



BISHOPS LYDEARD AND COTHELSTONE PARISH COUNCIL (including COTFORD ST LUKE)

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2009

Welcome to this annual newsletter from your local Parish Council, which gives you a summary of the work of the Council over the past year. We hope you find it interesting. Please feel free to get in touch with any member of the Parish Council for further information, comments or suggestions. Contact details are on the back page.

New Facilities in Bishops Lydeard

There has been lots of activity round the village hall this spring.

The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) has built a much-needed extension to the village hall and installed exciting new equipment in the children's play area.

The Parish Council was very pleased to give grants to the VHMC to help bring these schemes to fruition and we congratulate the VHMC on these achievements.



Fred Clarke cuts the turf to mark the start of work on the village hall



New equipment in Bishops Lydeard children's playground

Cotford St Luke

The developer of Cotford St Luke, is responsible for the maintenance of the roads, culverts and most of the public open space in the village. Unfortunately, this company has recently gone into liquidation.

Members of the Parish Council have been involved in ongoing discussions with Taunton Deane and Somerset County Council to make sure they now take on full responsibility for all the roads, culverts and public open space.

Parish Website (www.bishopshlydeard.org.uk)

The Parish Council funds the Parish Website which contains information about the Parish Council, clubs and societies and what's on in Bishops Lydeard, Cotford St Luke and Cothelstone.

New Bus Stop Hither Mead

Following a request from a member of the public to improve the bus stop at the Mount Street end of Hither Mead, the Parish Council agreed with Somerset County Council to pay half the cost of installing raised kerbs and a new tarmac surface.

This has improved safety and convenience for bus users.

New Bus Stop Hither Mead



Public Rights of Way

The two parishes have an extensive network of rights of way which are a valuable asset to the community. Landowners are responsible for keeping them clear of obstructions and cutting the hedges. Somerset County Council is responsible for cutting the surface of most rights of way and the maintenance of bridges.

To improve the service offered by the County Council, the Parish Council employed a local contractor to cut the rights of way more regularly.

We are grateful to Paul Partington, the Parish Footpath Officer for all his work in checking the condition of the footpaths.

Hanging Baskets

The Parish Council continued to partly fund hanging baskets in Bishops Lydeard with further funding coming from local sponsorship. Pete Watson has taken over co-ordination of the hanging baskets from Philip Morency.

If you would like to sponsor a basket this year, please contact Pete Watson (432817)

Police

PCSO Sue Thompson regularly attends meetings and Beat Manager Andy Davies attends once a quarter. They update the Council about incidents in the parish, take up problems raised and answer questions.

Theft from outbuildings and garden sheds has been a big problem this year and the police ask residents to make sure their garden equipment, bikes etc are kept well locked up.

Following a fire in Bishops Lydeard underpass, the police agreed to focus their attention on this area. Plans are well under way to designate the underpass as an area for Aerosol Art and a group of young people will shortly be getting to work on some designs to cheer up the underpass.

You can contact Sue on 07825 125108 or email: Susan.Thompson@avonandsomerset.police.uk

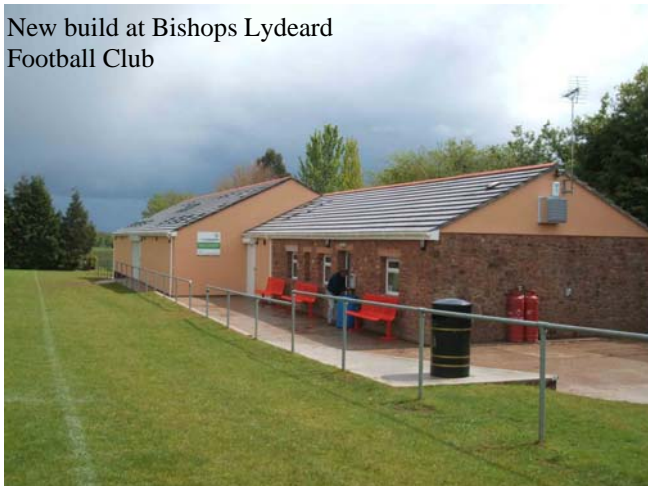


Bishops Lydeard Football Club

The Parish Council was very pleased to give a grant to Bishops Lydeard Football Club to help them fund new changing rooms and a new clubhouse.

These facilities will help the Club to build on their success and provide the opportunity for more people to enjoy local sporting facilities.

New build at Bishops Lydeard Football Club



Planning

Planning has, as in previous years, formed a significant part of the work of the Council. There is an agreement with Taunton Deane whereby the Parish Council determines certain minor applications in the parish and is consulted on all other applications.

Last year the Parish Council determined 25 applications, mostly extensions to existing properties and commented on a further 35 applications, many of them relating to trees either with Tree Preservation Orders or within the Conservation Area.

The Parish Council has supported Bishops Lydeard Youth Group by submitted an application on their behalf to Taunton Deane for a BMX bike track on land adjacent to Taunton Road. This application has not yet been determined.

Public Phone Box, Bishops Lydeard

BT came up with proposals last year to close a number of phone boxes, including the one in Mount Street, Bishops Lydeard. The Parish Council strongly objected to this proposal as the phone box is well used and part of the traditional village scene. Thankfully, BT had a rethink and agreed not to remove this phone box.

Bus Shelters, Benches, Litter Bins and Notice Boards

The Parish Council pays for the installation and maintenance of bus shelters, benches, litter bins and notice boards. This year, the bus shelter in Station Road, the bench in Glanfield Close and the bench at the end of Hither Mead have all been refurbished.

A quote has been accepted for a new litter bin by Bishops Lydeard underpass. This should be installed shortly.

Cotford St Luke Community Association

The Parish Council gave a grant to Cotford St Luke Community Association to help with internal improvements in the hall. A new bench and litter bin were installed on the playing fields.



New bench on Cotford St Luke Playing Fields

Cothelstone

The Parish Council erected a new notice board at Stairfoot this year.

Following flooding on the unclassified road past Middlebrook Farm, the Parish Council asked Somerset County Council for action. A warning flood marker post was erected and further drainage works are expected this month.

A New Parish Council for Cotford St Luke?

A petition with 250 signatures was raised in Cotford St Luke asking for the village to have their own Parish Council.

Bishops Lydeard Parish Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council both support this proposal and Taunton Deane is currently working through the required processes.

The aim is for Cotford St Luke to elect their own Parish Council at the next Parish Council elections in May 2011.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council has 16 members who were elected by residents of the parish in May 2007 to serve for 4 years.

The Parish Council usually meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Minutes and the agenda are posted on the parish notice boards and on the website: (www.bishopshlydeard.org.uk).

Members of the public are most welcome to attend Parish Council meetings.

Each year the Parish Council raises a 'precept'. This is a sum of money added to your council tax, which the Parish Council is responsible for spending for the benefit of people in the parish. In 2008/2009 the amount raised this way was £29,000, which averages out at £15.14 per band D property for the year or 29p per week. The council approves all spending on a monthly basis, and monitors expenditure against the budget quarterly.



Members of the Parish Council (not pictured: Mr J. Hassall, Mr P. Grover)

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Mary Rousseau, West View, West Bagborough, TA4 3EG.
Tel: 01823 432053
Email: bishopshlydeard.pc@virgin.net

Chairman: Mrs Joanna Lewin-Harris, Conquest Farm, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton TA2 6PN
Tel: 01823 432237
Email: jlh@conquest.org.uk

Vice Chairman: Mr John Wilkins, 16 Acland Round, Cotford St Luke, Taunton TA4 1JL
Tel: 01823 430374
Email: johnwilkins@talktalk.net

Members

Bishops Lydeard - Mr Greg Allen, Mr Tim Faun, Major Michael Lewin-Harris, Mr Philip Morency, Mr Paul Partington, Mrs Ann Pattermore, Mr Peter Watson, Mr Tony White, vacancy

Cotford St Luke - Major Tony Beaven, Mr Peter Grover, Mr John Hassall, vacancy

Cothelstone - Mrs Elaine Waymouth

Contact details for members of the Council can be obtained from the Clerk.

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council, one for Bishops Lydeard and one for Cotford St Luke. If you think you might be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk, Chairman or Vice-Chairman for further information. Their contact details are above.