

Summary of March Meeting of South Hinksey Parish Council

Community Land

The Council has agreed a lease with the farmer, Nick Frearson, for the occasional use of the field behind the village hall. The Council had already agreed a lease for the former car park on Manor Road, and Matthew Carlos and Cllr Sarah Balaam are going to organize a meeting to discuss how it can be used by the community.

Church Close

The Council are investigating lighting for the path and Cllr Elizabeth Halcro will be meeting with the Vale of White Horse shortly to discuss possible options. The Council are also waiting for Ed Green from the City Council to arrange a site visit to discuss the possibility of providing a car park to ease congestion on St Lawrence Road.

Potholes

Highways are already aware of the problem but have been slow to act. So, Arash Fatemian, County Councillor for the area, has surveyed all the potholes in the village and will be submitting the report personally to Highways this week.

Councillor Vacancy

The current Chair of the Council, Clive Briffett, will be standing down in April. The Council is currently looking for candidates for the post. The Council are particularly keen to hear from candidates from underrepresented groups in the parish. Details of the election process will be posted on noticeboards and circulated on SHInfo from 12th April.

Council Finances

The draft accounts for 2009/10 reported a surplus of £6,500 for the year, giving total funds of £16,500. The Council has therefore agreed to lower the precept from £8,200 (2009/10) to £3,800 (2010/11) and use some of the surplus for higher levels of parish maintenance.

Litter Picking

Cllrs Liz LeFevre and Clive Briffett are organizing litter picks in the village and Hinksey Hill. Anyone interested should contact them directly. Contact details on www.southhinksey.org or <https://sites.google.com/site/southhinkseypc>.

Sewer Flooding

An upgrade of the pumping station at Littlemore and de-silting over the next three months should prevent sewers overflowing. Those experiencing flooding can claim compensation, and details have been sent out in a previous SHInfo bulletin.

Air Pollution

The Vale of White Horse will be installing a monitor to test air pollution in the village. There are also reports of strong smells from car-stripping activities on the industrial units to the north of the village. Although unpleasant, the fumes aren't thought to be toxic, but Cllr Elizabeth Halcro will be discussing this with the workers.

Maintenance of the Devil's Backbone

The farmer, Nick Frearson, has been doing extensive work pollarding the willows by the path, as they were becoming overgrown and there was a danger of branches falling. During pollarding, it became apparent that some of the trees are rotting, which is why they have been cut back further. The Council are also investigating the maintenance of the path during snow and ice to ensure it is accessible at all times.

This is a summary of some of the points raised, and the full minutes of all Council meetings are available at: <https://sites.google.com/site/southhinkseypc>

For further details on any of the above or any other issues, please contact:
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