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Normal Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am to Noon



Message from the Chairman – Cllr Sarah Balfour

Each year the Parish Council must hold a Parish Assembly where any Ackworth resident can come to hear the Chair's annual report and can raise any issues of concern about the village. **The full report can be found on the Parish Council website so here I will give you a summary of the main points.**



- The Parish Council has purchased a defibrillator and it was installed at the pavilion.
- At the cemetery, following an attempted break-in a new security door has been fitted to the building. The gates have been refurbished and repaired. The Parish Council continues to subsidise residents' fees.
- The Parish Council leased a van in May 2016 to assist the work of the staff.
- The Road Safety committee has lodged an interest with Community Speedwatch in which volunteers will be trained to use hand-held speed guns to monitor traffic speed through the village. Blue Police Speed Check signs have been installed on the A628, and complaints passed to highways about potholes, blocked gullies and other concerns. Meetings have been organised with Parish Councillors, SELRAG and District Councillors for further discussions on the bypass.
- Ackworth Howard School staff are parking in Low Ackworth Playing Field car park to alleviate parking issues on Station Road.
- The Parish Council continues to work in partnership with the Brackenhill Allotments Committee to manage and maintain the allotments.
- The Parish Council continues to support Ackworth Community Library by leasing the rooms at a peppercorn rent.
- Work continues on the Neighbourhood Plan. A successful Community Open Day was held in March. When completed the Neighbourhood Plan will give Ackworth more say over the type of new development in the village, but this will still need to be done within the governments planning framework.
- The following works funded by Wakefield Council have now been completed; the Cemetery footpaths have been repaired and extended, the play area has been refurbished, a new toilet, accessible from the outside, has been installed at Carr Bridge pavilion and additional parking space has been provided. Additionally new planters have been installed on the A628/A638 roundabout. Currently in progress are improvements to lighting and tree works on Dando Way. New benches will also be installed on this popular walk-way. Thanks to the District Councillors Jessica Carrington, Allan Garbutt and Martyn Ward, who have worked closely with the Parish Council to bring about these improvements.

Credit must also be given to the work done by the Village Events committee in organising the summer gala, pumpkin event, Christmas lights switch on and Santa Day.

Finally I would like to finish by thanking all the Parish Council staff who as always, provide excellent support throughout the year both to Parish Councillors and to Ackworth residents who come to them with concerns. Additionally, I would like to thank all parish councillors for their dedication and support during the year. Contrary to popular misconception, no councillor receives payment. Parish Councillors give of their time voluntarily.

Improvements to Low Ackworth Play Area

Wakefield Council's District Councillors have worked in partnership with Ackworth Parish Council to create an exciting new play area which will be enjoyed by many children from the local community. The play area was officially opened in March, with children from Ackworth



Howard School Council in attendance to carry out the cutting of the ribbon.

The play area, funded by Wakefield MDC now includes a timber climbing frame complete with ladder, nets, monkey bars, a fireman's pole and wobbly bridge. A see-saw, dragonfly and snail sculptures and a new basketball hoop.

The introduction of seating within the play area should also make the visit more comfortable for parents and carers.

Improvements at Carr Bridge Playing Field

The Parish Council has funded a defibrillator and it is sited on the wall of the pavilion building at Carr Bridge. This is great news and certainly gives reassurance to sports team using the facilities. Defibrillators can be life-saving pieces of equipment and the Parish Council knows that placing them in the community can greatly increase the chance of a positive outcome should someone be in cardiac arrest.

Additionally, thanks to funding from Wakefield Council, work has now been completed at the pavilion to allow access to a toilet from outside of the building. Cllr Sarah Balfour, said "This upgrade allows greater flexibility for sports teams using the adjoining playing fields."

The Carr Bridge facilities are currently enjoyed by Ackworth Juniors JFC, Ackworth Road Runners, South Elmsall Utd Services FC and Featherstone Rovers - Junior Rovers (for boy and girls aged 3-14)
 Pictured: Parish Councillors, Harry Malkin, Allan Garbutt, Sarah Balfour, Mrs Sue Hollyhead and Terry Hollyhead.



As this newsletter goes to print, Parish Councillors and staff will be taking part, along with many members of the community, in **The Ackworth Big Spring Clean 2017**. The event has been organised by volunteers who clearly take pride in their village and have encouraged the community to come together. Ackworth is a great place, with great

people, with much to celebrate. Please follow the Parish Council on Facebook or visit our website to keep up to date with events. www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ackworth Gala – Saturday 24 June 2017



Preparations are well underway for this year's event. The theme for the fancy dress competition is Disney. It's the 40th anniversary of Ackworth Gala so we're hoping to see some of the older Disney favourites walking in the parade and in the fancy dress competition.



Ackworth Howard School will be choosing the Gala Queen, with Bell Lane School and Mill Dam School choosing the Gala Queen's Attendants.

The parade will be led by marching band Melton Mowbray Toy Soldiers who made a brief appearance last year but due to the very changeable weather, were unable to perform in the main arena. Other arena acts have been booked including Pedal Power vs Parkour. The display combines the incredible skill, balance and power of a trials rider and the finesse of a gymnast / parkour athlete. Both athletes will be putting it all on the line in an attempt to become the crowds' favourite! Local dance group CG Dance Academy will also be making an appearance.



There will be community and charity stalls, both raising funds for good causes, as well as craft stalls and local tradespeople advertising their businesses.

As always there will be bouncy castles and a climbing wall, free of charge to use all afternoon. Refreshments available throughout the afternoon.

Heart Screening Success in Ackworth

On Sunday 5 March 2017, despite appalling weather conditions, the Rory James Embling Foundation at Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) performed heart screening on 102 local people.

A staggering 9 heart referrals were found with one patient leaving immediately for attention at Pinderfields Hospital (the norm would be to find 1 issue in 300). The cardiac team from CRY were extremely effective and efficient

The next heart screening session funded by the Rory James Embling Foundation will be on 2nd September 2017. Places will be available for local people. (Written by Mr Chris Embling. Pictured: Rory Embling)





Ackworth Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Plan Update

A successful open day was held in the Community Centre on Bell Lane, on 25 March. Over 150 people attended the event which showcased the different groups who are active within the village including the Ackworth Heritage Group, the Guides, Brackenhill Allotment Association, Ackworth Juniors AFC and the British Legion.

The local churches were also represented and a consultation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan was launched.

Ackworth Parish Council is asking local residents and businesses to come forward with their ideas and opinions which will form the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan which hopefully will be formally adopted by Wakefield District Council and will allow for more informed decision making over the next ten years.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chairman, Cllr. Allan Garbutt, stated ' We were delighted with the response to the open day and the opportunity to show local people what is on offer in their village. It also gave us the ideal platform to launch the consultation on the Ackworth Neighbourhood Plan which will give local people the chance to have their voices heard in the future development of the village.'

If anyone would like to put forward their ideas and opinions then they can pick a questionnaire at the Parish Council offices or the Community Library on Bell Lane, Ackworth.

Previous issues of the newsletter can be found on the website.

Contacting the Parish Council

If you have any comments, compliments or criticisms to make about the work of the Parish Council or if you would like clarification on what we do, then please contact us in one of the following ways:

BY EMAIL: clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk or info@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

VIA OUR WEBSITE: – www.ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk use the 'Contact Us' section.

VIA FACEBOOK - search for Ackworth Parish Council and send a private message.

BY TELEPHONE: 01977 611583

BY POST / IN PERSON: Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane, Ackworth, West Yorkshire, WF7 7JH. The office is situated at the front of the building. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon or by appointment.

Alternatively you are welcome to attend a Parish Council meeting – dates are published on the website and in the notice board at the front of the Community Centre. We have a 'public' session from 7:15 pm for approximately 15 mins.

We endeavour to respond within 7 working days to correspondence received in the above ways.
Sue Templeman, Clerk