

NEWTON TONEY PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting – 18th May 2019
Chairman report - Councillor Thomas Martin

Parish Council activities & achievements
for the year May 2018 to May 2019

Co-ordination of Council Services

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Parish Steward to ensure that parishioner concerns are prioritised during the weekly visits. Tasks like filling in potholes and cutting back verges & hedges have required the Steward's continuous attention.

Following a Wiltshire Council review of its land portfolio of possible development land, the Parish Council were able to confirm that the one plot listed within the village was still designated as unsuitable.

Wiltshire Council has since conducted a housing survey; conclusions have not yet been distributed.

Upkeep and amenities in the village

The vehicle barrier onto the recreation ground has been upgraded to a more substantial standard.

The two dog waste bins at Blue Bridge and Green Walk have proven successful and reduced the instances of fouling on nearby footpaths. The Post Office have unfortunately not been able to provide a mechanism for the Amesbury road / Cholderton road junction post box to be re-sited in a more accessible aspect.

The main upkeep item this year has been the cutting back and management of the Jubilee Copse. Planted around 1977, unmanaged tree growth since then had started to encroach on neighbouring parishioners' gardens, as well as reducing plant diversity in the copse itself. This has highlighted an ongoing problem with legacy or long-term vegetation maintenance. The Parish Council is now developing a maintenance plan. As a look ahead for 2019/20, the hedge on the North and East of the village cemetery has started to encroach on graves, requiring a significant cut back. In an effort to keep PC costs manageable, volunteers for a work party for this job will be sought in due course. Bawden contractor maintenance of the cemeteries and public areas has also continued to be adjusted, as Wiltshire Council activities are reduced.

Community Public Access Defibrillators

The National Lottery funded scheme in co-ordination with the Community Heartbeat Trust is now fully installed and registered with the 999 operator. The first community awareness session is planned to be conducted today, Saturday 18th May. The funding from the National

Lottery will cover the upkeep and maintenance of the scheme for 7 years without a commitment to future financial liability. The BT kiosk defib was deployed in January as a backup service, whilst an ambulance was en route to treat a patient in Newton Toney. However, it was not used. All the cabinets are equipped and unlocked in line with the Local Ambulance Service Trust requirements. Please note that to conform with the 999 operator governance requirements, all Defibs require regular, visual checks. Volunteers are sought, to become the Defib Wardens who will conduct these weekly visual checks.

Marking WW1 Remembrance Sunday

The Parish Council sourced and planted 11 Memorial Trees near Blue Bridge, commemorating the villagers who fell in WW1. Registering the Recreation Ground as part of the Fields in Trust Centenary Fields scheme is ongoing and is hoped to be finished by July, coincidental with the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The main delay has been that the Recreation Ground was found to be missing from the Land Registry records, an occurrence more common than one might imagine! This means that the procedures to go through first registration are now significantly more detailed but will continue in the coming months.

Recreation Ground Grass Cutting

With notice given by Wiltshire Council to cease grass cutting of the recreation ground, the Parish Council has ensured this service has been maintained. There has been continued progress in the discussions with the Newton Toney Primary School re grass cutting. As a significant stakeholder and daily user of the recreation ground and amenities, it is hoped that the school will be able to make a meaningful financial contribution to meet the maintenance funding shortfall. It is hoped that the matter of funding for the Recreation Ground grass cutting will be resolved fairly and will not impose an increased financial burden on village residents.