

BOURN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012



Annual External Audit FYE2012

The External Auditor's report stated that "On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

Donations and grants

Each year the Parish Council is able to support village groups and clubs which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants.

If your Group, Club or Society would like to be considered for a grant please write to the Clerk explaining why the grant is required and how much you are asking for and enclosing a copy of your accounts by 11 January 2013. Grant applicants will be informed by April or May 2013 if they have been successful.

Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin.

Hopefully most of you will now be signed up members of Bourn Neighbourhood Watch. For those of you who are not and would like to be-please ring or email Gill below, to be put in touch with your local coordinator.

We at Bourn Neighbourhood Watch are aiming to improve communication between villagers regarding local crime and also to improve communication with the local police, to better combat crime when it occurs. I believe we have been very successful in achieving these aims.

Please all be aware that there continue to be a number of phone and email scams operating, which could affect you.

These take many forms and it is always best to be vigilant when you are contacted by anyone that you do not know personally.

There are a number of website which can be useful when trying to either identify or report a scam-these are:-

www.hoax-slayer.com (latest email hoaxes)

www.getsafeonline.org (useful advice)

www.actionfraud.police.uk (national fraud and internet reporting centre, including an A-Z of frauds and scams.

Gill Macnamee (01954 712831) or gillmacnamee@hotmail.com

Highways Working Group

The Parish Council is proposing to submit a bid under the County Council's scheme for Minor Highway Improvements for speed reduction measures along The Broadway.

Bourn Flood Group - status report

The 2001 flood was caused by 101 mm of rain falling in 18 hours on 21st October.

This equates to a 1 in 266 year return period rainfall event (from Environment Agency statistics).

In total, 47 properties in the village were flooded; the worst affected areas were -

- Alms Hill
- Kingfisher Close (including the doctors surgery)
- Riddy Lane (lower end)
- Caxton End

After the flood, there were a number of surveys conducted by WS Atkins on specific parts of the Bourn Brook watercourse (unfortunately these are not available electronically but the Parish Council has paper copies).

As a result of these surveys (and pressure from the village), a number of incremental improvements have been made to the system to try to reduce the risk of a similar event impacting so many properties –

1. The levels of the Cambourne Western Valley lakes have been raised to increase holding capacity
2. The bed under the Great Bridge has been excavated to increase throughput under the bridge
3. A bypass drain has been installed in the lower part of Riddy Lane to take water downstream of the Great Bridge
4. A new entrance has been built from Alms Hill into Camping Close (opposite the doctors surgery) to allow water to drain away into the field

In addition to the above, a local landowner has introduced the following measure -

5. An attenuation pond has been created to the south east of Riddy Lane. A 100mm outlet pipe near the bottom of this pond regulates the flow of water into a 225mm pipe that has replaced the field ditch that feeds into the Riddy Lane inlets.

Measures (3) and (5) are specifically targeted at Riddy Lane; measure (4) is targeted at Kingfisher Close. The remaining measures (hopefully) improve the situation for the whole village.

The village flood group continues to coordinate activities in the village as follows –

1. understanding the system (in terms of the three flows into the ford at Caxton End)–
 - a. collating all reports / surveys into a single repository
 - b. Cambourne West lakes – how do they operate and what is their maintenance regime
 - c. Cambourne East lakes – as above plus what impact will the additional 950 homes have
 - d. Local landowners – how is the runoff rate affected by farming practices e.g. contour ploughing
2. monitoring the system
 - a. monitoring the state of the drains and reporting to Highways (Cambridge County Council)
 - b. monitoring the state of the brook and reporting to South Cambridgeshire District Council
 - c. monitoring rainfall events and the runoff from fields neighbouring Riddy Lane and Caxton End
3. maintaining the system
 - a. getting Highways to clear the drains on a regular basis and after rainfall events
 - b. getting the District Council to maintain the brook on an annual basis
 - c. getting the village (via a workgroup) to clear the Riddy Lane inlets on an as-needed basis
4. improving the system
 - a. lobbying Highways to get the Riddy lane bypass drainage extended to Church Street
 - b. lobbying for improvements to the Great Bridge to increase flow capacity

These are all “small scale” measures because none of the surveys identified major solutions that could be justified in terms of cost-benefit. But anecdotal evidence suggests that the system as a whole is working better. There have been a number of rainfall events since 2001 (note-ably June 2007) which were monitored closely.

November 2012

The Parish Council welcomes new members to the Bourn Flood Action Group.

New Play Equipment at all Close

In November a new multi-play unit was opened on the Hall Close play area, at a cost of £10,134. A grant of £1,000 was received from South Cambridgeshire District Council and the balance was paid for by the Parish Council. The equipment is brightly coloured in red, white and blue for jubilee year and includes several activities for young children. The Parish Council will also be considering further improvements to the Hall Close play area such as additional grass matting and a new bench, and also matting at the bottom of the slide at the Jubilee Play Area.



Bourn Village Hall

The village hall in Bourn is available weekday evenings and weekend hire. The hall committee is very pleased to have been able to maintain the present hire charges for 3 years. At £65.00 for a Saturday evening it really represents very good value for money for a party or a fundraising event.

Did you know that for children's parties (primary school age) there is a flat rate of just £25.00? With plenty of space outside for the little ones to run round on it is well used by young families for just such occasions.

If you would like to book please contact Jane Bradford 01954 719511
mbradford345@btinternet.com

Vacancy on the Parish Council

The Parish Council was very sorry to receive the resignation as a member of Mr Jim Hansford, for personal reasons, and wishes to thank him and express its appreciation for all his hard work and contribution he has made during his time on the Parish Council. There is now a vacancy on the Council, and residents are encouraged to consider whether they might be interested in taking on this role. This is as your opportunity to join the Council and help shape the village. The Parish Council is not political, it leaves that to higher authorities, but your Parish Council can make a difference. Talk to the Chairman, any of the other councillors or the Clerk if you would like to know more.

You should consider standing for election and becoming a Parish Councillor if:

You want to do more for your community
You want to spend your time productively
You want to be involved in setting the budget
You can think, listen and act locally

Effort required:

TIME - As with most things, the more you put in, the more you (and your community) will get out. The Council employs a Clerk to support the Council in its work both at meetings and also between meetings.
Bourn Parish Council meets each month on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

All members are encouraged to take on an area of responsibility to help share the workload and to ensure that the Council maximises its efficiency. The Council has several working groups which offer members a chance to use their skills and knowledge for maximum benefit or to review a matter in more depth before a decision is reached. Sometimes these Committees or Working Groups will meet in between the meetings of the full Parish Council.

COST - Being a Councillor should cost you little. There is usually cover for subsistence and travel allowances if your duties take you out of your local Council's area. These allowances will be within a maximum laid down by the Government.

Having decided you want to be a councillor there's **THREE** things that need to be done.
If **YOU** want to

- **Get the Best for Your Community**
- **Spend Your Time Productively**
- **Think, Listen and Act Locally**

Then **YOU** should consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

What councillors do!

Councillors have **three** main components to their work.

Decision Making

Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support and where money should be spent locally.

Monitoring

By keeping an eye on how well things are working councillors make sure their decisions lead to efficient and effective services.

Getting Involved Locally

Councillors, as local representatives, have responsibilities towards local people and organisations.

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk, who will be pleased to answer any questions you may have, and will send you an application form for completion.

Parish Council Contacts

Nigel Ball (Chairman)	38 Caxton End	718960
Vivien Bruce	16 Kingfisher Close	718221
Robert Ansell	61 Hall Close	718934
Gill Pountain	13 Church Street	719266
Xanthe Rees-Howell	Maple Lodge, The Drift	710042
Steve Jones	Rosemary and Lavender Cottage, Caxton Road	719329
Neil Blair	19 Church Street	719794
Heather McClean	44 Gills Hill	717895
Julie MacLean	105 Caxton end	719656

Parish Clerk

Mrs Gail Stoehr

30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY

Tel: 01954 210241

Email: bournpc@lgs-services.co.uk

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 17 January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on Bourn matters or on items on the agenda. If the matter is on the agenda or has already been under discussion a response may be given at the meeting otherwise the matter will be tabled for fuller discussion at the next or a future meeting.