

Parish Council Report

The Queen's 90th Birthday Commemorative Medals for village children

Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning British monarch, currently in the 64th year of her reign. To mark her 90th Birthday the Parish Council has purchased 150 medals to be presented to children of 12 years of age and under who reside in the village. These will be available on a first come first served basis via the CIP. Residents will be asked to confirm their address.

Volunteers needed – can you help?

We are aiming to refurbish the children's play area this spring/summer and would appreciate a little help from members of the community. We have a specialist contractor who will supply and fix the new play equipment but there are some tasks we could save money on, e.g. removing old fencing, digging out existing swing frames and generally preparing the area. If you can help with some of these tasks, especially if you have access to tools and machines, please contact Kate Fox, 810111, or any Parish Councillor.

New Street Lights

Following consultation via the Bardfield Times Crown Street has been identified as being a particularly dark area. A meeting has been held with a representative from UK Power to discuss the logistics of siting a new street light which include proximity to the power supply, the height of the pole being sufficient to clear high-sided vehicles in this narrow road, and the overall cost which will be around £2,000. Other areas will be considered in the next financial year.

Extra support for vulnerable residents during power cuts

UK Power Networks have asked residents who are particularly vulnerable to register for their Priority Services. Those eligible include elderly people, those dependent on medical equipment, those who have a disability, and people with young children. Those on the register would have a priority number they can call 24 hours a day during a power cut; regular text messages or phone updates and extra support from services such as the Red Cross. If you would like to sign up please contact the Parish Clerk, 810111.

Planning applications

High Barn Licence Application: This application is to go before the Licensing Sub Committee on 18th March. The Parish Council has objected, supporting the many local residents concerned about the extent of the proposed licensing hours.

14, Durham Close: Proposed work to reduce overgrown leylandii and reduction and management of other species. There was no objection to this work.

School Council

Cllr. Kennedy and I were invited to attend a recent School Council meeting and were very impressed with the way the children worked together to improve aspects of their school. Some members of the School Council, together with Headteacher Mrs. Kerrell, will be attending the April meeting to see how the Parish Council works and to share their ideas and suggestions for improving the village.

Annual Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly will be held on Friday April 29th in the Town Hall at 8pm. Everyone is welcome to come and hear and discuss reports of the work of Parish, District and County Councils and from some of the village organisations.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 13th. at 8pm in the Town Hall Committee Room. The public forum is held from 8-8.15pm.

Janet Dyson, Chair.