

Parish Council update report: August 2019

We are now able to welcome a number of **new members of the Parish Council** who are all keen to help look after the community and the parish that they love. Your new Parish Council is now: Lynne Ashcroft, Andrew Bray, Heidi Coates, Tim Crew, Maggie Johnston, Doug Jones, Matt Marriott, Samantha Rossiter and Sarah Stevens. There was a very healthy level of interest in the vacancies after the May elections and it is pleasing to be back up to full strength again. Sincere thanks are due to all those who have served on the Council over recent years – and to the small group who endeavoured to keep everything running in recent months after the election process left the vacancies.

One of the early challenges facing the new Council is some unexpected expenditure to address **ash die-back** in a number of trees. The Council took the wise step of getting a professional examination of trees on or near Council-owned land and although none appear to represent any imminent danger it is considered sensible to undertake some work during the current financial year and some thereafter. With ash die-back, the costs of getting the necessary work done would become much more expensive in a few years' time as the whole of each tree can become brittle and dangerous. Any work done will aim to allow other nearby species to flourish (with minimal overall adverse visual effects) and should be undertaken at times to minimise effects on wild-life etc.

Ash die-back is a serious disease and is spreading widely. Many trees affected will be on private land and will be the responsibility of landowners and residents. Parishioners may wish to check the health and condition of any ash trees on their land – particularly if they could fall onto roads, footpaths, buildings or cause injury or damage. Not all trees will necessarily be infected and it could be a shame if resistant trees are felled unnecessarily. Symptoms and advice are available via the Woodland Trust's website (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) under their 'Tree Pests & Diseases' heading. Advice can also be obtained from the Parish Council's Tree Warden, Matt Marriott via 07713 575398 or sequoiatreeservices@gmail.com

The Parish Council is very grateful to all the school children who produced the vivid '**dog poo**' **posters** which can be seen around the village. Dog poo had become a problem again in some places – and can be dangerous for children. It was disappointing that some of the posters were removed soon after they had been pinned up. All the litter bins around the village can be used for dog waste as long as it is sealed in a bag. It is an offence not to clean up after dogs and fines can be issued. Please do not leave any dog poo anywhere – and if you have put it into a bag, then please put it into a bin. There is no magic dog-poo fairy to pick up bags left anywhere!

Our village hall continues to be a very popular venue for a wide range of events and activities. We are keen to get as many bookings as possible so that we can keep the costs down for all users – so please tell your family, friends and business contacts and encourage them to use the hall. Information about bookings can be found on the community website (www.buriton.info) or from our Village Hall Manager, Steve Franks on 07878 027845 and buritonvillagehall@gmail.com

And we are very pleased that the hall has become a lovely home for the '**Dottie Tots**' **Nursery School** which should be a very good asset for the community. More details are available via the Dottie Tots website (www.dottietots.co.uk) or via Karen Burrows: 07872 040 614 or hello@dottietots.co.uk

It was unfortunate that a piece of equipment in **the playground** had to be fenced off for a few weeks so that repairs could be undertaken: another piece of unforeseen expenditure for the Parish Council. It was one of the old pieces of equipment, transferred from the old playground, and had been

passed as safe by an independent annual RoSPA inspection in May. But one of our own inspections subsequently found some faults and it was felt that we should ensure safety and arrange for repairs.

The Parish Council has been told about a forthcoming **road closure**: the B2416 (Sussex Road) between Petersfield and South Harting will be closed just to the east of where it is joined by North Lane / Nursted Lane from Buriton. It is expected that the closure will be required for 5 days at some point during September, October or November. The alternative route will be via Heath Road East and Pulens Lane to join the A272 to Rogate and then via Nyewood to South Harting. Pedestrian access and vehicular access to affected properties will be maintained.

Finally, looking ahead to next year, the Parish Council is keen to ensure that there is an opportunity to **commemorate the 75th anniversary** of the end of the Second World War. The Government has moved the early May Bank Holiday to mark the occasion and, in the past, parishioners have organised street parties and other appropriate events for similar occasions. It is hoped that our schools might take part along with the village pubs, St Mary's Church and other community groups. But nothing will happen without a core group of willing volunteers – not just the Parish Council – so please contact the Parish Clerk via buritonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk (or by phoning 07943 536065) to let us know that you are willing to help.