

## **Wildflower Steering Group now known as The Lady Smockers**

The Lady Smockers continue to do excellent work in the Parish Field. As the years go by villagers will see the results of their efforts. The Parish Council are grateful to the group. Please look out for the opportunity to learn about hedge laying!!

## **Dog Fouling/Behaviour**

Dog Fouling is a topic which finds its way into nearly every Parish Council meeting but recently it has proved to be a very major concern. There have been several amounts of doggy do found in the children's play area. As a result the Council are looking into bringing in Dog Control orders to try to address the problem. Clearly there are a large number of responsible dog owners in the village but it only takes one to spoil it for the many.

## **Waiting for the Sun**

*News from Bedford Borough Council informs the Parish Council that in planning terms, you may know that the Borough Council commenced injunction proceedings some time ago and obtained an Interim Injunction prohibiting new caravans being brought onto the land pending a final decision from the Secretary of State in respect of the planning appeal which was then running.*

*As you will know the Court of Appeal has upheld the Secretary of State's decision to refuse planning permission. We are therefore proceeding with our application for a permanent injunction to cease the residential use and have a hearing date in the High Court on 28th February 2017. The issue is clouded by the fact that the site owner has indicated an intention to appeal the Court of Appeal's decision to the Supreme Court.*

*There is little more we can do in the meantime as the entire use is unauthorised, and the planning conditions that were in place while the temporary permission was in force have lapsed along with the permission.*

*We will therefore keep the Parish Council updated when we have more to report about the planning situation, but that is likely to be after 28th February.*

## **Bletsoe NDP**

The Plan is nearing completion but will need to be ratified by the Parish Council before it is presented to the village for approval. Dates will soon be set for these consultations so please look out for details.

## **Bletsoe Gazette**

All villagers should be now have received the latest edition of the Bletsoe Gazette edited by Mike Gibbons. Please contact Mike with

your comments / suggestions / contributions –  
[mike.gibbons@bletsoe.net](mailto:mike.gibbons@bletsoe.net)

## **Parish Council Meetings – 7:30pm in the Village Hall**

Monday 6 March

Monday 22 May Annual Parish Meeting (public meeting) Followed by Annual Meeting of Parish Council (AGM)

Monday 3 July

Monday 4 September

Monday 6 November

## **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

As residents will be aware, there is a second Councillor vacancy as a result of the resignation of Claire Woodward. The Electorate has requested that there be another election. If you are interested please check out the noticeboards and the website to find out how to apply or contact the Parish Clerk on [parishclerk@bletsoe.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bletsoe.org.uk). This follows very soon after the election last ??? The Parish Council was surprised at the cost of the first election and to have a second one within the same financial year has resulted in a cost of just under £3000.

## **Precept**

Residents will be pleased to hear that, despite unforeseen costs, Councillors were able to keep the precept at the same rate as it has been over the past two years.

## **Grass Cutting**

Bedford Borough are contracted to cut the village field and the verges have, till now, been cut by Chris Horne who has also cut the churchyard (the bit with no gravestones), Chris Horne has given up and the verges will now be cut by the Borough contractors. The Parish Council have awarded funds to the PCC so that they can source a new contractor to cut the churchyard. This now leaves the Play Area. Whilst it would be good to have volunteers the PC recognizes that this is no small task and is looking to find someone who will fulfill this job. If you know of anyone who might be interested please get in touch with the Parish Clerk who will give full details.

### **Website & Facebook**

Please check the village website for up to date information of what's going on in the village and to access Parish Council agendas and minutes – [www.bletsoe.net](http://www.bletsoe.net) .

In an effort to allow villagers to be able to contribute more freely, an additional Facebook page has been set up entitled Bletsoe Noticeboard and the previous Bletsoe Village page has been renamed Bletsoe Parish Council. Please use these pages to promote events in the village and share any newsworthy items!

If you have any issues concerning the parish please contact a Parish Councillor or our Parish Clerk, Alison Southern, [parishclerk@bletsoe.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bletsoe.org.uk) so that it can be brought to a PC meeting. Alternatively email [info@bletsoe.net](mailto:info@bletsoe.net).

### **Your Parish Councillors 2016-17**

Edward Bean  
Paul Caves  
Alison Fields-Foster  
Ann Gibbons  
Mary Laws  
Paul Vine

Clerk - Alison Southern  
[parishclerk@bletsoe.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@bletsoe.org.uk)

# **BLETSOE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **January 2017**