

CHISELDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT
Points of interest and extracts from the meeting held in
October 2015

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Vacancy for a Parish Clerk

Due to a change in personal circumstances, the current Clerk will not be able to continue in the role beyond the end of this year. As a result, we are looking for a skilled administrator to support the work of the Council from January 2016 onwards.

The role is currently funded for 20 hours per week but this is under review. The Clerk opens the office for a number of set hours each week and will need to be available for between three and four evening meetings each month. The rest of the work can be done at home so the role is perfect for a parent with young children or someone recently retired.

Applicants will need to demonstrate attention to detail, strong organisational skills, experience of managing a budget and a flair for customer care. If you would like to find out more then please contact the Chair of the Parish Council, Caroline Brady at: caroline.brady3@btinternet.com or on 01793 740560.

Chiseldon Firs

Swindon Borough Council recently opened the transit site for the travelling community that is located three miles South of Junction 15 on the Marlborough Road, known locally as Chiseldon Firs. This site is maintained for short-term use and there are currently three families in residence, who are due to move on in November.

Anyone applying to use Chiseldon Firs is required to sign a license agreement, pay a refundable deposit and undergo an ID check, and the site is visited several times a week by SBC officers. Should you have any concerns then please contact Swindon's Head of Housing and Community Safety, Mr Michael Ash, at: MAsh@swindon.gov.uk

Police Report

PC Draper told this month's meeting that there were five reported crimes in the first half of October (three of which relate to either the garage or the Recreation Ground). These figures are broadly consistent with previous months.

There have been a number of issues with regard to motorcycles being used at the Recreation Ground but these have died down since three young people have been identified. PC Draper is currently working with the Youth Offending Team to determine the best course of action with regard to these offences.

PC Draper also addressed parking restrictions in the vicinity of Chiseldon School. He stated that the police are working in partnership with SBC inspectors to educate drivers as to the purpose of the restrictions and to enforce them more regularly. Finally, PC Draper told the meeting that speeding vehicles are now one of the top three priorities for the local policing team. There are particular problems along New Road and through Badbury and the Community Speedwatch effort has produced some very useful, if concerning, data. The issue of speeding farm vehicles was also raised and the police will liaise with local farmers on behalf of residents.

Highways

Inconsiderate parking continues to be an issue in the villages, particularly along bus routes and blocking drop kerbs. Buses need plenty of room and drop kerbs are there to help residents with mobility issues move freely around our community. Please consider other residents when choosing where to park.

Numerous potholes on the B4005 have been reported and holes on High Street and Mays Lane have also been added to the list, although there is no date for completion of this work as yet. The yellow lines in Turnball have been delayed due to illness within the team but they have now been re-marked and should be completed by the end of this month.

The Environment Committee is also looking for ways in which the junction of Turnball and Hodson Road can be made safer for drivers and pedestrians. One of the options being considered is the installation of a mirror. Swindon Borough Council does not support the installation of mirrors but they are used elsewhere, so the committee would appreciate the views of local residents to help it make the best decision for our particular needs.

Village appearance

Dog owners are reminded that the Council provides 14 bins for dog waste across the Parish. A map giving the various locations can be found on the Parish website. Developers are also being asked to look into the provision of extra bins at Badbury Park.

The old storage unit at Castle View/Downs View is due to be removed by the end of the year and a group of volunteers will shortly be installing two new benches – donated by local residents. One will be located in the Millennium Copse and the other alongside the Sir Henry Calley Memorial Gardens.

Badbury Park Community Association

The newly formed Badbury Park Community Association has held its first event, a very successful barbeque attended by some 80 residents. The Association has been invited to apply for a Jubilee Fund grant from the Parish Council and we look forward to more events very soon!

Parish Plan

A group of residents is currently helping the Council to develop a new plan for the future of our villages. To start the process of gathering views there will be a number of place walks, the next one taking place around Badbury on Saturday 14 November, meeting at 2pm outside the Bakers Arms.

If you can't make one of the place walks you can still contribute by sending us your answers to these three questions.

- 1) *What do you like about life in Chiseldon Parish?*
- 2) *What do you dislike about life in Chiseldon Parish?*
- 3) *What would make Chiseldon Parish a better place to live?*

To help us reach everyone in the Parish it would be helpful if you could let us know which village you live in and whether you are aged: 21 or under, 22-60 or over 60. You do not have to give us your name. You can post your answers to: Parish Plan, 26 Turnball, Chiseldon, Wiltshire, SN4 0LJ or send them by email to: chiseldonplan@gmail.com

Volunteers needed

Would you be able to spare some time to help investigate the possibility of a new recreational

facility for our community? A small group is being assembled to look at the business case for a new building that could potentially cater for indoor sports, a library, an ICT suite and a youth club.

We are looking for people to help with research, applications for funding, design and consultation so if you have an interest in the development of our village then please contact Teresa Smith at: teresa.mcsmith@btinternet.com or call the Parish Clerk.

Other matters

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Monday 2 November as the Clerk will be on leave.

The Chiseldon Parish Council Jubilee Fund was set up to offer small grants (of up to £500) to support the work of community groups. A number of grants are still available and you can find out more by contacting the Clerk.

Chiseldon Tennis Club now has a court available for public hire. The hire will be available in one hour blocks with a charge of £10 per hour. You can book a session through Chiseldon House Hotel on 01793 741010.

Chiseldon Recreation Hall is also available for hire. Please see the separate advertisement in this issue.

Next meetings

The monthly Borough Councillors Surgery will take place on Saturday 7 November between 11.30am and 12.30pm in the Old Chapel, Butts Road. This is an opportunity for residents to discuss any concerns with both Parish and Borough Councillors so do come along and say hello.

The next Full Council meeting will be on Monday 9 November, starting at 7.30pm in the Recreation Hall. Residents are welcome to attend and there is a public recess at the start of proceedings, after which residents can choose to leave.

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Group will be on Monday 30 November at 7.30pm in the Recreation Hall.