

OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER



OWSLEBURY.ORG



WELCOME

Welcome to our first Parish Council Newsletter. The Council is trying new ways to communicate with residents.

We will be publishing two newsletters a year, which which you will be able to read on our website, on OIS and and as part of a full run of the Owslebury newsletter.

As this is the first addition, we felt it is an appropriate time to explain what the Parish Council does.

WHO ARE WE

Parish and Town Councils are the grassroots of local democracy and have a greater understanding of the views and interests within their localities. The Parish Council is the level of government closest to the community, with Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council above it. As it is the authority closest to the people, the Parish Council is invariably the first choice for people to go with concerns or ideas. For this reason, it is a vital part of any community.

Elections to the parish council are held every four years, with the most recent at Owslebury and Morestead in 2022. In Owslebury there are seven seats on the Parish Council, current there is 1 vacancy.

The Council makes decisions on behalf of the people in the Parish and makes representations on their behalf to other bodies. The Council is also a statutory consultee on all planning applications received by the South Downs National Park and Winchester City Council. The Full Council consider and agree the Council's response at the meetings.



OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL



HOW DOES THE COUNCIL OPERATE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS?



The Parish Council employs a Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk fulfils the statutory duty of Proper Officer, and at Owslebury and Morestead, also fulfils the statutory role of Responsible Finance Officer.

The Parish Clerk is responsible for the operational running of the Parish Council and ensuring that the decisions of the Parish Council are enacted. The Parish Clerk reports to the Council as a body.

The Parish Council is principally funded by its precept, which is the parish council's share of your council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, Winchester City Council, which collects the tax for the Parish Council.

The precept is determined by the Parish Council who agree an annual budget each year. For the forthcoming year, 2023/24, Owslebury and Morestead Parish Council have agreed a 10% increase against last year's precept. This equates to an increase of £9.78 per household per year (based on a Band D property).

The precept pays for Owslebury and Morestead Parish Council for the following:

- Maintain the Hilly Close playground.
- Maintain the Longwood Road sportsground
- Maintain the Glebe Field
- Maintain the Telephone Box
- Staff Costs (Clerk and Accredited Community Safety Officer)
- Administration Costs
- Grants for local charities
- Money for community projects

If you want to know about the Council and how the decisions are made, why not come to one of our meetings? Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings to listen to them and may address Cllrs about items on the agenda in the public session.

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VOLUNTEERING WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

SPEEDWATCH

The Parish Council agreed at the September meeting to ask for volunteers to set up a SpeedWatch team in Owslebury. The Council had a response from six residents. The Council then identified places in the village that the SpeedWatch team can use, to send to the police to check.

The Council sent a list of eight potential sites to the police for checking and the Council are waiting for a reply from them. Once the Council receive a response, they will be able to progress this further.

There is money in next year's budget to buy all the necessary equipment to start up SpeedWatch.



PATH WARDEN



The Council have four Path Wardens who help keep local rights of way accessible and enjoyable for the community. The Wardens are trained to carry out small scale maintenance works and light vegetation clearance so they can help the countryside service look after their local routes. They report issues on the Hampshire ROW (Right of Way) map .

They work with the community engagement ranger who will send job sheets when issues are reported by the public.

If you have some spare time and would like to help our community, we have a number a volunteer opportunity such as becoming a Path Warden and/or become a member of the SpeedWatch Team. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above groups, please email the Clerk at owsleburyparishcouncil@gmail.com

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WHAT THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN DOING

KINGS CORONATION



The Council brought every child at Owslebury Primary school a commemorative mug for a keepsake.

The Pavilion Committee arranged a sports afternoon on the Jubilee weekend at the Longwood sports field, with about 80 people in attendance it proved very popular. There were 2 games of rounders, tug of war and an obstacle course.

The Committee are hoping to make this a yearly event.

REGISTRATION OF THE SPORTS FIELD

The Council are pleased to announce that the Sports Field has been registered with the Land Registry this year and is now officially under the Parish Council's ownership.

The Council would like to thank our wonderful resident for their hard work and help on this matter.



BROADBAND



The Council have been working very hard with Openreach to complete the FPPT Broadband project within the village. We hope that the project will be completed by May this year.

The Council would like to thank John Chapman for his tireless work on liaising with Openreach and sorting all the little problems .

TELEPHONE BOX

The Council have instructed the Bishops Waltham Men's Shed to repaint, and carry out some repairs to the telephone box library in Beech Grove. This will be completed in the next month.



GROWS



In 2022 the PC declared a climate emergency and set up a climate group, working party with the task of looking at how the residents of Owslebury and Morestead can reduce their carbon footprint. GrOws meets once a month, everyone is welcome to attend and it has events running throughout the year.

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CONTACT US

If you would like to contact the Parish Council please contact the Clerk by email: owsleburyparishcouncil@gmail.com or telephone: 07869 814452

If you would like to keep up to date with Parish Council matters, please visit our website at <https://owslebury.org/>. A calendar of Council meetings can be found on the website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council meetings. Agendas are published on the website giving 3 clear days' notice prior to the meeting along with draft minutes of the previous meeting and meeting papers.



YOUR COUNCILLORS

Astrea Hurlock (Chair) : Cllr.Hurlock.opc@gmail.com

Yassir Mahmood (Vice Chair) : Cllr.Mahmood.opc@gmail.com

Mark Egerton : Cllr.Egerton.opc@gmail.com

John Foster : Cllr.Foster.opc@gmail.com

Simon Grinstead : Cllr.Grinstead.opc@gmail.com

Will Martin : Cllr.Martin.opc@gmail.com

The Parish Council have a vacancy for a Councillor after the retirement of Cllr John Chapman who the Council would like to thank for his hard work over the past 15 years and in recent years his huge help in getting broadband to the village.

If you would like to become a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk on owsleburyparishcouncil@gmail.com