

Village News

Summer 2022

News and Information from your local Parish Council

Annual Review - Cllr Claire Welland - See Inside

Annual Village Parish Meeting

Monday 23rd May from 7pm

**St Swithun's Church, London Road,
Headbourne Worthy**

The Wellhouse Lane bridge has now re-opened, just in time for you to visit the beautiful Saxon St Swithun's Church and join us for the annual Parish Council Parish Meeting - a chance to meet your local parish councillors (see inside for short CVs and photos), hear what's been happening locally for the past year, and share in a convivial glass of wine. (Non-alcoholic alternatives will be available!).

All local residents, from

Headbourne Worthy AND Kings Barton, will be very welcome.

We even now have a splendid new car park, open for this meeting and for general use during the week - have you walked round Barton Meadows yet? The wildflower meadow will be coming into its best show of wonderful spring flowers any day now.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Thursday 2 June - Sunday 5 June 2022

St Mary's Church in Kings Worthy is lighting a Jubilee Beacon on top of the tower on 2nd June at 7.30pm. They are then hosting a Jubilee Party from 1 - 5pm on Sunday 5th June on Church Green, next to the church. All local residents are welcome to attend. There will be music from local band Flaxen Hill and Amanda Parsons, childrens' entertainer Juggling Jake, a BBQ, fairground rides, bar, ice cream, tea and cakes. A great community celebration.

You may like to organise a local street party - both Headbourne Worthy and Kings Barton have areas of green space away from roads which could host an impromptu celebration. Why not use your local WhatsApp or Facebook contacts to organise something, even if it's just a lunchtime picnic where everyone brings something to share. 70 years is certainly an anniversary worthy of celebration. Let the PC know your plans and we'll help to promote them.



To contact your Parish Council, visit www.headbourneworthy.org.uk

or contact the Parish Clerk, Belinda Baker, email clerk@headbourneworthy.org.uk

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Annual Review - Cllr Claire Welland

Parish Council meetings this year have returned to their usual in-person format, and the Parish Council has taken the opportunity to hold meetings outdoors in the Kings Barton play area when possible. Although the pandemic is not over, and the effects will be felt for many years to come, we are grateful to be able to continue to serve our community.

This year our key discussion points at meetings have included the perennial fare of planning applications and general maintenance, as well as more specific items including the plans for the changes to M3 Junction 9 which will have a profound impact on our community, the development at Kings Barton which continues, although with more issues than we would all prefer, planning for additional housing development, and of course our opportunities to invest in our community.

Extreme weather events did make themselves felt with Storm Eunice amongst others causing problems in the village due to felled trees and power cuts.

Cllr Claire Duncan resigned as a Councillor in July last year, and at the elections in May this year, Cllr David Barrow and Cllr Gimma Macpherson both stood down. They have all been steadfast in their work on the Parish Council and all have served for several years. We appreciate all that they have contributed to our community, particularly the flood mitigation work that

David has been involved with, the clarity of guidance provided by Claire particularly in legal matters, and Gimma has been our key liaison with the Lengthsman, as well as being part of the team that has developed the Church car park into an outstanding facility to be proud of.

In addition, I will be stepping down as Chair this year after 5 years, but I will continue to serve as a Parish Councillor. We welcome Julian Hamblin as a new Councillor, and look forward to welcoming further Councillors to our group: please do get in touch if you reside locally and would like to participate. We currently have two vacancies on the Council and our Clerk would be happy to answer any questions regarding the time commitment and responsibilities involved.

Cllr Claire Welland, Chair, Headbourne Worthy Parish Council.

In March Claire received a well-deserved award for Community Service from the Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Viv Achwal.



Headbourne Worthy Parish Councillors

Melanie Iredale I have enjoyed the pleasure of being a Parish Councillor at HWPC since September 2020 and very much enjoy this varied and rewarding role. I work alongside my fellow councillors, local residents and third parties with local interests to help enhance the Parish's infrastructure, amenities and community relations. With our often unpredictable weather and climate change, I am keen to be more involved in helping our community prepare for adverse weather such as flooding and temperature extremes.



Originally from Yorkshire, I have lived in Winchester - and recently in Kings Barton - for 15 years (and in southern England for almost 30 years) and I feel very much at home here. Though I am medically retired due to disabilities, I have many years experience in client relations, financial planning and special education needs.

Jane Rutter I have been a member of the Parish Council since shortly after moving to Headbourne Worthy from Kings Worthy in 2004. I have always felt it is important to be active in my local community and the parish council works hard to support both our established community in

Headbourne Worthy and our newest residents in Kings Barton - for just as long as they need that support before like new fledglings they fly the nest! I am also a Winchester City Councillor, representing Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy too. This is me with my adorable granddaughter Alice.



Julian Hamblin

With my family, I've lived in Headbourne Worthy since 1997. By profession I am a lawyer, working in Southampton. I'm pleased to be rejoining the Parish Council, having last been involved in 2006. Some of the challenges remain the same -



housing pressures, and traffic through the village centre for example. However the effects of climate change and the need to plan for those changes are now more obvious. I look forward to working with my fellow councillors to address these issues and more, to ensure our parish remains a wonderful place to live and work in.

Parish Council Role and Engagement

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council had been expecting to take responsibility for the children's playground in Kings Barton this Spring. The maintenance, insurance and inspection of children's playgrounds and open spaces in a local area would typically be the responsibility of a Parish Council and Winchester City Council had indicated that they wanted HWPC to take it over.

However, since HWPC had not been consulted on the design of the playground, and after an assessment of potential maintenance costs, the Council expressed concern that the narrow gate would not allow access for wider tractor lawnmowers which would increase maintenance costs considerably. Additionally, hedging had been planted which the Council would need to maintain. Only in December 2021 did WCC inform HWPC that there would be a payment provided by CALA to assist with these costs. HWPC invited WCC to the January meeting to discuss the open spaces in Kings Barton, and after these issues were raised WCC agreed to send further information. HWPC later learned that WCC officers had considered that the handover would not take place and that the open spaces would become WCC's responsibility. Following further discussions and in consultation with our City Councillors, we hope to have more positive discussions with WCC about the arrangements for a handover.

Parish Councils are the first tier of government in England: they are elected bodies that provide communities with a democratic voice and a structure

for taking community action. Parish Councils raise tax (known as the precept) in order to provide services to a local community. HWPC is currently served by up to 7 Councillors and a part-time Clerk. Most of our Councillors reside in Headbourne Worthy, with 1 representative from Kings Barton. In order to ensure that voices from across our community are represented, the Parish Council would like more representation from Kings Barton.

The civic parish of Headbourne Worthy is a growing community, so the Parish Council has requested from WCC the ability to have a larger number of Councillors in order to share the decision-making for an increasing budget.

At a future date it will almost certainly be appropriate to divide into two councils but this will be the decision of residents, not HWPC or WCC. In the meantime, a number of options are available including setting up committees for each part of our community. HWPC currently has five Councillors and two vacancies, and would welcome interest from residents, particularly those in Kings Barton. During the past year HWPC has arranged some of its meetings to take place within Kings Barton as well as at our usual venue in Kings Worthy. The Council expects to continue to co-locate this year, and looks forward to engaging with all our residents on the issues that matter to them.

Belinda Baker, Parish Clerk.

Headbourne Worthy Parish Councillors



Christine Clarke-Smith

I live at Marlands, London Road. I have been a Parish Councillor for 9 years. I moved here from Brussels where I had been teaching for 30 years. I am a Steward in the Cathedral and a member of The Winchester Art History Group. I love living here in Headbourne

Worthy and find the Parishioners very positive and welcoming. I can often be seen walking our 2 West Highland terriers around the Parish with my husband Bevis.

Claire Welland

Claire is a resident of Headbourne Worthy and has been a Parish Councillor since 2010, and was Chair from 2017 – 2022. Claire's interests on the Council include the website, flooding and footpaths. She is particularly proud of the

investments that the Council has made in infrastructure over the past few years, and the ongoing programme of works that the Council has already delivered and has planned for the future.

Claire lives with her husband and two children, both of whom attended Kings Worthy Primary School where she was a governor for a number of years. Claire works in Insurance in London, and is keen to welcome new Councillors to the Council: for anyone wondering whether it's possible to fit volunteering in a busy life, it can be done, and it's incredibly rewarding to be able to serve your community.

Editor's Note: There are places currently for seven councillors on the Parish Council. As there were just five nominations all councillors are elected. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in joining us!



Jackie's County Corner - May 2022

Many of us are preparing for the Jubilee celebrations in June. The County Council grant scheme is starting a little earlier this year to allow organisers to seek a grant if you are still short of funds to ensure that all events are as inclusive as possible.

As I write, just over 1500 Ukrainian refugees are settling in Hampshire under the Sponsorship or Family schemes. If you are hosting a family or they are on their way, you are most likely to be connected into one of the local contact groups. Hampshire County Council is offering funds to support these groups. Libraries and schools can help too. Go to www.hants.gov.uk to see a link from the front page of the website. As Councillors, we also have our own email query link, so if your family is struggling to support with finance and schooling etc, I will do my best to help.

You will probably know that many residents were interested in re-opening Cornerways. The County Council is adamant that it isn't suitable, and won't entertain even trying. I am assured that plans for the site are afoot, but this isn't the first year that I've heard that!

In April I had a work experience student with me for two weeks. Alex took his part in 'watching for the dye' tests in the Itchen. Sitting alongside it looking so 'gin clear', it is hard to imagine how precious are these chalk streams, and it is vital that we know exactly where the water flows, and that it won't be contaminated by sewage here

again. Thanks to the volunteers, repairs needed to the waterpipes were identified.

We also talked about Walk to School week from the 16th May. Children are encouraged to walk to school, and think about their journeys. If you live further away, maybe you could try walking from a Park and Stride site. You can stride from Eversley Park, and the path from 1a to Kings Barton school should be open by then.

If you want to go even greener that week, you can try giving up plastics too! Go to <https://TheBigPlasticCount.com> to join in.

Jackie Porter

County Councillor for the Itchen Valley Division. Campaigner, School Governor and Charity Trustee, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Children in Hampshire

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I'm also on twitter:

@JackieLibDem, Facebook or What's App, but for a personal matter, a phone call, text or email is best.



Nuns Walk Surface Improvements

The Nuns' Walk is part of the Pilgrims' Way, a nationally significant Long Distance Path from Winchester to Canterbury. Over the past few years the surface of the path has become problematic, and this became particularly obvious during lockdown when many of us used the local network of footpaths.

The Parish Council has been developing a detailed plan to improve the surface of the footpath in our care between Abbots Barton and Kings Worthy, and are pleased to report the installation of the first improvements. Back in 2009 the Worthys Conservation Volunteers installed some boardwalk bridges over some of the more waterlogged areas of the path.

Sadly these had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. After requesting guidance from the Hampshire Countryside Service, they were able to assist the Parish Council via their voluntary programme. HCS provided materials and people and replaced the three boardwalk bridges, and they are looking great.



The next phases of work are being planned and include: digging grips to channel water from the path into the waterways, including the area near the A34 bridges, and clearing back vegetation to widen the path as it nears Abbots Barton.

More information on the Pilgrims' Way can be found at thepilgrimsway.co.uk. More information on Long Distance Paths is available at ldwa.org.uk.

By Cllr Claire Welland

