

HOLMWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER



Parish Councillors:

Mr D S C Goldhawk	Acting Chairman	888119
Mr V G Mansell	Vice Chairman	888151
Mr J E Chiverton		888922
Mr T J Gamblen		889260
Mr T J Mayne		882833
Mrs M J E Mansell		711998
Mr C K Hill		881117
Mrs P A Clare	Clerk to the Council	632889

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District Councillors:

Ms C Salmon 713300 Mr M Longhurst 741781 Mr W Monkman 888067

County Councillor:

Mr S Cooksey

Councillors

Following the resignation of Mr Nick McGill and Mrs Angela Kelly, the Council were pleased to co-opt Mrs Mary Mansell and Mr Charles Hill as parish councillors.

Jubilee Oak

The Jubilee Oak planted to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria which stands on the common looking south opposite the Sundial, has now been cleared of scrub and bushes.

A24

It is regrettable that the subway mirrors which were damaged have still not been replaced. The Council will continue to press Surrey County Council to replace these with vandal proof mirrors that cannot be damaged or removed.

Playground

Although there is a weekly visual inspection of the playground, should anyone be aware of any problems, these should be reported to the Clerk. To avoid children running from the playground onto the road, the National Trust

have now extended the hedging around the playground. The Council has also arranged for Burleys to reduce the height of the hedge in the playground along Betchetts Green Road so that motorists have a clear view.



Burleys will also reduce the height of the hedge at the back of the playground to about 6 feet tall.

The playground is fully inspected each year by Wicksteeds Playscapes. Their most recent report recommended that the See Saw be repainted, and this has now been authorised by the Council.

A big problem in the village, and particularly in the playground area, is the fouling by dogs. There are bins available, and we would encourage owners to be more vigilant about removing the dog mess from public areas.

Village Hall

As Managing Agents for the Village Hall, the Parish Council is responsible for monitoring any work required on the hall. There have been many problems concerning the roof at the rear of the hall, and remedial repairs were carried out. However, further work to the roof was required and to the chimney on the cottage, resulting in a very large bill of £17,000. The Council made a contribution of £2000 towards these costs, and hope to make a further donation in the next financial year. They will continue to monitor this problem.

In the fullness of time the roof will need to be completely stripped and replaced, probably at a cost of £20,000.

Precept

Your Council had hoped this year to reduce the precept (the sum requested from Mole Valley District Council). However, because of the problems concerning the Village Hall, the Councillors felt that the precept for 2013/14 should remain at £12,000.

Planning

The Council continues to monitor planning applications, and submit comments to Mole Valley District Council if there are concerns about an application. Despite objections being raised by the Council, Mole Valley District Council approved the planning application for the erection of a dwelling adjoining property at 32 Warwick Close.

War Memorial

Despite attempts by your Council to obtain grants from the War Memorial Trust and the Heritage Council, no grant has been forthcoming to meet the cost of replacing the railings. However, the £2000 grant from

Surrey County Council will possibly be used later this year to repaint the railings and to lay some form of paving around the memorial to enable easier access, particularly in winter months.

Police Crime Statistics

The Parish Council receives regular crime statistics from the Police relating to South Holmwood. As at January 2013 the figures showed that there had been four crimes (theft of a phone, theft of a rear registration plate from a motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle within family members, and a communication offence involving family members). However, Holmwood is still a very safe place to live.

Please note that the non-urgent number for the police is now 101 and not 999.

The Council receives regular reports from the Surrey County Council Trading Standards advising them of scams going on in the area. One of them concerns residents receiving cold telephone calls from someone stating they were ringing about the consumer's pension and that they may be due bonus money. The caller states that the consumer could receive up to £10000 and should listen to the pre-recorded instructions. Variations could include offers to collect the pension for them if they can't get out of the house, or scare them by stating that they are at risk of losing their pension if they do not follow the instructions. This is a well-known scam that tries to gain personal information - please don't give it to them!

All reports of frauds or scams can be reported to the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 08454 04 05 06.