

Pertenhall & Swineshead Parish Council

A Quality Parish Council.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Garry Telling

Chairman: Mr Brian Stevens

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NEWSLETTER January 2008

'Representing and serving two villages'

Dates for your diary

Parish Council meetings in the year 2007/8. All dates are Thursdays.

These are all open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

- 7th February – Swineshead – Parish Plans 'Actions' only. 7.30
- 13th March – Pertenhall – 7.30, Meeting for the Electors followed by PC meeting.
- 15th May – Swineshead – 8.00 – AGM.

Highway Matters Pertenhall

Thomas Bates [01480 860 275]

Will soon be having a meeting with David Richardson, the Council engineer to discuss problems with Highways in Pertenhall

Swineshead

Michael Whitlock [01234 708 362]

Michael will soon have a meeting with David Richardson from the Highways Team at Amey, to discuss the sign posts, or lack thereof, at Gypsy Corner, between Swineshead and Pertenhall. Cars often come off the road at this corner and improved warning signs are needed.

Planning Inspectorate

A hearing took place in Pertenhall Village Hall to consider the footpath which runs from the

Swineshead Road to Wood End Lane.

A Local Inquiry, arranged for 20th November, took place in Swineshead Village Hall. The subject for discussion at this inquiry was some footpaths in Swineshead. If you wish to see the Inspectors' reports they are available from the Clerk, but basically they dismiss the objections, subject to some very minor modifications.

Seats and Notice Boards,

Three seats and one notice board in Pertenhall, 2 seats and 2 notice boards in Swineshead are to be refurbished. The notice boards in particular are in need of repair, and the swollen doors in the winter render them useless at times.

Flies at Sunny Farm

Great efforts have been made to prevent a recurrence of the plague of flies which happened two years ago, and to a much lesser extent last year. However, this is now in the hands of the Environment Agency and in the unlikely event that complaints need to be made the number to ring will now be 0800 807 060.

Precept

At the January Parish Council meeting it was decided to reduce the Precept by £1000, i.e. from £6000 to £5000.

Full details of this are on p3 of this Newsletter.

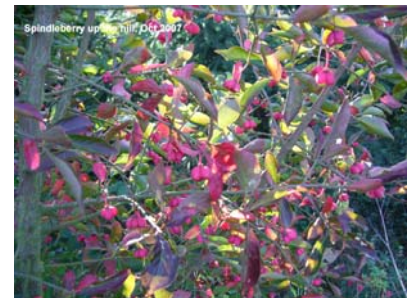
Spindle- berry in Pertenhall Dec 2007



Reporting crime

At a recent Liaison meeting, held in Keysoe Village Hall, the police again stressed that they concentrate their resources on areas where crime, or disturbing occurrences, have been **reported**.

The Parish Council has been asked to urge residents to **report** incidents to the local police. Also there have been several cases of 'distraction burglary' in the area and householders are again asked to take special care when answering the door to strangers.



-and the same spindle-berry last summer.

From the Chairman's desk

Welcome to this bumper edition of our Council Newsletter!

In response to requests we will publish each year details of our Parish Council accounts to every household via the Newsletter, as well as at the appropriate Council meeting. This year you will be pleased to note that we have managed to REDUCE our Council tax precept from £6000 last year to £5000 for 2008.

You will also see elsewhere that we are holding a very important meeting on Thursday, Feb 7th at 7.30 in Swineshead Village Hall to review progress with the Parish Plan and to which everyone is invited.

We know that there is considerable disquiet about the number of heavy lorries rumbling through our villages. Apart from problems caused by misleading satnav instructions, the main difficulty stems from commercial developments [e.g. Little Staughton Airfield] without thought having been given to suitable road access. The County Council is preparing a Freight Strategy this year, and will not countenance any further weight limits until its publication – and probably not then. (On the grounds that one village's weight limit diverts traffic through other villages, causing problems there in turn.)

Your Council does not give up easily, but faced with the County's admission that none of the roads in North Beds is suitable for very heavy lorries, we do have a problem.

Brian Stevens – chairman.

Polling Stations

There have been suggestions by the Borough Council that the polling station in Swineshead might be closed, with residents being expected to go to Pertenhall to vote. However, it does appear that those changes will not take place in the near future

Free Insulation for over 70s

100% grant funded loft insulation is now available to all residents aged 70 and above. This is irrespective of income, savings, or whether or not you are in receipt of benefits. The only requirement is proof of name age and address.

Insulation could be our last best defence against rising energy bills in 2008.

All house owners and private tenants qualify for discounted loft and cavity insulation. Fully insulating your home could easily reduce your fuel bills by £100 a year.

For more information contact the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on **0800 512 012**.

Your Parish Council

Your Parish Councillors

- ◆ Thomas Bates [Pertenhall]
01480 860 275
- ◆ Jan Herdan [Swineshead]
01234 708 692
- ◆ Tim Kingham [Pertenhall]
01480 861915
- ◆ Neil Pateman [Pertenhall]
01480 860 367
- ◆ Steven Pollard [Pertenhall]
01480 861 414
- ◆ Brian Stevens [Swineshead]
01234 708 850
- ◆ Michael Whitlock [Swineshead]
01234 708 362

Garry Telling [Mrs] - Clerk
01480 860 439

Email:

gtelling@gefhn.do.co.uk

Web site address:

www.pertenhallandswinesheadparishcouncil.org.uk

printing of this
Newsletter.

Newsletter by email.

The clerk has emailed 30 people in the two villages, asking if they would prefer to have their Newsletter by email.

If you would like to be added to this list please contact the clerk

gtelling@gefhn.do.co.uk

In the case of some out-of-the-way houses this is a great help to the councillors who do the deliveries.

It is appreciated that many people do not have access to email so delivery house to house will continue as before for most villagers.

The councillors have taken note of the Data Protection Act 1998 and are now in possession of a Confirmation of Entry in the register

Thanks are due to
Kimbolton School
for help with the

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