at the end of this month. Unfortunately, much evidence that we need has been thrown off track due to many people working from home and not using our streets as car parks for commuters. Nonetheless, we're getting there and will soon have something tangible to present to our parishioners and HBC and, indeed, to an inspector.

There are of course other issues simmering on the back burners but the key message is to please consider putting yourself forward to become a parish councillor. Not all of the existing councillors will seek re-election due to other commitments, so it is imperative that we have enough candidates to fill the seven places available and ensure that democracy is seen to be working.

For reference, the most recent newsletter is always posted on the Village Notice Board (at the Village Hall) and all newsletters are posted on the website here: <http://www.pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk/Documents.aspx>

Also, if you use Facebook, please join our group where you'll get any breaking news more quickly than through these periodic newsletters:

<https://www.facebook.com/Pannal-and-Burn-Bridge-Parish-Council-1655335551445518/>

Best wishes

Howard West, Chairman, howard.west@pannalandburnbridge-pc.gov.uk

and Dave Oswin, Deputy Chairman, and Councillors Cathy Burrell, Ian Birchall, Steve Cobb and Ryan Dall