

The members of the Parish Council are: -

Sue Wood	Chair and Transport	chair@sparsholtparish.org	776255
Sue Annesley	Memorial Hall	memorialhall@sparsholtparish.org	776653
Pete Chadwick		councillor@sparsholtparish.org	776011
John Cooper	Footpaths & Ham Green	footpaths@sparsholtparish.org	776753
John Little	Communications	communications@sparsholtparish.org	776249
Andrew Osmond	Security	security@sparsholtparish.org	776197
Nigel Reid	Sparsholt Shop	shop@sparsholtparish.org	776244
Sue Wakefield	Playground	playground@sparsholtparish.org	776288
Stewart Wooles	Vice Chair and Highways	deputy@sparsholtparish.org highways@sparsholtparish.org	776419
Clerk: Nicola Breen		clerk@sparsholtparish.org	776909

Website: www.sparsholtparish.org

No. 208 May 2020**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES**

The Parish Council continues to support the Sparsholt Community Support Group in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Parish Council Meetings continue, for the time being, to be conducted remotely using Zoom video conferencing. Latest information can be found on the Parish Council website.

In accordance with Government regulations under the Coronavirus Act 2020, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Parish Council will remain in post until May 2021. Councillors' portfolios were reviewed at the most recent meeting and changes were agreed. Going forward, John Cooper will be looking after Footpaths and Sue Wakefield will be looking after the Playground, which is currently closed because of the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions. Sue Wood agreed to look after the Transport portfolio. Caroline Horrill is now a Governor for Sparsholt School and will provide updates to the Parish Council as appropriate.

Plans are still progressing, slowly because of the restrictions, to add new village footpath map boards to the noticeboards in the centre of the village and at Ham Green. Likewise work to introduce a shared relocatable Speed Limit Reminder Sign is progressing.

ROAD WORKS

Gravel surfacing works have been recently completed on Church Lane, Dean Lane and Watley Lane and will shortly be completed on Woodman Lane.

HAM GREEN

It is anticipated, with the relaxation in Government restrictions, that volunteers can recommence work on the Common in June. A tree condition survey has been commissioned to look at potential Ash Dieback and will hopefully be completed in June.

FOOTPATHS

It's that time of year again when hedges are growing quickly and already becoming an obstacle on the footpaths. In some cases ½ a metre needs to be cut off. If you are responsible for a hedge bordering a footpath we would kindly remind you of the need to cut it back. The Parish Council is currently liaising with HCC for them to maintain the top 5 footpaths. The Parish Council will arrange for the remainder in public ownership to be maintained.

Considerate Walking, Cycling and Dog Walking

Walkers and cyclists have become a real issue now for local farmers. It's great to see people out and enjoying the countryside with this amazing weather. Some signs have been erected at Stockers Down that politely ask everyone **to stay on the footpath** and **keep off the grass**. The signs also give some detailed back ground to Stockers Down and the crop; it will flower soon and then seed, the seeds literally fall out on their own and don't need feet or paws to help !

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of:

- Keeping dogs with you on paths or access land and not letting them stray into crops including fields of grass, fruit and vegetables
- Never letting your dog worry or chase wildlife or livestock.

Following these guidelines not only ensures the safety of your dog but protects crops and livestock making the countryside a place for everyone to enjoy.

SAFER CYCLING AND WALKING

Hampshire County Council has received many requests for safe additional cycling and walking routes during lockdown following the Government announcement of funding for such initiatives.

The County Council is proactively looking at making changes to the highway through simple, but effective traffic management initiatives to facilitate social distancing. At present they are looking at a long list of scheme suggestions and are evaluating them against a set of criteria to determine which schemes best meet the criteria, are most needed and are capable of being implemented quickly.

If you have specific suggestions or ideas please forward them to the transport officers via the following email address transport.planning@hants.gov.uk as soon as possible. In order to progress this quickly they may be unable to respond to these requests directly but please be assured they will be reviewed in line with the selection process above.

BURGLARY PREVENTION ADVICE

Residents are reminded to remain vigilant. Now that we're beginning to get accustomed to the warmer weather, and as many of us are spending more and more time outdoors, Hampshire Constabulary want to gently remind residents not to leave windows open or doors unlocked during this time.

Leaving the kitchen or living room window open, or even the back door, to allow for some fresh air into the house while you pop out for a short period of time might seem tempting, but this could provide an opportunity for someone to take advantage of the situation and commit a crime.

Most burglaries are committed by opportunists. A criminal may pick a house that looks unoccupied, has left a window or back-gate open or has little or no obvious security. These are often spur-of-the-moment decisions, made when they see valuables left on view or lapses in security. Car keys, left somewhere obvious can also be an attractive target.

As ever, we would ask the public to remain vigilant, and to report any crimes which are in progress or where there is a threat to life by calling 999.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SPARSHOLT – WOODMAN CLOSE

Details of the proposed scheme and November's public consultation can be viewed at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/housing/new-affordable-housing/early-stage-schemes>.

If you are interested in registering for affordable housing visit <http://www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk>. If you are an existing WCC tenant and you are considering downsizing please contact the Council's Housing Tenancy team on 01962 848 197 or by email at housingtenancy@winchester.gov.uk

NEW NEIGHBOUR

If you have a new neighbour please let Sally Wesley know so that a Sparsholt Welcome booklet can be delivered sally.wesley@btinternet.com

Contact Details and Other Information

Our City Councillors

Caroline Horrill: email CHorrill@winchester.gov.uk or telephone 01962 776844.

Stephen Godfrey: email sgodfrey@winchester.gov.uk or telephone 01962 884477.

Patrick Cunningham: email pcunningham@winchester.gov.uk or telephone 01962 883 887.

Our County Councillor

Jan Warwick: email jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk or telephone 07717104236.