

NEWSLETTER

PERTENHALL SWINESHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

October, 2007



a quality parish council

Chairman
Mr. Brian Stevens
Tel. 01234 708 850

Clerk to the Council
Mrs. Garry Telling
Tel. 01480 860 439

Dates for your diary

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

- Mon. 22nd October – Swineshead 8.00 – Parish Plans only
- 22nd Nov – Pertenhall – 8.00
- 10th Jan – Swineshead – 8.00
- 13th March – Pertenhall – 7.30 Meeting for the Electors
- 15th May – Swineshead – 8.00 AGM.

Bulky Waste Collection

Sunday 28th October, 12.00 to 15.00

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]
- Michael Whitlock [Swineshead] 01234 708 362

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@gefth.ndo.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.

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.

Festival of Britain Sign

The Festival of Britain sign in Swineshead has been renovated and replaced.

It is an excellent piece of craftsmanship, made from materials the same as the original, except for the wooden supports which look rather better than did the concrete originals.

The councillors wish to thank those who carried out this painstaking work,

especially Fiona Whitlock who is responsible for all the careful lettering.

The logos at each end are in fact the originals, with paintwork touched up.

Community Safety Fund

The County Council is making money available to parish councils for spending "to combat the fear of crime".

This Parish Council has requested a 'share' in a PCSO, Police Community Safety Officer. This would be a trained official who would be a presence in the village one, or perhaps two, days a week.

He/she would get to know the members of the community and the problems and difficulties in the villages. Residents would equally get to know the PCSO and could take advantage of his/her expertise.

The idea would be to share with Riseley and Melchbourne/Yelden.

However, it seems unlikely that enough PCSOs will be trained and this project may not come to fruition.

Polling Stations

There have been suggestions that the polling station in Swineshead might be closed, with residents being expected to go to Pertenhall to vote.

The Village Hall in Swineshead is eminently suitable for a polling station, and the turn out for voting is high in our villages is well above national averages, and so the Parish Council has written in strong terms to Shaun Field, Chief Executive of the Borough Council.

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It has been made clear that there can be no justification for such a change.

The outcome of the matter will be reported in the next Newsletter.

Highway Matters

Pertenhall - Thomas Bates

There was little to report in September about the Highways.

Swineshead - Michael Whitlock

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. This hearing was convened for the 9th October and the outcome will be known before Christmas.

A Local Inquiry, arranged for 20th November, will take place in Swineshead Village Hall. The subject for discussion at this inquiry will be some footpaths in Swineshead.

Bedford Hospital NHS Trust

The formal consultation period over Bedford Hospital Trust's bid for Foundation Trust status came to an end on 5th Oct. Over 1000 members of the public have already signed up to support

From the Chairman's desk

The completed Parish Plan for our two villages was distributed to every household in early September, and I hope that you found it to be an interesting "read".

Many people in the two communities were involved in the research for, and the preparation of, the Plan, but we are particularly grateful to Maurice Hickling of Pertenhall and Jan Herdan from Swineshead for the major, time consuming, roles they played. I hope that the many others who worked so hard will not mind the mention of those two names.

Copies of the Plan have also been circulated to schools, nearby parishes, and to the various councils and public bodies with whom we have dealings.

There will be a special meeting of the Parish Council on Monday, October 22nd, at 8pm in Swineshead Village Hall. for the sole purpose of considering the "Actions" contained in the Plan, determining priorities, and allocating detailed responsibilities. As always, Members of the public are warmly invited to come along, and, where appropriate, to contribute.

Finally, because of the costs of printing, we did not order a number of spare copies, so please treasure yours for future reference, and, perish the thought (!), should you decide to move from our communities, we hope that you will leave the plan for the new owners. Brian Stevens.

the hospital's application, a figure the hospital aims to quadruple by December. Hilary Jones from the hospital came and gave a presentation at Swineshead on 18th Sept and answered some very challenging and pertinent questions.

Chief Executive, Jean Callaghan, said, "Bedford Hospital has been invited to become a Foundation Trust because we are a high performing and financially sound organisation... This invitation is a clear signal that we have the support of the NHS East of England and the Department of Health. They and we are investing in a NHS for the future, a hospital that is here to stay and set to grow. This is an exciting time.

With Foundation Trust status we will be able to grow and develop, thanks to having the financial freedom to reinvest surpluses rather than handing that money back to central government... Foundation Trust is not the answer to every issue and every challenge, but it is a very positive step and a clear signal that we have turned a corner and are ready to embrace our future as a secure and high performing Trust."

Further information about the Foundation Trust's application, how to become a member, and about NHS Foundation Trusts is available at:
www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk.