

July 2020

Forthcoming events

This month

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, 6th July, 7.00 pm
- **Community Development Committee** – Monday, 13th July, 7.00 pm
- **Planning Committee** – Monday, 20th July, 7.00 pm
- **Allotments Committee** – Thursday, 23rd July, 7.00 pm
- **Full Council Meeting** – Monday, 27th July, 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

NEWSLETTER No.11

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

COVID-19 information and support There is now 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

Parish Councillor vacancies There are currently 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. **For more information see the Parish Council website.**

Opening Public Toilets, The Public Toilets in Church Piece, which are run by the Parish Council, have been closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We have now taken steps to open them up again in July 2020 for use by local residents. Safety instructions have been placed inside and outside the toilets and we have installed hand-sanitizer and anti-viral wipes in each of them. The toilets will now be cleaned every day. However, vulnerable people should be aware that we do not have the resources to clean the toilets after each use and so they will use them at their own risk.



Opening the ChatShak We are very pleased that the new ChatShak shelter on Grange Field, aimed specifically for use by young people, has now been opened for use. The ChatShak, which was installed in April 2020, is a bench with a weatherproof “roof” and up until now has been fenced off due to COVID-19 restrictions. We hope that it will become a very popular meeting spot in due course. We received a generous grant from the Gloucestershire Police Commissioner’s Fund in order to purchase the ChatShak.

CK Health Connect As the 1st research phase of the CK Health Connect Social Prescribing project draws to a close, the Parish Council is now moving from research into action. Over the last 6 months our researcher Amanda Wragg, has identified a huge number of health & well-being local services and groups available to the community in Charlton Kings. These services and groups have now been profiled in a brand new Community Directory, which will be launched over the summer.

Amanda’s research also looked at any obvious gaps in provision. These gaps are currently being reviewed by members of the Parish Council, who are working with community interest groups such as Friends of Charlton Kings (FoCK) and other health and well-being service and activity providers, with a view to supporting initiatives to meet the immediate and long-term needs of our

Contact details

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

01242 250087

PLEASE NOTE - The best way to contact the Parish Office staff during the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is by email.

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

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

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

www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk

citizens. Community engagement and communication remains a top priority as we take this joint-working approach forward.

Social media is one strand of this community engagement, which we see coming more into play as we move into our action phase. As we move out of lockdown, you can help us to develop our social media platform by going onto our CK Health Connect Facebook Page, which offers you advice and guidance on health and well-being, sourced from reputable sources. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/CKHealthConnect> Further information about the CK Health Connect project, including contact details, can be found on our website at <https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/charlton-kings-health-connect.htm>

The Kings Hall youth club

In February, Council agreed to support the Kings Hall youth club with a grant of £3,500 to increase the number of junior sessions to the end of March 2020, and a further £5,000 for the same purpose in 2020/21. Its terrific youth leader was gradually building up relationships and starting to make a difference, when lockdown was imposed and the youth club had to shut. Regrettably, shortly afterwards, the company that had been contracted by the trustees of the Kings Hall Youth and Community Centre (CKYCC) to provide youth workers and assistants for some years, decided to close.

Providing community support to our young people over the summer holidays

With the increase in antisocial behaviour by a relatively small group of 10-12 year-olds in 2019 and early this year, we brought together a widely representative group of councillors, school and church leaders, youth work professionals and local police officers to find solutions. These included increasing the junior sessions at the youth club, full and early reporting of incidents to the police, and closer joint working.

By early June however, it became clear that a much wider issue had arisen as many teenagers found the patterns of their lives, their friendships and support networks fundamentally disrupted in a way that adults, although affected by the lockdown, have not. The issue has now become one of learning to understand why this is happening, as well as seeking opportunities for making additional support available to meet significant challenges over the summer. With funding from the Parish Council and the day to day support of Friends of Charlton Kings, two Youth Workers will now bring all their training, experience and leadership skills to bear in engaging in positive and imaginative ways with diverse groups of our teenagers over the school summer holidays. A management group chaired by Cllr Paul McCloskey (secretary of CKYCC) and including Sally Walker (Founder of Friends of Charlton Kings) has been established to manage the project over the summer. If you could possibly help in providing any ideas, support, or resources, they would be very pleased to hear from you.

Update from Friends of Charlton Kings Friends of Charlton Kings continue to provide support across the community post lockdown, with 3 priorities: 1. Ensuring that any vulnerable household in need is supported, preferably from within their local area. 2. Providing food in various ways, especially to those who find their circumstances are fluctuating, or who fall short of specific governmental tests for help. There is a lunch box service from local businesses, delivered to the doorstep. Community BBQs and picnics are starting up (socially distanced, of course) and food boxes can be provided. In addition to shopping support for anyone who cannot leave the house. Paid for by those who can afford it, free for those who cannot. 3. Building community health in the

Your Councillors

Cllr Rob Williams (Chair)

Cllr Jessica Diamond

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 Pat Palmer

Cllr Felicity Parnham

Cllr Rob Reid

Cllr Ros Smith

broadest sense, with a particular focus on bored teenagers with little structure. **If you need help or know of someone who might be in need, just phone 01242 650411 or email friendsofcharltonkings@gmail.com**

If you are interested in getting involved in the core team or the broader network of volunteer helpers, there are lots of opportunities over the summer. Help with the youth programme, help with food deliveries, help with fundraising, or help organising community events. Please email volunteersofcharltonkings@gmail.com if you would like to get involved, or just pick up the phone to the team.

St Mary's Churchyard - As reported here in March 2020, the Parish Council duly took over the responsibility for maintaining the fabric of St. Mary's churchyard



from 1st April. Due to current restrictions, it has not been possible to hold the first meeting of our joint management group between the Parish Council, and the Parochial Church Council, but all necessary works have been agreed. This year, the contract for grass cutting has been let to Ricky's Happy Gardens and we are very pleased with the results he has achieved. For the first time ever, a notification has had to be made to Cheltenham Borough

Council for permission to carry out management works on the churchyard's trees. Every one of the 65 trees has been mapped and its species identified, so that a long-term Tree Management Action Plan can be prepared. Only the first two years of work are authorised, before another application must be made to roll the programme forward. Every year, a proportion of the 25 Common Yew and 12 Irish Yew trees will be trimmed and in 2020, it is proposed to make the old Weeping Willow tree safe by removing the end growth from some big stems. The Borough Council will shortly be posting notices advertising these works on the churchyard railings, and we will be happy to answer anyone's questions or concerns.

Oakhurst Rise planning application - The latest planning application for the proposed development at Oakhurst Rise was considered by our Planning Committee on 28th May 2020. The committee, which is a statutory consultee in regard to planning applications considered by Cheltenham Borough Council but which has no decision-making powers, objected to the application. Comments from the committee are set out in the minutes of the meeting which can be accessed on the Parish Council website.

Attendance rates by Councillors Councillors are 'summoned' to Council meetings by the Clerk because, once they have signed their 'formal declaration of acceptance', they have a legal duty to attend. It is especially important to have as many councillors present as possible, because Council meetings are where decisions are taken, and all points of view need to be heard. Council may accept councillors' apologies as everyone must, from time to time, give priority to other important parts of their lives, including recovering from medical conditions. It is therefore to the great credit of Charlton Kings Parish Councillors that from May 2019 to April 2020 (the 'Municipal Year'), they attended in person at 124 (77%) of the possible attendances, and apologies were accepted a further 34 (21%) – a total of 98%.

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