

VIEWS FROM THREE VILLAGES

Westhampnett, Maudlin and Westerton

Contacts

Please remember that members of the Parish Council can always be contacted if there is anything going on in the Parish that gives you concern:

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Chairman's Report Spring 2015

The Parish Council year commenced with the election of one new Councillor Sharon Burborough and a new chairman on May 18th 2015. Our outgoing chairman, Bob Holman, retired after many years of sterling service, assisted behind the scenes by his wife and co-worker Josie. They will be a very hard act to follow. Thankfully they have agreed to continue looking after our green borders and pathways, for the foreseeable future. We are delighted to welcome back Councillor Mike Hall representing our interests at Chichester District Council.

The Travellers site we fought so hard to exclude from the village opened its doors this month (May 2015) and within a week received its first two customers, so much for the CDC quote '*we doubt if it will be used*'. A management committee is to be formed to oversee the operational activities of the site. We have noticed the Travellers site gates are open after 19.30 at night, something to investigate at the first management meeting. It has also been noted that a caravan is permanently parked up on the layby heading towards the MacDonald's roundabout from the Chichester Park Hotel roundabout. We are told it contains two ex-circus workers who have been abandoned without any means of moving the vehicle. More to investigate as time progresses.

The proposed housing development between Stane Street and Madgwick Lane has been reduced from the initial 1500 units to 350 units on Stane Street and 150 to the west of the Lavant, forming the eastern extent of the Graylingwell development. At this time we still await the outcome of the Inspectors decision to moderate the proposals.

Rolls Royce kindly allowed us use of their boardroom to conduct a meeting with Bellway Estates, the new owners of the Basket World site, we have agreed to explore the implications of having Bellway as the main contractor on the proposed Community Hall project. This seems a good solution for all as Bellway must have the shell of the Hall completed before marketing their new homes and we need a contractor who will complete the Hall as soon as possible. Bellway will be providing a financial statement for Hall costs and an outline design proposal within the next few weeks.

Bill Harding

Parish Council Meetings

Come along to the next meeting and see what goes on.

The meetings are not political. Parish councillors are local residents who are trying to protect the area from over development and planning. We try on your behalf, to make the parish of Westhampnett a better place to live but can only do so if you come to meetings and tell us what you think.

Meeting dates

Monday 18th May at 7pm

Monday 20th July at 7pm

Monday 21st September at 7pm

Monday 16th November at 7pm

Ideas for spending money sought!

Chichester District Council currently makes available a sum of money to parishes where new houses have been built.

Called the New Homes Bonus (NHB) it was an initiative started by the government to incentivise planning authorities to allow more homes to be built.

Paid each year for 6 years, it's based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. There is also an extra payment for providing affordable homes.

The government pay to the planning authorities this money, which is designed to be spent on suitable projects in the area where this development has taken place.

So, what has this got to do with Westhampnett we hear you ask? Well, for the past two years, we have been successful in getting the parish's allocation ring-fenced towards the new Village Hall, for sound and lighting equipment and also for fitting out the kitchen.

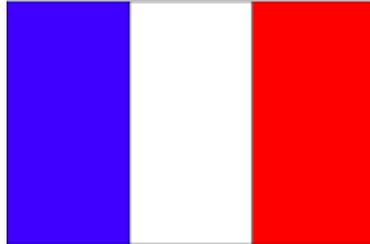
This year, the Parish has been allocated £9,634 and we want to hear your thoughts on suitable projects. Ideally, they should be for one-off capital projects for amenities or equipment that benefit the whole community. Suggestions so far include new swings at Westerton play area, a seat in the bus shelter at Maudlin, and a new ride on mower for the village volunteers. I

f you have any ideas, please drop an email to the clerk westhampnettclerk@gmail.com.

Please let us have your ideas by the 30th June.

Any Excuse to Fly a Flag

Many of the residents of the Parish may have noticed the variety of flags that are being flown near the bus stop at Westhampnett. Some of these flags are flown for specific occasions, some are flown just because we like them. We recently had some French visitors to Westhampnett so we took the opportunity to fly the Tricolour.



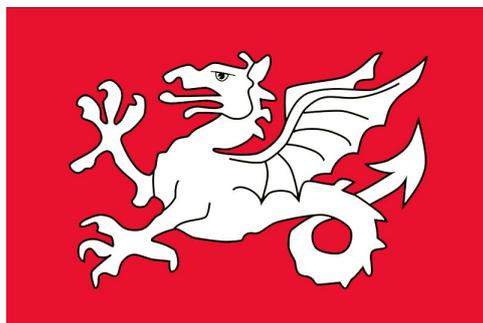
The visitors were delighted and the Mayor of their French department (county) kindly sent their Vendee flag over for us to fly. So come November when the Vendee Globe is underway you will see their flag flying.

Future flags include the Star Spangled banner for some American visitors, along with the Sussex Flag for Sussex day on 16th June and a chequered flag to celebrate the various Goodwood racing events.

Our new Parish Council Chairman has recently found the original Coat of Arms for Westhampnett so I'm planning on getting our very own Parish flag printed and flown, so look out for that.

If anyone would like a flag flown for any reason and indeed even if they want us to fly one for no reason at all, let me know and I will endeavour to obtain one and fly it. (caroline.Moth@nhs.net)

As an aside the English flag pre St George and the union jack , was a white Dragon on a red field. It has been flown on several occasions from the Westhampnett flag pole.





The March School
Summer Fayre
Friday 3rd July 3 – 5 pm

Come along and enjoy:-

Live music,
Cake stall,
Buffet,
Bouncy castle,
Toy stall,
Crockery smash,
Stocks

Raffle tickets are available from the school office and prizes include –
Racing at Goodwood,
Family ticket for Adventure Golf at Chichester Golf Club,
A treatment from Glorious Spa,
Montezuma's chocolate club membership.

Your Parish Needs You!

Westhampnett Parish Council has a request!

A major issue that WPC is dealing with at the present, is proposed development. Unfortunately, this will happen as it is a government initiative but it is our duty to ensure that the extra houses and population are absorbed into the Parish as smoothly as possible.

The Community Hall

WPC are currently discussing with the developers of the Maudlin Hanging Basket site, on Stane Street, provision of a community hall. This is an item which has been discussed at many meetings but we want to hear what ***you think***.

At the moment, we are investigating the possibility of a hall with small meeting rooms (accommodating perhaps a pre-school, clubs etc.) a kitchen, a larger hall that may have room for a badminton court but may also be used for a monthly film club, toilets and changing rooms. We envisage that it could be hired out for parties and weddings but it would be the community social hub. Outside we would like to see play equipment, a MUGA (multi-use games area) and a village green.

We hope to have a rough plan from the developers in early June and would like to take as many residents' comments as possible.

Can you please forward any comments to the Parish Clerk. westhampnettclerk@gmail.com

Westerton Play Park

We would like to say a huge thanks on behalf of the whole parish, to Andrew Blanchard, who volunteers to look after the play park. Andrew is an unsung hero who keeps it clean and safe for all the children who use it.

We have a play park with equipment including a slide, climbing frame and a football pitch with goals. We are in the process of replacing a set of swings with a more robust frame. Some locals have recently suggested that there should be more apparatus for children there and have thought about setting up an action group to help develop the area.

If you are interested in suggestions or even helping with fund raising, get in touch. We have a play park with equipment including a slide, climbing frame and a football pitch with goals. We are also in the process of replacing the swings with a more robust frame. Some locals have recently suggested that there should be more apparatus for children there and have thought about setting up an action group to help develop the area.

Please contact the Clerk on westhampnettclerk@gmail.com



Women's Institute

The W I meets once a month at The March Primary school.

Each month varies; we usually have a speaker who give talks on a variety of subjects and are always fascinating.

We also have a lunch club, meeting every couple of months in pubs, restaurants and so forth.

Our book club is thriving where we share books and discuss a diverse group of authors.

We get invites from other WI s, and go on courses, and take part in quizzes. Our meetings are very informal, and we all get on really well as a group.

Why not come and have a look. It is open to all and we welcome new members.



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Village Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to help keep our village looking attractive. Join us in litter picking, grass cutting, gardening duties and so on. Please ring or email Bob Holman for further details

ashkeys@talktalk.net

01243 774381



The Parish Council would like to acknowledge its thanks to
Rolls Royce for providing the printing of this Newsletter