

Parish NEWS



Allbrook & North Boyatt Parish News

Issue 2 / January 2019

Happy New Year to all our residents!

Thank you to those of you who joined us for festive refreshments at the December meeting, and we hope to see you at our meetings throughout the coming year.

We hope you liked the Christmas card we delivered. The picture of Ham Farm was painted by a very talented parish resident Ashley Blackman, and we are very grateful to him for allowing us to use it. The card included a reminder of our contact details and the dates of PC meetings for the coming year. Keep it handy if you haven't put it in the recycling bin.



Dear Residents,

I am delighted to be the new Parish Clerk to Allbrook and North Boyatt Parish Council. Those of you I have met so far, thank you for the very warm welcome.

Throughout my career I have worked with Eastleigh Borough Council, Fleming Park Leisure Centre, and Southampton City Council. My last role was Parish Clerk to a Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council for 17 years.

I thoroughly enjoy the challenge of being a Parish Clerk, and my main task is to fulfil the legal and financial functions of the Council. More importantly, is serving the community and achieving the aspirations of the elected Members of the Council.

I really look forward to the challenges the next few years will bring. Please feel free to come along to our meetings and share your ideas or concerns you have about the Parish. Alternatively, please contact me via email or telephone, listed on the back page.

With best wishes, Cheryl Gosling, Parish Clerk.

The next parish Council meeting will be held on

Tuesday 26 February
at 7:00pm
in the Boyatt Lane
Scout Hut

For information on local planning applications, or to find useful links visit our website:
www.allbrook-northboyatt-pc.gov.uk

We hope this newsletter will prove a useful communication for members of our parish. The next issue is planned to be out in the Spring.

Your Parish Council's 2019/20 Budget and your Council Tax.

The Parish Council's budget for 2019/20 looks different to those set since 2010. It is larger and requires an increase in your contribution to the Parish Council, the precept, which you pay via Council Tax. Although at first glance this may be alarming, the increase in precept for a Band D property is only £1.60 a month. Less than the cost of a cup of coffee at a coffee shop. This is the first increase in the parish precept since the Parish Council was first formed in 2010 after a referendum when residents voted to become a parish. The increased budget is necessary to ensure the Parish Council can function properly.

During the summer, the newly elected councillors found that the Parish Council had not evolved in the way it should have.

Consequently it was failing to carry out basic administrative tasks: important documents were missing and fundamental tasks had not been done.

Significant changes have been made to ensure the Parish Council can function in a professional manner. Without change there would have been no prospect of the Parish Council eventually providing community services and facilities, as Parish Councils do elsewhere. We are now confident the Parish Council is able to make a positive contribution to the local community.

We have a new, highly experienced clerk who works 20 hours a week. Previously the Parish Council had a clerk who was inexperienced, unqualified and was contracted to work 8 hours a week. This has contributed to the increased budget however it was essential if we are to deliver on the parish's desire to have an effective Parish Council.

When looking at the budget please look at the actual sums. The Parish Council element of your Council Tax is small so it is worthwhile to look at the pounds and pence rather than the headline percentage increase. It is also worth looking at the amounts paid by residents to other Parish Councils in the Borough. Resident satisfaction in these areas is high.

Our aim is to make resident satisfaction in our parish high by providing services and events which build a feeling of community. We aspire to have a community building and to have open spaces transferred to the Parish Council. Under our control open spaces will be safe from development and will be maintained to a higher standard. This budget is needed to get the Parish Council on track and we are confident that as residents see developments over the coming years they will regard it as value for money.

Otterbourne Mummers

The Otterbourne Mummers reformed in 1975, after a break of around 60 years, and have performed their play in Park Lane, Allbrook, on the Sunday before Christmas ever since. This year the play was performed a week early and the weather was dismal. However the audience turned up and showed their appreciation for the spectacle of King George battling the Turkish Knight and killing him, only for him to be revived by a few drops from the Doctor's little bottle. As usual the topical quips added to the fun.

Sadly this year was the last performance by this troupe of players as one of their founding members had passed away and the others felt it time to bow out. Are there any residents who feel able to pick up the reins and continue this lovely local tradition? It would be a shame for it not to be continued. Let us know if you would like to be involved.



Allbrook in Bloom

Walking around the parish it is obvious that many residents take great pride in their gardens. We wish to encourage them to continue and to persuade others to do so too. To this end we propose to hold an Allbrook in Bloom competition this year. Categories have yet to be decided but will include something for everyone. You don't need a large garden, if you only have a window box or a hanging basket you can take part. The local garden centres are beginning to stock up with seeds and bulbs so it isn't too soon to start thinking about your display.

More details will be in the next newsletter.

Footpaths

Are you a dog walker, rambler or runner? Do you use any of the footpaths that run through the parish? Are they passable throughout the year, or overgrown in summer and boggy in winter? Bearing in mind many of the paths are not Rights of Way, the PC has the power to maintain those that are RoW. Please let us know of any that could do with a bit of attention.

Are you a member of a group or organisation that could benefit from grant aid?

The Parish Council is now inviting applications for financial assistance to local groups or organisations if they can demonstrate their project will directly benefit the residents of Allbrook and North Boyatt.

To apply, please download the grant form from our website www.allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Your Parish Council

Daniel Clarke (Chair)

daniel.clarke@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Dave Betts (Vice Chair)

david.betts@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Ciara Banks

ciara.banks@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Jo Barrett

jo.barrett@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Mary Freemantle

mary.freemantle@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Beccy Lee-Potter

beccy.lee-potter@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Nancy Palmer

nancy.palmer@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Rob Whittle

robert.whittle@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Parish Clerk

Cheryl Gosling

07394 063916

clerk@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Allotment Officer

Richard Ormond

allotments@allbrooknorthboyatt-pc.gov.uk

Have your say!

All members of the Parish Council are keen to improve the infrastructure, services and facilities of our area. We all have ideas of our own which we are working through but we're keen to hear your views too. Please email us at the parish council with any ideas you have, and keep the conversation going by keeping in touch with your elected members and attending our meetings at the Scout Hall in Boyatt Lane.

Please send us your ideas for the next issue by 31/03/19