

# **EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**www.earswick.org**

**February 2016**

## **Council Tax – Annual Parish Precept**

The precept for this coming financial year will increase slightly to £15,675. This is due in the main to the low level of interest generated by the Section 106 investment. Most of the precept is spent on maintaining the fabric of Earswick, this includes grass cutting, maintenance of the play area and 30 acres of public open spaces as well as the general upkeep and repair of Council property such as bus shelters, litter and grit bins and seats. The Parish Council also gives financial support to local organisations such as the Scented Garden and Village Hall Committees.

The Parish Council has been able to keep maintenance costs to a minimum due to the unselfish hard work of a few dedicated residents/volunteers and parish councillors and their families, who regularly give up their time and effort in order to help keep Earswick a pleasant environment for us all to live in.

## **Ward Funding**

The village has been successful in applying for two grants from ward funds.

The Scented Garden Committee has been awarded £1,083 for the purchase and installation of an information board in the Garden whilst the Parish Council has been awarded £ 2,250 towards the cost of replacing the perimeter fencing around the Village Pond.

## **Earswick Action Group (keep earswick rural)**

A number of residents have expressed their concern as to what the link is between the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and the Earswick Action Group or keep earswick rural as they are also known.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party is an officially recognized and authorized group set up under the guidance and governance of the democratically elected Parish Council. Its members consist of several parish councillors together with ordinary residents who have volunteered to represent the various areas and organisations within Earswick. Every one of the members live in this village.

There is no connection between the Parish Council (or the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party) and the Earswick Action Group/keep earswick rural. The Parish Council does not provide any form of governance either to the group itself or to any funds collected by it. The views expressed in any correspondence from that group are their own and are formed independently of the Parish Council.

## **Tennis Courts**

The village has two tennis courts that are extremely popular during the spring and summer. Unfortunately the recent floods have caused some minor damage to the courts and for health and safety reasons the courts have had to be temporarily closed. Arrangements have been made to clean and sanitise the courts as soon as weather conditions permit, following which the courts will be re-opened.

Membership fees for residents will remain at £25 per annum per household for the coming year and are due from April 2016.

Please follow the link from the Facilities section on the website to the Tennis Court Membership application form or for more information on how to join contact the Parish Clerk. Membership is open to all residents of Earswick with only a few places available for non-residents at a cost of £50 per annum.

## Coffee Mornings

The monthly Coffee Mornings that are held on the first Monday of the month in the Village Hall from 10.30-12.00 continue to be popular. Grateful thanks are due to the group of residents who organise it on a rota basis. It is very much a team effort! Around 25 -30 residents come along on a regular basis for a cuppa and some sociable conversation!

A lunch was organised for 1 February instead of the normal coffee morning and 32 residents helped to make it a successful event. It is hoped that similar events can be arranged from time to time in the future. Next time maybe an afternoon tea.

Over the past 18 months the group have made donations totalling over £340.00 to a number of charities such as Marie Curie, British Legion, Childrens Liver Disease Foundation and SNAPPY.

There's plenty of room to accommodate newcomers and a warm welcome is assured. If you are free, please do give it a try, and meet other residents from around the village. You don't have to attend every month! All ages welcome!! If you would like a lift to the hall please contact one of the Councillors. The date of the next Coffee Morning is 7 March 2016 from 10.30.

## Dog Fouling

By and large we are fortunate that our large Public Open Space does not suffer from a huge amount of dog mess. Thanks are given to the majority of dog owners who clean up after their dogs. As always there are a few who do not clean up – and of course may not be local residents- so if you witness this please offer the person a bag (if you have a spare) to hopefully shame them. If you know of any offenders who you wish to report albeit anonymously, do let us know.

Unfortunately there has been a problem in recent months with an increase in dog mess on the footpaths around the village. We live in nice surroundings and this is unpleasant to see. If it is your dog, please clean it up.

## Security of the Open Space

Following the unlawful occupation, last year, of the Village Green by a group of travellers several measures have been put in place to prevent this happening again and to protect the security of the public open spaces.

A fence has been erected around the perimeter of the village green paid for entirely by residents of Fosslands, the owners of the green.

In addition the Parish Council has erected additional fencing at the "pond" end of Lock House Lane and has replaced the wooden fencing in the Lock House Lane car park with more secure metal fencing. Security gates have also been installed at the entrance to the Village Hall car park.

## Neighbourhood Watch

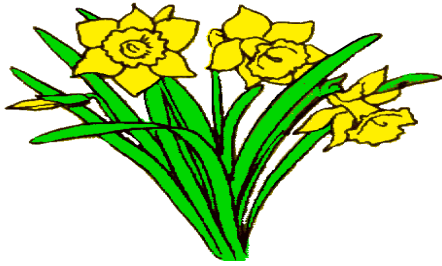


Earswick continues to be a safe village in which to live, with a very low level of crime. There is an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating throughout most of the village however local co-ordinators are still required to cover 2-22 Lock House Lane and the even number houses on Strensall Road from the Ring Road to Willow Grove. If you are able to help out in these areas please contact the village Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Bill Gambold on 01904 765024.

## Fossbank Kennels-Planning Application

At the last Parish Council meeting this application received unanimous support from those residents present and was subsequently supported by the Parish Council. The proposed development would take place within an existing "brownfield site" within the green belt, but does not use any land that is currently classed as green belt.

## Public Open Space



After the deluge of water from the Foss during the December floods, we are gradually getting parts the Open Space back to how it was. A lot of the debris deposited by the river onto and along both sides of the hedge by the river have been moved away to allow for easier mowing when the season starts once more as well as making the area look nicer again.

The pond fencing which took a battering has been temporarily repaired and it is intended that after many years of service it will be replaced this year.

There is more work to be done on the raised wooded area by the pond where piles of wood and plantain has been left and this will be tidied as and when the opportunity arises.

In the meantime we hope Mother Nature will continue to dry out the grassed areas with sun and wind to reduce the very soggy, muddy area that it has become after the heavy rainfall.

Turning to the Sports Field area which stood up to the torrential rain pretty well due to better drainage, although there were still some flooded parts – not been known before, the opportunity to fill in some of the larger holes that appeared some time ago, has been taken.

Our local wild mammal population will have created some of these holes, but domestic dogs have dug some out. While this is a natural pursuit for some dogs it would be appreciated if dog walkers did not let them dig deep holes. If they need to do some shallow digging please push the soil over the depression before you move on with your walk. Otherwise there is a danger that people/dogs will injure themselves tripping

over the holes and also there will quickly be more holes than usable field left!! Most importantly please do not allow holes to be dug on the football pitch.

As in previous years, we continue to appreciate the few residents/volunteers who help to look after the Public Open Space. Some of these people are unfortunately able to help out less than before, due to increasing age or ill health. If you feel able to give a hand from time to time, you will be much appreciated. Perhaps you could help in the area around where you live? The Public Open Space covers the area right from Diamond Wood, Flower Meadow, Centenary Wood, Tennis Courts, Sports Field etc.

Finally, after what the weather has thrown at us in recent months, it's a real joy to witness the emerging daffodils starting to bloom all round Earswick! Lets hope it heralds a drier Spring/Summer!

## New Councillor

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Barry O'Connor to the Parish Council. Barry has previously served on the Council as the Parish Clerk.

## Parish Councillors

Cllr Derek Jones – Chairman, 41 Earswick Chase – Tel: 01904 767767

Cllr Sian Wiseman – Vice Chairman, 10 Shilton Garth Close – Tel: 01904 761010

Cllr Pat Leveson – 9 Shilton Garth Close – Tel: 01904 764344

Cllr Graham Tate – 30 Stablers Walk – Tel: 01904 769312

Cllr Gill Offler – 26 Stablers Walk – Tel: 01904 760898

Cllr Barry O'Connor – 36, The Village – Tel: 01904 766024

Mrs Joanne Fisher – Clerk, 24 Lock House Lane – Tel: 01904 758615

## **Parish Council Meeting Dates in 2016**

All Council meetings take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and are open to the public.

A public participation session also takes place between 7.00-7.30pm when members of the public can make representations and give evidence to councillors on any issues that they wish to raise including items included on the agenda.

Meetings will take place on: 14th March, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 12th September, 10th October, 7th November, 5th December .

## **Parish Council Vacancy**

There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council so if you are interested in joining please contact either the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors.



THE QUEEN'S  
90TH BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION

## **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

To celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday the Parish Council is planning a Family Fun Day to include a BBQ on Sunday 12 June and we are looking for anyone who would like to join a small group of people to help organise this event.

This won't be too onerous and might even be fun so if you would like to help please contact:

Cllr Pat Leveson :

01904 764344 or

[p.leveson@btopenworld.com](mailto:p.leveson@btopenworld.com)