



Headbourne Worthy Village News

Autumn 2014

News and Information from your local Parish Council

Electoral Commission Consultation

The Government's Electoral Commission has decreed that the number of councillors on Winchester City Council, and the ward boundaries, should be investigated with a view to bringing them into line with other neighbouring District Councils.

The City Council has already (on the casting vote of the Conservative Mayor) agreed to propose that the number of councillors be reduced from 57 to 45, and that all wards should be three member wards, instead of the current mix of one, two and three member wards, with elections three years out of every four, as at present.

Parish Councils and local residents are being invited to comment on the proposals,

and to make any suggestions as to how the new wards should be made up. At present, Headbourne Worthy is in a one member ward, with Crawley and Sparsholt. The boundary review means that Headbourne Worthy Parish could be moved back into a City Council ward with the rest of the Worthys, although the requirement for three members would mean that somewhere else would have to be included to make up the required number of electors - say South Wonston or Micheldever.

The Commission has said that in exceptional circumstances, and to better

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New Bus Shelter

The Parish Council is delighted with the new bus shelter at Taylor's Corner, the junction of London Road with Bedfield Lane. This is a popular bus stop for many local residents, particularly from Headbourne Worthy House. Here Valerie Smith waits happily for her bus to Winchester. Many thanks to those PC members who worked so hard on this.



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To contact your Parish Council, visit www.theworthys.org.uk

or contact the Parish Clerk, Adrian Reeves, tel: 01962 881839

clerk.headbourneworthy@parish.hants.gov.uk

War Memorial Restoration & Fund

LEST WE FORGET

Traditionally the Chair of the Parish Council places a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday; one of the things that did not occur as I was being persuaded to take the job was the realisation that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak, and that it would fall to me to mark this event.

The Memorial, in the grounds of St. Swithun's Church, was erected in the 1920's and has faithfully been the focus of remembering the sacrifices of two world wars and other conflicts. It is now time to repay that loyalty and to repair the damage of hot summers, wet winters and just anno domini. The PC is the proud custodian of the memorial, and in the forthcoming poignant four years it will put in place some repairs and refreshments that will enable it to continue the silent work it does. Initial



quotations indicate that this work will not come cheaply, or easily, as even planning permission has to be sought, so we will be launching, with the Church authorities, a joint fund raising and awareness initiative.

Why not join me in placing the wreath in this special year? My family is listed on the Thiepval memorial in France, and perhaps yours is also, so let us make this year's tradition a moving and memorable occasion. The service follows on from the wreath laying, at 11am, so why not join the congregation as well? You would be made most welcome.

Harry Whorwood

Barton Farm & Silver Hill

Construction work is due to start soon on access roads for the new housing at Barton Farm. Construction traffic has been instructed to use only Andover Road for access. If you are concerned that construction traffic is using our village as a short cut to the site, please contact this representative of CALA Homes and let him know so that they can be immediately stopped:

Robert Westwood -
RWestwood@cala.co.uk

Meanwhile, the **Silver Hill** regeneration project for the 'bottom' of Winchester has been much in the news. If you would like to know more, or give the Parish Council and local City and County Councillors your views, do you think it would be helpful for the Parish Council to arrange a public meeting? Please email or call our Parish Clerk to let him know if you think this would be a helpful and interesting thing to do. *Jane Rutter*

Review Cont...

reflect distinct communities, they would consider having one or two member wards. An argument could be made that the Worthys is a distinct community and including Headbourne Worthy with the present Kings Worthy would provide enough electors for a two member ward. If you would like to comment on the proposals, please contact the Parish Clerk Adrian Reeves - contact details on front page of this newsletter, or Jane.

Jane Rutter: jrutter@winchester.gov.uk

Could you be a Parish Councillor?.

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor in Headbourne Worthy. If you live here, or work here, or live or work close by the Parish, you are eligible to put your name forward. The Parish Council will consider applications - it's a very painless procedure! We meet only six times a year, and you can

Parish Boundary Review:

Separate from the review of the City Council boundaries, but as a 'tidying-up' exercise, the City Council would like to hear about any boundaries which need to be changed in the Parishes. For instance, half of The Dell (the new homes built off Willis Way) is in Headbourne Worthy, half in Kings Worthy. Do you think the whole road should be in one Parish or the other, and if so, which? Are there any other anomalies which clearing up? Let our Parish Clerk Adrian have your views: clerk.headbourneworthy@parish.hants.gov.uk

see from this newsletter the sorts of things we do. If you have an interest in the village, and want to play a small role in improving and conserving our village, **We Want You!**

Council meetings are informal and friendly, and your involvement can be as much or as little as you feel able. Please contact our Parish Clerk to express an interest, or for more information, or talk to any members of the Parish Council - our details are on the village website: www.theworthys.org.uk.

Parish Lengthsman - Scheme Continues

Headbourne Worthy's Lengthsman, Craig Morris, works in the village for a day every couple of months. So far this year he has cleared footpaths, cut back nettles and branches from footpaths, picked up litter, cut the grass on the Watercress footpath, cleared out the gullies and culvert at the junction of Well House Lane and Down Farm Lane, and cleaned our village signs. This initiative is paid for by Hampshire County Council, and has been extended into 2015, so we will be seeing our Lengthsman working in the village for another year. If you have any suggestions for work to be done, please contact Cllr Claire Welland:

claire.welland@theworthys.org.uk.

Village Flora

You may have noticed the two areas of wildflower planting that went in this year. Headbourne Worthy paid for the plants, Phil Jeffs of Worthy Plants supervised the work, and the Worthys Conservation Volunteers planted them. You may also be thinking that it doesn't look like much at the moment, but fear not, the plants need to establish themselves, and next year the display will be even better.

As well as the summer display of the wildflowers, new Parish Councillor Tom Crutchfield has put together a plan for a Spring display around the village. Again, the Worthys Conservation Volunteers will be helping the Parish Council by planting bulbs in a few spots around the village as a start to this plan.

New Parish Councillor

Only six people put in nominations for the seven places on Headbourne Worthy Parish Council in May, when the four yearly elections for parish councillors were held. Thus we had no election, but the six were returned unopposed. Five members were returning councillors: Harry Whorwood (Chair), Christine Clarke-Smith (Vice-Chair), Claire Duncan, Claire Welland (Lengthsman coordinator) and Jane Rutter (Newsletter). One new face has joined us: Tom Crutchfield who lives at Springvale Cottage on Springvale Road. His contact phone numbers are 01962 882159 or 07877 900729. Tom writes;

Flooding Update

Fingers crossed that we will not see a repeat of the flooding this winter, but as ground water levels are still extremely high, we are not being sanguine or complacent. A Flood Action Group has been formed, and a plan has evolved, so that what we learned can be used to forestall or mitigate another event. We have been working with the Environment Agency (EA) and Hampshire County and Winchester City Councils to identify what short-term self-help and simple mitigation or alleviation works can be carried out. It is hoped to have these in place as quickly as we can, before we move to more permanent solutions.

The whole of the Parish was affected; either by having to make tedious detours of the flooded areas, or more directly by water lapping at the front door. On this point, two important lessons have been learned; communication, and help. We did not have the ability to warn residents that

"I have always lived in the Winchester district; I was born and grew up in Kings Worthy and moved to Micheldever Station for a couple of years before moving to Headbourne Worthy, where I have now lived for the past 5 years with my wife and 3 yr old daughter. I work as a Landscape Architect for Hampshire County Council."



Tom Crutchfield MLI, MA (Hons)
crutchyt@gmail.com

flooding was about to happen, and to keep them updated on the situation. We now receive advanced warnings from the EA, and we can keep you updated on what is happening; if you have given your email address to Adrian our Parish Clerk.

Help can come in various forms; wheelbarrows, tea making, evacuation, muscle or comfort and support. An efficient email system should be able to let residents know that help in whatever capacity is needed; not just for flooding, but in any emergency that might befall the village. Just as Neighbourhood Watch efficiently lets us know of crime threats to the village, the PC should warn of other threats or advise of help needs. We have asked Margaret Filley if we can share her email addresses, but if you would rather not let us share your email address, can you please confirm with Margaret before the end of October.

Harry Whorwood
Chair, Headbourne Worthy Parish Council
harry.whorwood@theworthy.org.uk