

ILKETSHALL ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2022

Top Road – speeding issue

The Parish Council finally received a quote for the additional road paintings on Top Road, designed to encourage drivers to comply with the 30mph speed limit. Although the initial guidance was that this might cost £700, the quote was for £1,763.48 (plus VAT). Not least because the Parish Council did not have sufficient spare funds to pay that amount, at its last meeting it decided to defer a decision on the project. Views of parishioners would be welcome!

In conjunction with Ringsfield & Weston, and Redisham, there now appear to be sufficient numbers to create a “Community Speedwatch” team. After the required training, a group will be positioned on Top Road for periodic sessions. Speeding motorists recorded by the “Community Speedwatch” group are subsequently contacted by the police, with repeat offenders treated more seriously. Additional members of the “Community Speedwatch” team would be welcome, so if you would be willing to devote a bit of time to this, please get in touch with Rod Apps via the Parish Council email address: (isaparishcouncil@gmail.com).

Shipmeadow Solar Farm

Many residents will already be aware of the possibility of a solar farm being built at Shipmeadow. Although labelled “Shipmeadow Solar Farm”, a portion of it would be constructed within the village, neighbouring Clarkes Lane.

At the current time, the company responsible (RES) is exploring the potential for such a solar farm, and has **not** submitted a formal planning application. They are currently consulting with interested parties to see if the project is feasible or not and to finalise the details of the project to put forward for planning approval.

As part of that consultation process, RES is holding a public exhibition at Ringsfield Hall [Ringsfield Hall Eco Activity Centre, Hall Road, NR34 8JR] on Wednesday 23rd November, 2.00pm – 7.00pm. All the information at that public exhibition will be available at www.shipmeadow-solarfarm.co.uk from 23 November 2022.

Contacting the Police

The Parish Council has been asked to publicise the range of alternative ways that people can contact the Police, since many people are unaware of the alternatives.

- To report a crime being committed, always dial 999.
- To report a non-urgent crime, you can dial 101.
- Use the on-line reporting tool from the Suffolk Constabulary website: www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something.

If you wish to report a historic crime (after the event), use : www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime.

These on-line reporting tools produce the same result as the reporting person dialling the non-emergency Tel. No. 101, but without the wait associated with the telephone method. The person will receive an Investigation No. via e-mail, often within an hour of sending the report.

- If you wish to contact an Officer or PCSO in the Halesworth Locality Safer Neighbourhood Team, the e-mail address is Halesworth.snt@suffolk.police.uk. Please do not use this to report crime, which should be reported only using the methods mentioned above. An example of when to use the SNT e-mail address might be when you would like to speak with somebody for advice.

Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Last call for a volunteer to take over the Parish Clerk role!

As previously notified, the current Parish Clerk (Rod Apps) will be standing down at the next local council elections (scheduled for May 2023) at the latest, and therefore the Parish Council is looking for a replacement. If no volunteer is forthcoming, the Parish Council will seek to employ someone to undertake the role.

Employing a Parish Clerk does, of course, cost money and the next meeting of the Parish Council will need to set the budget for next year (April 2023 onwards) to include the likely costs of employing a Parish Clerk, and to adjust the precept request accordingly. It is anticipated that the cost of employing a Parish Clerk would be in the region of £5,000 per year, and on that basis an additional £44.00 for a Band D property (for example) would need to be raised, increasing the total Band D precept from approximately £21.00 to £65.00 p.a. [Additional information on the Parish Council finances is available on the Parish Council website, www.ilketshallstandrewparishcouncil.org]

Clearly, the Parish Council would much prefer **not** to increase the precept for this purpose and would much prefer someone to volunteer to take on the Parish Clerk role. If you would be interested in taking on this role, please get in touch with Rod Apps (via the Parish Council e-mail address, isaparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Parish Council meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for

Monday 12 December 2022, 7.30 pm.

The Agenda will, as usual, be available on the website [ilketshallstandrewparishcouncil.org] a little while before the meeting. We really would welcome your attendance!

Rod Apps
Parish Clerk
November 2022