

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018



Aberford Almshouses

Did you know the Aberford Almshouses still exist? Once they were sited at Priory Park at the south end of the village. Now they are located in a purpose-built building at the end of Beech View, off Cattle Lane and named 'Parlington House'. The accommodation consists of both one and two bedrooomed properties. At the moment two of the one bedroom flats are vacant.

If you would like any more details or would like an application form please email:
clerk@aberfordalmshousestrust.org.uk
or phone 0113 281 3763.

Police Matters

Our PCSO Geoff Nottingham is appealing for more Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and members to join his CCTV scheme. This is a scheme whereby residents who have CCTV are invited to allow the Police view images if it would help to catch those up to no good. He has had a good response from Barwick & Scholes and wants to enlarge the scheme to other villages.

You can contact Geoff direct:
geoffrey.nottingham@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

To report a crime, please ring 101.

Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Here is an update from the PC and Geoff:

There have been a few thefts from vehicles in the villages in our Ward. Please make sure that you remove all valuables and anything that might attract the attention of a thief.

Speeding issues are being monitored by the police and if there is a specific area where you would like attention to be paid, please let me know.

Distraction Type Burglaries

There have been a couple of incidents in the surrounding villages of elderly people being targeted during the daytime by bogus officials. Please make sure that IDENTIFICATION is asked for when anyone attends your address who is not a regular visitor.

(Please pass this on to the coffee mornings etc and contact points?)

Doorstep Sellers

Occasionally young men are calling and saying they are taking part in a rehabilitation scheme for young offenders. Please do not buy from them. They may be scoping your property for later or attempting to distract you so a second person can gain entry etc. If they are seen getting into a vehicle then it would be helpful to note the number plate and let the police know together with any descriptions you can give.

Landrover Thefts

These are becoming more common in and around the Leeds area. The last Land Rover Defender was produced recently so these are now going to become harder to get hold of. Criminals are targeting these vehicles as a means of getting parts. If you have a Land Rover Defender please secure it and take the appropriate actions to make it harder to steal.

Fly Tipping

At present we are suffering huge amount of fly tipping in the rural areas around the Harewood Wards. In Aberford the fly tippers are particularly attracted to Kingfisher Lane end and unfortunately the fly tippers have been on our patch again the night of the 24th/25th March. Cllr Hogg has reported a large fly tip in a gateway south of Hook Moor junction to LCC. It was found the morning of the 26th. Some waste in the Ward is coming from cannabis farms which have been cultivated in the nearby areas, but household waste is also dumped.

If anyone sees any fresh fly tipping call the Leeds City Council Environmental Agency centre on 0113 2224406 or business support Monday to Friday during office hours on 0113 3367676 or report it on-line through the LCC website.



Fields in Trust Scheme

Fields in Trust is the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association, a registered charity, which helps communities to permanently safeguard outdoor recreational spaces via a Deed of Dedication with the landowner.

The original Lease between LCC/Aberford PC for Jubilee Field was for just 25 years and has been in place for a few years now. We wanted to safeguard this amenity. A very large sum of money was spent there with an extended life expected for the equipment.

It is not envisaged there will be any problem in extending the Lease but we have decided to take advantage of a voluntary scheme which will mean that Jubilee Field will be kept as an amenity area in perpetuity.

LCC, as owner, has agreed to enter into the scheme and they actually have several such schemes in the City. As nearby parts of the Parlington estate were requisitioned in both World Wars, it has also been decided to apply for the Centenary Fields section of the Fields in Trust Scheme.

There will be only a minimal cost to this and it means that Jubilee Field will be preserved in the future for everyone to continue to enjoy. There will be no name change required.

The paperwork is being prepared and further details of the scheme can be seen online at www.fieldsintrust.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AberfordVillageHall>



Website: <http://www.aberford-pc.gov.uk/villagehall>



Enquiries: AVHall@outlook.com



Telephone: 07719 797072



Aberford & District Parish Council, PO Box 379, LS14 9GX

Our Clerk is
Natalie Goonesinghe
who can be contacted by
telephone on
07719 797072
and by email at
Clerk@aberford-PC.gov.uk

Village Hall

The Village Hall are searching for a handyman/builder to refurbish the "green rooms" behind the stage.

Funding has been secured, but they are struggling to find someone to undertake the work.

For further details please contact
AVHall@outlook.com.

The Hall Committee would like to ask that, if you shop on Amazon, then you and your family/friends might like to shop at 'smile.amazon.co.uk' which is the same as the normal Amazon website but the Village Hall will receive a 0.5% donation of the net purchase price.

If the Hall can get lots of people participating, this has the potential to provide valuable additional income.

The first time you enter the site, search for "Aberford Village Hall", and then always use smile.amazon.co.uk.

Lotherton Hall Events

There is lots going on at Lotherton Hall, given by the late Col Gascoigne to the City of Leeds for the enjoyment of everyone.

If you want to see what is coming up then one of the ways to do this is to visit our website.

Highways Matters

We have had meetings again with LCC Highways, Ward Cllrs., and Officers from Lotherton Hall about the extremely dangerous and narrow footpath along Lotherton Lane to the Hall.

Getting results is like pushing an elephant uphill due to lack of funding. We will keep trying as we have for several years!

We will be asking for a meeting with all relevant parties about the dangerous tail-backs at Junction 47 during rush hour.

We hope that affordable solutions may be found as sometimes a fresh look can help.

In any event we need to register our fears for our residents and all drivers using that Junction.

'Apron' in front of Church - we have been asked to look into the problem of cars being parked when the area is needed for funeral and wedding cars.

There have been 'near misses' with vehicles stopping/parking at the end of school day and instances of bollards actually being moved so a vehicle could be parked.

Imagine a coffin having to be carried the extra distance from the funeral car! We are looking into the ownership of this apron and hope that we can put measures in place to improve the situation.



LEEDS >>> FESTIVAL 2018

We have been given an allocation again.

Our lead members for this are Cllrs Andy Hogg and Dave McCready.

Good luck to all applicants.

LCC Site Allocations Plan

Consultation on Revised Submission Draft Plan

Our response can be seen on our website.

The Parish Council and residents owe a huge Thank You to the SPAG members who have worked so hard to register their continued objection.

Now we all have to wait until mid summer for the Inspector's Enquiry and autumn for the findings.



Wildflower Project

We are considering creating some wildflower areas around the village. There is a growing awareness nationally of the tremendous loss of wildflowers and willingness to address this.

We think everyone can recognise that there are fairly 'sterile' 'single species' grass in many areas. Spring bulbs are welcome but, in the longer term, perhaps the way forward is much more wildflower planting.

We will be holding a meeting with LCC Officers to discuss one or two small areas where wildflowers could be planted but this is probably a project for next year as the grass cutting schedule will need to be amended and the time for sowing seeds is early Spring which is upon us now.

We shall start small and see if everyone likes the changes.

We will not be looking at the wide old grass 'drovers verges' for any initial trials. Perhaps this idea may spread to other parishes in our very rural Harewood Ward.



Bits and Bobs

Hanging Baskets

We will again be having these and anyone who has sponsored one in the past will be contacted direct shortly to see if they want to continue sponsorship. The cost will be £25 as before. Please let our Clerk know if you have not sponsored before so your details can be passed on to the Cllrs leading on this.

Snow Clearing

Thanks are due to our local farmer Mr P. Watson for gritting side streets for us. He even had to go and fetch a load of grit before distributing it. We had requested that the grit bins be filled a few weeks before the snow came but were depending on LCC Highways for that. It is a shame they were filling as the snow was falling!



Rail Painting

Rail Painting in Main Street is in our budget for this year to be done. We will be getting quotations.

Bus Shelter in Cattle Lane

At the junction with Parlington Villas - again we have some funding in our budget. It was requested by older residents who find it difficult to walk down to the shelter at the Main Street junction. For this project we will try to get some external funding.

Foul Odours

We occasionally get complaints - our advice is to telephone 0800 80 70 60 straight away. This number is free and 24/7.

Litter

We do get a regular clean up but we can request an extra service if this is felt to be necessary. The north end of Main Street from the Bus Turnaround to the A64 junction seems to get a lot of litter in proportion to the traffic using it. We can only keep getting it cleared and would love to have the culprits reported. Vehicles should not be parked on the wide grass verges - their weight may cause ruts.



Bowling Club

Always welcomes new members. If you are interested then Cllr Paul Hancock is very willing to have a chat or arrange a taster. Contact him on 0113 2813518



Garforth End

We are aware that the Garforth residents' attempt to form their own Parish Council was not successful.

We will always try to help any of our residents in that part of our parish.

We have not had a member for some time from that area and would welcome a representative.

And Finally....

We have one vacancy at the moment and the present term of office runs out in Spring 2019.

We have four members who joined us during this term of office and five long serving members.

Do you see your long-term future in the village?

Have you been involved in the Save Parlington Action Group?

Have you a vision of how you want the parish to be whilst you are living in it and for the future beyond that?

If younger members cannot be found then the Parish Council will cease to exist eventually. Strong local representation makes the City Council know our parish is no 'push over'.

Please think about coming forward when the elections come around.