

Parish Council 6.07.11 Charles Milner-Williams in the Chair ; Councillors Windsor, Graham, Saunders and Davis in attendance. No Borough or County Councillors present.

The Chairman talked about work having done on the STREAM BED, and surrounding areas by a small work-party at the weekend. He thanked those who had helped. The Clerk spoke about efforts to get LITTER BINS sited at the Play Area / Sports Field . It had seemed extraordinarily difficult to get progress on this !

However she had been successful in getting the FOOTPATH Mullenspond to Fyfield, tidied up. The Council has accumulated, over the years, a formidable array of *Standing Orders*, covering such matters as "Complaints Procedure" " Code of Practice" "Financial Regulations" and so on. Some of these may need up-dating. Councillors will look at between now and the September meeting.

Plans to have a BONFIRE of rubbish on The Green had been shelved in the intense drought period, but now that we have rain it may be possible to go ahead.

Exasperation was shown over the continuing failure to deal with substantial POT HOLES.

John Davis, in particular, spoke about the "trench" as one turns left at Mullenspond, and the series of holes on the same bit of roadway as one comes down the hill towards the junction. The Clerk will agitate for action.

The BT underground cable-layers had left a considerable MESS at the entry to Halcyon Drive. The Chairman has entered a formal complaint, to which a response is awaited.

An initiative by Leiston Parish Council whereby local councils would have stronger rights to interrogate DEVELOPERS as to their plans for a given area, was felt to be an idea which could be wholeheartedly supported.

There was concern that the HEIGHT BARRIER due at the Sports Field was still not in place. Mike Windsor commented that the HOLES, which were already dug for the posts , have become a hazard in themselves. The Trustees will be urged to get this work completed.

The future of Parish Councils in general is somewhat uncertain in the light of current thinking at government level. Charles suggested re-visiting the idea of seeking QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL status : an idea previously rejected as conferring no obvious benefits. It seems that establishing that status would give the Council greater sway in any future re-organisations. However, in order to qualify, one of the *sine qua nons* would be for the Clerk to undertake, and pass, higher training. Heather said that she was willing to undertake this.

Charles suggested that, furnished with more details, this be fully discussed in September.

PLANNING was a quiet area, at the moment, but John Davis pointed out that there was still no decision on the issues concerning 24 Stanbury Road. He would get in touch with Mr. Jackson, head of TVBC PLANNING dept.

It was agreed to continue support for HANTS AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE. A donation of £300 will be sent. Discussing an electricity bill of £126.73 for STREET LIGHTING there was a general feeling that the lights were not needed in, say, the midnight to 5am period, and a bit of money could be saved. There was general agreement. Feasibility to be explored.

Residents should be aware that we switch over exclusively to DIGITAL T.V. between Feb -June 2012. Full details from web-site www.digitaluk.co.uk/outreachmaterial . Charles is going to contact Sir George Young about the Hannington transmitter which had been due for an upgrade.

Royal Mail will be asked if some paint can be applied to the rather shabby looking MAIL BOXES at the top of Stanbury, at Thruxton Down, and at Lambourne Way.

No August meeting; next one is on 7th Sept. 7.30pm in Hall. Public are most welcome.

W.I.REPORT Instead of our usual meeting, June was our outing and we all had a very good lunch at the Mayflower. A few of us then wandered into Stockbridge to browse the shops. Luckily we were blessed with good weather. Our July meeting will be on 20th July for a talk about **THE INCA TRAIL**. Please come and support us – come along and enjoy the speaker at 8.00 in the large Hall. Joining the W.I. is not compulsory ! Any queries phone Claire 771803. Also there's the **Singing for Fun. Next one is on Thurs. 21 July** in Hall 2-3pm ; then summer break resuming on 1st Sept : 15 Sept; 29 Sept . New faces / voices most welcome. No talent required, just a bit of enthusiasm. For more info speak to Marion on 771382.

Ride & Stride The annual fund-raiser for Hants Historic Churches is on Sat . Sept. 10th. Please get sponsorship, and get the bike out . This Parish did very well last year. Details from our organiser Gordon Verity on 772827.

Julia and Richard Ward made a 5 hour return journey from Kent to attend the Fête. Many of us will have been very pleased to see them again. But we failed to get a restraining order !

Our **brave cyclists** have made it to Penzance.