

Summary of Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday February 6th 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Apologies for Absence.

Cllr **Priestman**. Cllr **Powell**. Colin Wootton.

West Northamptonshire Council.

Cllr Alison Eastwood reported on the proposed re-organisation of local councils. We are already a unitary council but there is a proposal for a larger area to include Luton, Milton Keynes and North Beds with an elected Mayor, to be responsible for planning and transport. The various local authorities involved are currently rejecting this proposal. **Cllr Eastwood** responded to questions. Chair thanked her for her work on our behalf.

Parish Council Elections.

To be held on Thursday 1st May. Parish Clerk will have application forms, next month. Forms to be returned to Towcester West Northants Council Offices by Wednesday April 2nd.

Newcomers Welcome.

Nineteen invitations sent out for the event to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 1st March to welcome newcomers to the village. **Cllr Peppiatt** to lead on coffee and refreshments. Tables will be provided for display. There will be name badges for organisations attending.

V.E. Day

Village Events on Saturday 10th May to commemorate "Victory in Europe Day (8th May)". It is planned to hold a special service in the Church, confirmation of which is expected after a meeting of the Parochial Church Council later this month. **Cllr Parker** will head up group to organise a picnic in Pocket Park.

Dog Waste Bins.

In view of the increase in the number of dogs in the village it was agreed to double the size of the bins in Manor Road and Little street. The cost will be in the region of £220/bin. The contractor has not been emptying the bins on a regular weekly basis. The Clerk had written but received an unsatisfactory reply. **Cllr Powell** to monitor.

Grass Cutting.

Cllr Higginson had received four quotes. All agreed to stay with present contractor.

Grass Verges.

The grass strip along Spinners Cottages discussed. Cllrs could see the problem of parking off road and the damage to grass. Chairman to write a piece for newsletter. Clerk to write to the West Northants Council to ask for visit to discuss the lay-by and to inquire about laying a plastic strip.

High Speed Rail (HS2)

Cllr Powell will join a proposed zoom meeting. The Banbury Road from the Magpie to Thorpe Mandeville to be closed for two years from this spring. (More details of this closure can be seen on the village website).

Councillors Reports.

The Chairman reported that a footbridge would be put over stream on path AY5 in late spring.

Clerk to chase up Gigaclear Broadband in respect of their slow progress in making the necessary installations.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Richard Fonge, Chairman