

The Wavertonian

April 2020

Parish Councillors

Jeffrey Smith (Chair)
Gavin Ritson
Richard Simm
Geoff Hughes
John Meredith
Philip Morrey
Dave Clarke (vice-Chair)
Joy Whibberley
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Waverton’s Web Site:

www.wavertonparishcouncil.co.uk

Twitter: @wavertonvillage

Chairman’s statement:

Welcome to the first 2020 Edition of the Wavertonian on-line.

As you will understand due to the situation we are all facing up to we have not been able to print and deliver.

However, in this edition we aim to provide an update on which of the pre-Covid19 activities we are progressing through the year and what alternative arrangements or cancellations to planned events are inevitable.

We have also included publications received to provide help and guidance on many of the common concerns for everybody. We all know the Governments headline advice and guidelines as to how we should behave and what actions we should and should not take and that it is very much a personal responsibility which, when combined nationally, is hoped to reduce the likely impact of the Pandemic.

To give our own statistics; from a Council membership of 10 plus our Clerk, we have 8 in isolation through combinations of age and pre-existing medical conditions,

and of the three remaining they are employed, and active volunteers in other community initiatives besides their Council membership. The entire group is finding new ways to maintain Parish council activity.

Waverton Parish Council has a Twitter address which is @wavertonvillage (please follow us if you use Twitter).

Our Twitter feed site will be used for general news, photos, items of interest and announcements that are relevant to our village. The twitter account is run in conjunction with our website www.wavertonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Please continue to use e-mail to Jill Windsor (Clerk to the Parish Council) with any formal communication that needs the Parish Council’s attention.

First to update you on some of our long running priorities:

Phase 3 Play area:

In the recent weeks we have received good news. The project team lead by Dave Clarke and Phil Goodall has been successful in the Grant applications made and together with match funding from the Parish Council Budget we are able to move this project to its final phase of the BMX track sometime later this year of course.

Village surveys: In 2016 we conducted a village survey via questionnaire delivered to each household. We still refer to and use the information gathered and would like to repeat the exercise. This time we are looking at various alternative methods allowing on-line responses to make the process easier for many parishioners and hopefully encouraging a wider cross section of residents to take part. Hopefully something for later in the year!

Road safety

The Parish Council is delighted that a 20mph speed limit has been introduced adjacent to the primary school. This is something that we have been pressing CWAC Highways for, for some time. You may recall that traffic and road safety was the biggest single concern in our 2016 Parish Council survey of residents. We, along with many residents, felt that this was a greater priority than introducing this speed limit on the residential housing areas in Waverton. So it is most welcome.

As part of the consultation exercise, we asked for a number of extensions to the proposed 20 mph zone. Some but not all of these have been successful. We have also provided new 20 mph wheelie bin stickers for residents. We will be liaising with our Community Police support Officer to carry out period speed checks too. The Road safety group has now widened their activity as follows.

Waverton joins the new local Parish Councils' Cycling Group

The Parish Councils of Great Boughton, Littleton, Christleton, Waverton and Huntington have a common objective of investigating the potential of reducing dependence on car travel in their region of Chester. The attainment of this objective can be by an improvement in public transport in conjunction with an increase in active travel, i.e. walking and cycling. The Cycling Group will endeavour to give the Parish Councils an achievable means by which their community can become more cycle friendly.

The group will consider shorter trips to access places of education, shops, workplaces, worship, recreation etc. It will also consider longer routes from the community to the city centre and railway station. Hence, there will be routes within the community itself and those terminating outside the community. Consideration will need to be given to connectivity with established routes at adjoining parishes e.g. Vicars Cross.

Parking provision for cycles is essential in order to provide security and ideally covered shelter. The group will check existing provision and recommend where it needs to be provided or improved. The overall intention is to show the way towards a better greener community. The following persons have kindly volunteered to represent their respective Parish Councils:-

Philip Waring	Christleton
Allan Samuel	Littleton
Cathey Harrington	Great Boughton
Ian Slater	Huntington
John Violet	Waverton

John will be supported by Richard Simm, Dave Clarke and Richard Moulds as part of the Waverton Parish Council road safety sub-group.

Rules concerning horse riding from the Highway Code: Various regular appeals are made to the Parish Council about the activity of horse riders particularly regarding footpaths. For the record this is an extract from the Highway Code Rule 54 – “You must not take a horse onto a footpath or pavement and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Use a bridleway where possible. Equestrian crossings may be provided for horse riders to cross the road and you should use these where available. You should dismount at level crossings where a 'Horse Riders Dismount' sign is displayed”.

Parish Precept - How it's spent:

The annual Precept provides the Parish Council with funds to enable it to fulfil the range of statutory obligations to the Parish including provisions of services that are not within the scope of those provided by Cheshire West and Cheshire Council and funding for the improvement of amenities within the local community.

On a percentage basis some 50% of the precept goes towards regularly recurring items such as grass cutting, amenity cleaning and maintenance, Insurances, rents and administrative costs. These are gradually increasing as such costs increase and we commit more to such aspects of maintenance of public spaces and litter picking.

A further 15% on average will be used to support events within each year such as VE day (which has unfortunately had to be cancelled) and unexpected items requiring maintenance such as repairs to village notice boards, walls and hedging.

Current projects such as road safety, play area, community survey account for a further 20% through expenditure in the year and budget accrual for increased activity in these areas.

The balance is held for future projects and accruals for large maintenance requirements such as resurfacing the Village Hall car park which we intend to carry out this year and future maintenance needs for the play area development and contribution to general village activities throughout the year.

Love your Streets.

Cheshire West and Chester Council have launched a "love your streets" campaign. As part of the campaign all Waverton residents can report any issues they see in the Village (e.g overflowing bins, blocked street drains, street lights not working).

Three ways to report an issue you see in Waverton's streets:

1. Phone (0300 123 8123)
2. Google "Cheshire West and Chester love your streets" and look for "report it". Alternatively try the website address <https://westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk/>
3. Download the App on your smartphone. Search "Cheshire West and Chester love your streets" and download and use the App

You may also report any concerns to the Parish Council who will take up the issue on your behalf.

We have heard from other local Parish Councils that the CWaC "Love your streets" reporting method has proven successful, particularly when a number of people report on the same shared concern. We'll monitor progress and report back in future "Wavertonian" editions. If you try using the "Love your streets" reporting method let us know how you get on with it, we're interested in your views.



WHAT EVENTS HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED?

- Sadly, the planned VE day commemoration activity has been cancelled.
- Whilst the ***Fun Run and Waverton Village Fete*** are currently scheduled for 2nd and 4th July respectively the Waverton Village Fete Committee is closely following the guidelines from Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the holding of events and as soon as a firm decision is made we will advise further. *(At this point we would just like to make known that following vandalism to the Christleton Sports Centre a donation of £200 was made by Waverton Village Fete Committee).*

DON'T FORGET TO CLAP AT 8 p.m. EVERY THURSDAY TO SHOW APPRECIATION FOR OUR NHS STAFF AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS

