

December 2020

Parish Council meetings

All meetings of the Parish Council will be held virtually until restrictions on face-to-face meetings due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak are lifted.

Members of the public are very welcome to join any of our virtual meetings. Please contact the Clerk on clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk to request an invitation.

- **Planning Committee** – Monday, 14th December, 7.00 pm
- **Full Council Meeting** – Monday, 21st December, 7.00 pm

Meetings listed are correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change. Please check on the website for any updates or confirm by contacting clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community events

There are no events planned for December 2020

NEWSLETTER No.16

Parish Council Newsletter Newsletters are posted on Noticeboards within the Parish and made available on the Parish Council website. **If you would be interested in receiving the Parish Council Newsletter by email, please contact us on clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Parish Councillor vacancies There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Being a Councillor is a varied and interesting role which allows residents to have a positive impact on their community. **If you are interested in the role, or would like further information, please contact the Clerk by email on clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk If you do not have access to email, you can write to her at the Parish Office address.**

Christmas light “switch on” at Church Piece and a special visitor! The



Christmas lights at Church Piece, including those on the Christmas tree, were switched on on Friday, 4th December. They are looking beautiful and the whole area looks very festive and brings a bit of seasonal cheer in this very unusual year. Unfortunately, we were not able to hold our annual Christmas Fayre this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, we were delighted that Father Christmas was able to take time out of his busy schedule to wave at children as they were going home from school. He has now returned to the North Pole to get the reindeer ready for Christmas Eve.

Christmas at Sixways The Parish Council has organised an annual Christmas Fayre at Church Piece over a number of years. This year our aim was to extend the festivities to Sixways Parade with its distinctive shops and food and drink outlets. This has not been possible due to COVID-19 restrictions but local businesses have agreed to support a scaled down version and to ‘Switch on to Christmas at Sixways’ over the Christmas period. Each participating business will decorate their window and promote a local charity over the Christmas period. We very much hope that this will be the start of a regular annual Fayre at Sixways to complement the Christmas Fayre at Church Piece once normality returns. For now, it offers a sign of hope for next year, and an opportunity to support local businesses and those in our community in particular need of help through this challenging time. So please consider a visit to Sixways over the Christmas period to purchase a gift or enjoy a festive meal or drink. **Further details will be circulated via our Parish Council Noticeboards and website in due course.**

Contact details

Charlton Kings Parish Office, 26 Church Street, Church Piece, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 8AR

01242 250087

www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk/RFO - Joanna Noles
clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Administrative Officer - Helen Johnston
officer@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Admin Assistant - Debbie Dockree
admin@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Charlton Kings Parish Council's Tree Strategy The Parish Council has just launched its new Tree Strategy for Charlton Kings, one element of which is to annually increase its stock of new, unusual, and disease-free specimen trees. For several years the Parish Council has provided the funding for the planting of new, specimen trees in its designated Green Spaces to mark the Tree Council's National Tree Week. This year the Parish Council planned to plant the trees in Grange Field as part of its initiative to enhance this open area.

The trees chosen are a multi-stemmed Persian silk tree and a weeping White Mulberry tree. The Persian silk tree is a deciduous, attractive ornamental tree with beautiful, umbrella like foliage and pink, fluffy flowers that will attract bees

and butterflies. The weeping white mulberry tree is a small, strongly weeping tree with heart-shaped, slightly glossy leaves and white fruits ripening to deep pink which will provide food for birds.



As well as these two specimen trees the Parish Council is also planting, as part of its Tree Week celebration, 240 sapling Hornbeam plants which will form a continuation of the existing Beech hedge along the western edge of Grange Field and as it matures, will provide further habitats for a wide range of wildlife. We will add all our new trees to the BBC Countryfile's Plant Britain interactive map.

Further information about our Tree Strategy can be found on our website at:
<https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/tree-charter.html>

Grange Field consultation with residents Thank you to everyone who completed the Grange Field Consultation Survey. We had over 200 replies from the community. You have given the Parish Council plenty to work with and the majority of your responses are in favour of a number of initiatives to improve Grange Field and make it a great space for local people. We will spend the next few weeks analysing the results and consider how to take these forwards. One of the outcomes was to establish a 'Friends of Grange Field'. We have a number of people who have volunteered to be part of this, which is great news - thank you! We will communicate the initial plan in due course and keep you informed as things progress. **If you have any immediate questions or would now like to add your name to the Friends of Grange Field group to help us drive our plans forward please contact the Parish Office.**

Slow Ways initiative At our November 2020 Full Council meeting, it was agreed that we would make residents aware of the Slow Ways initiative which aims to create a network of walking routes to connect all of Great Britain's towns and cities. It is looking for volunteers to help identify suitable routes. Further information, including how to get involved in the work, can be found on the Slow Ways website at <https://slowways.uk>

Your Councillors

Cllr Rob Williams (Chair)

Cllr Paul Cockwill

Cllr Russell Grimshaw

Cllr Penny Hall

Cllr Clive Hodges

Cllr Ned Holt

Cllr Janet Honeywill

Cllr Lynda Johnson

Cllr Andrew Lansley

Cllr Duncan Munro

Cllr Jim O'Sullivan

Cllr Pat Palmer

Cllr Felicity Parnham

Cllr Rob Reid

Cllr Ros Smith

Friends of Charlton Kings – helping our near neighbours Recently it seems that families, or more specifically children, in need of food has scarcely been out of the news. The need is so overwhelming that it's difficult to see how anyone can make a difference. We don't all have the skills and influence to try and change things at the national level but locally we can make a difference by helping the local foodbanks. The folk of Charlton Kings have responded by setting up doorstep collection points and then taking turns to deliver goods to the Foodbanks in town.

The permanent collection points are at: 25 Churchill Drive, 77 Copt Elm Road, 17 Ham Close, 17 Moorlands Drive and 26 Ravensgate Road. Many streets are doing ad hoc collections – perhaps you can organise one especially as Christmas approaches? The permanent points will continue for the foreseeable future, especially as the New Year will be difficult for many. Some of the collection points are also supporting a community pantry scheme in Springbank (there are others in Cheltenham). People on a very low income pay a small subscription and in return they can choose a number of store cupboard items, protein from the fridge and any fruit and veg that have been donated. Usually bread and other short-date items are available too. The advantage is that people can select what they need.

The Foodbanks will mostly close just before Christmas and not reopen until the week of 4 Jan. We'd like to take our last collections into town early in Christmas week. There are charities providing hot food to people over the Christmas period and they welcome donations. If you be need food, especially over January and February when money is traditionally tight, and especially if your circumstances change, please speak to Citizen's Advice (or other local charities) who can do a referral.

COVID-19 Re-opening of Parish Office and Stanton Suite from 3rd December 2020 Following the end of the recent COVID-19 lockdown, all Parish Office staff are working their normal hours in the Parish Office from 3rd December 2020. However, the Parish Office will not be re-opened to members of the public until after the Christmas break. In the meantime, anyone who wished to speak to a member of staff is asked to get in touch by telephone or email and a face-to-face appointment can be arranged if appropriate.

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year break from 24th December 2020 and will re-open on 4th January 2021. It will be re-opened to members of the public from that date for the usual hours of 10.00 am to 2.00 pm each weekday. The Stanton Hall and Conference Room will remain closed until after Christmas and New Year. Bookings of both facilities, at the reduced rates of £8 per hour and £5 per hour respectively, will be taken from 4th January 2021.

There is a dedicated page on the Charlton Kings Parish Council website where we are posting information and useful contacts for individuals and community groups. <https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/covid-19-corona-virus-support.html> This information is also being posted on our noticeboards and hard-copies can be requested by contacting clerk@charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

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