



Westbere Parish Council NEWSLETTER June 2019

Welcome to the latest edition of your Westbere Parish Council newsletter. Any comments, suggestions or contributions for consideration in future editions would be most welcome!

Your Parish Councillors

Stephen Laws
Sylvia Harlow
Maria Morcom
Kathryn Wilson
Karen Williams
Tom Hopkins
Joshua Croucher

For enquiries or reports, please contact the Clerk in the first instance – Clerk - Amanda Sparkes:
01304 365 972 amanda.sparkes@sky.com

Canterbury City Councillors – Westbere has two ward councillors:

Georgina Glover: 01227 711429
georgina.glover@canterbury.gov.uk and
And newly elected from May 2019:
Louise Harvey Quirk

Our Kent County Councillor

Alan Marsh: 01227 265112
alan.marsh@kent.gov.uk

You can visit WPC website for more local information at:
<http://www.westberepc.kentparishes.gov.uk>

May 2019 Parish Council Elections

The parish council elections are held every four years. Our previous Chairman, Jeanette Dawson decided to stand down from the parish council after 16 years of service. We bid her a fond farewell.

At the April 2019 parish council meeting, on behalf of the parish council, Cllr Laws thanked Cllr Dawson for her 16 years of service given to the parish council, and thanked her for all her hard work during that time. He presented her with a card and meal voucher for a trip for two to a restaurant on the other side of Kent.

(For information, the funding for this was raised through donations from the parish councillors and Clerk, rather than the use of precept funding.)

Resident Joshua Croucher put himself forward as a candidate for election. We are sure he will make an excellent addition to the team.

No other residents came forward so Westbere had an uncontested election.

The councillors will now serve a four year term until the next parish council elections in May 2023.

As we go to print, none of the elected parish councillors wish to take on the permanent role of Parish Council Chairman (although this will be revisited at the 14 May annual meeting of the parish council), preferring instead to have a Chairman elected for each individual meeting for the time being.

Cllr Responsibilities for 2019-2020

- Chairman for meetings - to be on a rotating basis for the time being
- Vice-chairman - tbc
- Cllr Stephen Laws – Planning, Fire Hydrants
- Cllr Sylvia Harlow – Planning, parish plan, KMBR reports
- Cllr Kathy Wilson - Neighbourhood Watch, Chair village hall committee
- Cllr Karen Williams – Monitoring of the village salt bins, and village events, and parish council representative on the Village Hall committee
- Cllr Tom Hopkins - Street lights and Transport
- Cllr Maria Morcom – Parish Council representative for Westbere Village Preservation Society (WVPS) and attend WVPS meetings; and attend the CCC Street Monitors meetings
- Cllr Joshua Croucher – New Councillor from May 2019; responsibilities to be confirmed

WESTBERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2018

Our meetings are open to the public and we have an adjournment early in the agenda proceedings to give any resident the opportunity to speak.

Meetings will take place in the Village Hall at 19:30 on the following Tuesdays:

14 May 2019, 18 June 2019, 16 July 2019, No meeting in August, 17 September 2019, 15 October 2019, 19 November 2019, No meeting in December 2019.

Important: In this edition of this newsletter we invite you to a witness statement workshop on Saturday 25 May 2019 if you can help us try to get paths on the Two Fields site at Staines Hill registered as Public Footpaths (see back page).

Keys found in the Churchyard

A bunch of keys has been found in one of the churchyards – if these are yours please contact the Clerk

The CCC Governance Review – changes to the Westbere parish council boundary

We advised you in our last newsletter that Canterbury City Council resolved that a new parish, and a new parish council be created for Hersden, comprising of nine councillors, operating in the style of a parish council. As a result the parish boundary of Westbere has changed with effect from May 2019. We have already delivered an insert to the Parish Plan document to all households with new maps of both Westbere and the new Hersden parish. These are also available to view on our website.

PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

Westbere Parish Council keeps a watching brief on planning applications that affect the village or parish.

To view planning applications visit the home page of Canterbury City Council www.canterbury.gov.uk

then select 'planning and building' then the option to 'search and comment on planning applications'. Then click on the blue box in the middle of the screen "search planning applications". In the search box at the bottom you need to enter the planning application reference number. Each application will have a unique reference – but for viewing purposes you need to input just the year and application number in the search box – so for a full reference of CA/18/00200 input 18/00200 only, not the full reference. CCC's planning call centre should be able to assist with any difficulties – call 01227 862178 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

Overgrown Hedges and Overhanging Branches near Highways

Please may we remind residents to cut back overgrown vegetation when and where required. May we also remind householders of their responsibilities for keeping roadside verges tidy. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that any trees and hedges that are bordering the Highway are maintained and cut back to your boundary to benefit all Highway users. This will prevent the need for KCC Highways & Transportation writing to you requesting that you cut back your vegetation. Your requirements are:

If the boundary of your property borders the footway, then please be aware that:

- The full width of the footway/pavement must be available for use by pedestrians.
- As well, there must be a minimum height clearance over the footway/pavement of 2.1 metres / 7 feet for any vegetation.

If the boundary of your property borders the carriageway, then please be aware that:

- For vegetation over-hanging the road, there must be a minimum height clearance of 5 metres / 16 feet, to accommodate any buses and HGV's using the road.
- If your property is rural, then vegetation should be 0.45 metres / 1'6" feet behind the

edge of the road and all signs need to be kept clear of foliage for at least 20 metres.

If Westbere Parish Council needs to arrange clearance of residents' overgrown hedges, overhanging branches or private verge clearance which are causing inconvenience to pedestrians and other road users the householder will be invoiced for any expenses incurred.

Westbere Village 100 Club:

Winners for February :-

Number	Name	Amount
55	S & D Morton	£10
64	L & M Prince	£10
73	V & N Smith	£10

Winners for March:-

Number	Name	Amount
1	G Glover	£10
35	Yew Tree Inn	£10
63	M & D Joyce	£10

Red Phone box at the convent on the A28

This red phone box by the convent is owned by the parish council and was offered for sale in 2018. At the parish council meeting of 18 September 2018 several bids were considered and the highest one at £825 was accepted.

BT were asked back in March 2018 to disconnect the power to the box – this has been chased repeatedly and as we go to print we hope this is in hand - so that the removal of the box may be arranged by the buyer.

Westbere Parish Council intends to install a seat in its place, and has secured a CCC capital grant for 58% of the project costs for this.

The parish council has no plans to dispose of the red telephone box at Shrubbery Corner, this remains an asset in the parish council's ownership.



Lifeline.canterbury.gov.uk
01227 862 540

A lifeline alarm, which can be fashionably worn on your wrist or as a pendant, is a service provided in East Kent by Canterbury City Council's CCTV control room, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Having a lifeline alarm would help you or a family member feel safe and independent in the home. To book your free demonstration or to make an enquiry please call 01227 862540 or visit www.lifeline.canterbury.gov.uk

PCSO and KCC Community Warden

Westbere is covered by a Police Community Support Officer and KCC Community Warden, who occasionally patrol the village in uniform.

Our KCC Warden is Iwan Hotcha (pronounced Ewan) - Iwan also covers Sturry and Fordwich locally. His contact number is 07811271257.

Our PCSO is Christopher Healy [<mailto:christopher.healy@kent.pnn.police.uk>] or call and leave a message for him through Kent Police in any non-emergency situation on 101 anytime day or night. You can also call 101 to report a crime. Christopher has contributed the following article for us in this edition:

Day in the life of a PCSO

As a ward Police Community Support Officer that covers **Sturry, Fordwich and Westbere** Parish, my primary role is to be a highly visible and approachable representative for Kent Police within the local community. I have responsibility for Northgate and Sturry wards so I try to achieve this aim in all of those wards.

Each working day I will review any crime and anti-social behaviour that has been reported on my wards and I will aim to visit appropriate victims and be pro-active in providing reassurance and taking positive action on any issues that are happening or emerging.

I work in partnership with many other agencies to be as effective as possible in dealing with issues and these include housing providers, KCC wardens, social services, mental health workers, youth workers, the Local Authority, and Trading Standards.

This also gives me the opportunity to create valuable contacts within the community and gather valuable intelligence from them.

The demands in policing are very high and as part of the Kent Police organisation I also have to assist with dealing with appropriate calls, assisting with local enquiries regarding crime including CCTV and house to house enquiries. I have to help when needed with preservation of a crime scene, helping with road closure at traffic collisions, serving witness summons, and dealing with various other tasks.

Unfortunately this can take me away from my daily ward business on occasions but I will always try to be out and about on my wards as much as possible.

Christopher Healy 46060447

[<mailto:christopher.healy@kent.pnn.police.uk>]

Report crimes and incidents on the Kent Police website:

Report **crimes and incidents** as well as **non-injury road traffic collisions** ONLINE directly to Kent Police through www.kent.police.uk. Once a report is made online, the user receives a unique reference number and a return email confirming receipt. If you prefer non-digital contact, continue to call 101 on non-urgent issues.

Electricity operators' number 105: 105 is a national phone number launched by electricity network operators to call to report or obtain information about a power cut. Dialling 105 is free of charge, and will connect you to the local electricity network operator – the company that manages the cables, power lines and substations that deliver electricity into homes and businesses in your area. Call 105 if you spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put anyone in danger. If there's serious immediate risk, call 999 too. Vulnerable customers who would like to sign up to the Priority Services Register can still call 0800 169 9970, email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk or apply at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority (For a gas emergency – dial 0800 111999)

A reminder! It's 20 mph all through our village!



Highways Improvements for Westbere

At the 15 January 2019 parish council meeting, following a resident's enquiry, the issue about speeding traffic through the village – Westbere Lane in particular, was discussed. After the meeting, the Clerk spoke to Kent Highways and completed their Highway Improvement Plan explaining the issues and presenting possible requests/solutions.

Cllr Laws, Cllr Harlow and the Clerk then met a Kent Highways officer for a site meeting on 25 March 2019. They walked the whole of the village and the Clerk updated the Highways Improvement Plan after the meeting.

Although the whole of Westbere village is a 20mph zone, the highways officer had confirmed that there should be more repeater reminders in a 20mph zone, ideally at every 100m intervals. Finding locations for additional upright signage is very difficult though.

The Kent Highways officer agreed at the meeting, that Kent Highways (at their expense) will:

- repaint the existing worn 20mph roundels (this work has now been completed in April 2019);
- draw up a list of ideal locations for new roundels as repeater features (budget tbc); and

- provide new pictorial signage “No footway through the village” on the existing upright entrance poles at Westbere Lane and Bushy Hill Road.

Other options discussed at the site meeting included for the parish council to consider whether to commission a week-long traffic survey for Westbere Lane and/or Bushy Hill Road (cost is £500 for one site and £700 for both); and/or to also consider whether to commission more roundels at £65 per roundel and £300 for a traffic management crew.

The parish council resolved at their April 2019 meeting that Kent Highways should complete their agreed improvements first and then the parish council may consider whether to commission a traffic survey, as the completed improvements could improve the speeding concerns.

Can you help us try to get paths on the Two Fields site at Staines Hill registered as Public Footpaths?

The land here is owned by Bellway Homes who cleared the site of several trees in Spring 2018. The land is all in Westbere parish but backs alongside Fairview Gardens in Sturry. Whilst there are clear and established walking paths across this land these are non-registered paths and not recorded public rights of way on the KCC Definitive Map. The KCC definitive map does show one path on the site boundary - CB91 beside the Railway Line (Two Fields) from Westbere Lane – runs from Westbere Lane to the Railway Line and then behind Fairview Gardens and Island Road as far as Sturry village.

If there are witnesses that can complete witness statements claiming 20 plus years of unrestricted access across the two fields site, then Westbere Parish Council may be able to try and get established rights of way here across the site added to the definitive map. The process can take up to 3 years to complete though.

Have you used the land for walking or recreational purposes for a period of 20 plus continuous years? This could be on foot, dog walking, horseback, etc. If so, we'd love you to:

Come to a workshop/drop in session for residents of Westbere and Sturry - to complete witness statements and mark routes you have used on the two fields site on a map:

**Saturday 25 May 2019
in Westbere Village
Hall anytime between
10.30am – 2.30pm.**

If you can help us we would love to see you at any time between 10.30 to 2.30 and will have the relevant paperwork available for you to complete and people on hand to help you to do so. Any questions, or if you can't make the session but could complete a witness statement, please contact the Clerk.

Sturry, Fordwich and district / Aire-Sur-La-Lys Twinning Association



Contact details are phone 07757291146 or through our website www.sturry-fordwichtwinning.co.uk
For other information contact info@sturry-fordwichtwinning.co.uk

For enquiries regarding the **Westbere Village Preservation Society** please contact the Westbere Village Preservation Society secretary, Alison Grubb, email: wvpreservationsociety@gmail.com.

Westbere Charities

The Charities are keen to ensure that anyone in need within the Ancient Parish of Westbere, roughly the present parish plus areas of Island Road and Fordwich Road, (ask the Westbere Charities Clerk for details) receives assistance in accordance with the terms of the Charities. The Charities are aimed particularly at residents over the age of 55 and students undertaking tertiary education. If you know of anyone who might benefit, please contact the Charities' Clerk for information and application forms: Malindi Tucker – 01227 710209. All communications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

If you would like to receive an email or a Large Print Version of this newsletter please contact the Clerk, Amanda Sparkes on 01304 365972 or amanda.sparkes@sky.com

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