

Hatherton and Walgherton Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2021

Good News

Your Parish Council have just won an award

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed them by their peers, and put in place the conditions for continued improvement. Parish Councils from around the country can apply for the award, and we now join a group of only 4 other Parish Councils in Cheshire East to receive the Foundation Award. Thanks to Chris, Selina and Nigel for their hard work.



Who are we, what do we do?

We are a small Parish with about 184 properties and 420 electors. We have 10 non-political Councillors from all round the Parish. Being a Councillor is a voluntary position which includes varying amounts of work not just meetings. You see Councillors litter picking, cleaning signs, planting bulbs and even painting finger posts.

Parish Council meetings are bi-monthly, generally public and you are welcome to attend but we would ask that you contact the Clerk so chairs are available. Meetings are formal but friendly. The agenda and minutes are posted on the Parish website and Village noticeboards so you can always check what is going on. Planning is probably the most discussed topic and we have a number of Councillors with experience and training. Unfortunately, we don't have as much power as we would like as Cheshire East Planning Department makes most of the decisions. Councillors know about relevant history, drainage, wildlife, roads, power and local issues, as well as our Neighbourhood Plan, in order to keep things appropriate and protect the local environment.

Most Parish Council funding comes from a small precept (fee) contained within council tax. This money pays for our invaluable part-time Clerk, website, improvements, notice boards and a street light at the Boar's Head junction. Full details can be found on the Parish website which we are legally obliged to keep up to date. The Council obtained some other funding and formed an Improvement Committee which includes residents. We have suggestions to fund village benches, a wildflower verge, some trees and a defibrillator. If you can think of anything you think would improve the Parish - please let us know.



Cheshire East Council Consultation on Community Governance

Cheshire East is holding a 12-week consultation on proposals for the governance arrangements for town and parish councils in the borough. This consultation closes on the 28th November 2021 and your Parish Council would like to know your views and send them in to Cheshire East. The draft recommendations affecting our Parish Council would be to reduce the number of Parish Councillors from 10 to 7.



The Parish Council oppose this recommendation, as it reduces the democratic process, makes sharing the workload more difficult and makes effective contacts with residents much more difficult in our widespread rural community. Councillors are volunteers so there are no cost implications. Please let us know your views by November 20th via our website link, or by emailing Parish.Clerk@handwpc.org.uk . If you have no access to the internet then please ring Chris Knibbs 01270 811533, whether for or against, and give him any comments you may have; there is an answerphone so you can leave a message.

Parish Website Now Accessible

Work has recently been completed on a major revamp of the parish website. Changes in government requirements and in the web design facilities available from our hosting service meant that getting the website up-to-date was a lot of work. In conjunction with Chris Knibbs and Selina Clarke, Nigel Dibben has written a new site designed with accessibility in mind, a legal requirement for the Parish Council: <https://www.handwpc.org.uk/>. The new site contains a lot more information about the parish and also provides access to current and past documents such as council meeting minutes and financial reports. There are also sections listing planning applications going back to the year dot as well as some history and local stories.



Keep in Touch. The Website has a page allowing residents to subscribe to the email list for news that the Parish Clerk sends out from time to time, so please sign up. We don't send adverts or pass on your addresses, but if there alerts, break-ins etc, we can let you know as soon as we know.

Your Parish Councillors

Every four years all the Parish Councillors stand for election. The next election is 2023 but sometimes there are vacancies, if you are interested in standing, please let the Parish Clerk know. Current Councillors are:-

Role	Name	Representing	Phone	Responsibilities
Chair	Chris Knibbs	Hatherton	01270 811533	Planning committee, Improvements, ADCA Representative.
Vice Chair	Deborah Robb	Hatherton	01270 842680	Planning, Improvements.
	James Du Pavey	Walgherton	07883 09592	Chair Planning Committee.
	Steve Mitchell	Hatherton	01270 841273	WUC Hatherton Representative.
	Joy Sansom	Hatherton	07770 698705	ChALC Representative.
	Rob Tindall	Hatherton	01270 841989	Planning.
	Katie Clinton	Walgherton	01270 812369	Health Representative.
	Neil Clowes	Hatherton	01270 841306	

	Nigel Dibben	Hatherton	01270 842767	Highways, Webmaster.
	Ian Bennion	Walgherton	01270 841336	Planning, WUC Walgherton Representative.

ADCA is local Charity-- Audlem and District Community Action
WUC is local Charity-- Wybunbury United Charities

Highways

Councillor Nigel Dibben coordinates a Parish Council Highways problem reporting system in order that we can record and monitor progress of follow up actions with the Cheshire East Highways authority. This is accessed here. www.handwroads.org.uk.



In the current funding situation things are taking a long time to repair.

There are other ways to report a Highways problem direct via, <https://www.cheshireeasthighways.org/report-it-general.aspx>

or you can let Nigel know via highways@handwpc.org.uk he will make the report to Cheshire East Highways for you, and he adds it to our Parish Council problem reporting system where regular chasing can take place.

New On Demand Bus Service- Flexibus

Welcome to go-too, the new on-demand, flexible minibus service for you if you live in the rural area south-west of Nantwich.

No timetable, no routes – just a local bus service when and where you need it. The low-floor makes getting on and off easier and there is room for a wheelchair.

Book using the new 'go-too' app from 1pm on 4 October 2021.

If you don't have a smartphone book by calling 0300 123 5103.

Cheshire East have purchased, with Government funding, three very smart mini buses. Two in service and one as a spare to accommodate servicing or breakdowns. This came on stream on Monday 4th October for a 3 year trial.

The concept is to allow users to either download the app. and book direct or phone in to make a booking up to a fortnight in advance. The service will pick you up from the nearest bus stop to your location or possibly close to your house if in a remote location. No timetable, no fixed routes, it's flexible. The fare is fixed at £3 for travel within the local map area (£2 for concessions) and covers the rural area from Buerton to Bunbury, Audlem, Hatherton to Nantwich and many villages in between, but not Crewe or Walgherton.

It runs from 7am to 9pm Monday to Saturday. If you want a return service, you must book a separate return trip.

It's a new concept in rural service transport provision and is an opportunity for the area. If it works it will undoubtedly be taken up in other rural areas so give it a try. Two FREE trips available for October, wow. Tel. 0300 123 5103 or download the go-too app now. Live link on the PC website

HS2

Early environmental work is already starting in neighbouring



parishes. The route closely follows the existing West Coast Main Line. For several years, construction traffic will be using the A51 and turning at the Boars Head junction into Wybunbury. At some point traffic lights will be installed at this junction to ease traffic flow. If you want to know more about what is going on you can register for updates on <https://engagement.hs2.org.uk/join-mailing-list/>.

ADCA our local community charity has a Lunch Club open to all our residents of all ages on Wednesdays. It runs from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm and is by invitation on a 2 weekly rota basis at present, at a cost of £7. Based at Hankelow Chapel.

ADCA's volunteer co-ordinator Lorna Matthews says, "I like to think of us as an informal self-help group- just like-minded folk coming together to support each other 😊"



Lorna can be contacted on 07792770130 at any time by anyone interested in joining.

Police, Security and Crime Prevention.

We are lucky that this area is generally low in crime. Local police join our PC meetings regularly and we attend general meetings and are in email contact. When we hear of incidents, we can send warnings if you are signed up. We also recommend **Rural Alert** Facebook page (link on our website) which is coordinated by a resident of our Parish. Currently we don't have a widespread Neighbourhood Watch within the Parish; is this something you would like? If so, let us know and if you would be willing to help organise it.



Hatherton Methodist Chapel

Hatherton Chapel on Crewe Road was recently closed after a Thanksgiving Service at the beginning of August. Since then it has been sold.

One issue the Methodist Church have is the safe keeping of the memorial plaque which was on the inside wall as shown, to Emma and Thomas Austin. This has now been removed for safekeeping.

We understand that members of their family still live locally and we would like to get in touch with them to arrange a suitable and respectful relocation for it. If you are a family member or know their whereabouts, please contact:

Roger Millns, Methodist Property Steward, - 07807402348



Footpaths.

We have Councillors and residents (thank you Bryan) who regularly walk all the footpaths in the Parish. They report back to Cheshire East if they find routes blocked or restricted access. On the Parish website you will find a list and a map showing all the routes. Get out there and enjoy the beautiful countryside we are lucky enough to live in.



There is a digital version of this newsletter and lots more on www.handwpc.org.uk where all links are live.

Don't forget - we need your consultation comments, improvement ideas and emails to be added to the residents email list.