



# HALSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

December 2012

Volume 26

## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year From the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerk.**

Why not make a New Year's Resolution and come to at least one Parish Council meeting in 2013 ?

The agenda for Council and Committee meetings are displayed on the notice-boards

and on the parish council website five days before each meeting.

Council minutes are displayed in draft form on the notice-boards;

minutes are also available on the website and downloadable once they have been approved.

There is also a report in the parish magazine. Following the December meeting, (this year on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, December), wine and mince pies will be served, courtesy of the Chairman.

### **FASTER BROADBAND FOR HALSTEAD**

There are very few parishes in Sevenoaks District that are without fast Broadband and Halstead is one !

The District Council made a bid for funding last year and failed due to a lack of back-up supporting documentation from the residents and businesses in the parishes.

Sevenoaks District Council is planning to make another bid in January 2013.

The Parish Council requests every household to register at: [www.makekentquicker.com](http://www.makekentquicker.com).

There is no limitation on the number of times you can register so each individual in every household should take the opportunity to register.

What is also needed is support from local businesses (including home-based businesses) to outline how the slow speed is affecting their business. The District Council would like these people to write to :

**Joe Middleton,  
Economic Development Officer,  
Sevenoaks District Council,  
Argyle Road,  
Sevenoaks TN13 1HG**

as well as registering with support for the scheme – alternatively write to the Parish Council and the letters will be forwarded.

### **PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE (part 1)**

What has happened in 2012 ? There was a spring and autumn village clear-up supported by several parishioners. This will be held again in April 2013 – and a few more hands would be welcome.

#### **BENCH ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

There is a second new bench this year donated by Brenda Dicker, in memory of her late brother Percy who was a Parish Councillor. Council would like to thank Brenda for her kind donation (she also donated one soon after his death). Brenda has undertaken the maintenance of the original bench, and proposes to continue to maintain the new one.

#### **FLOWER BEDS**

Jean and Peter Morgan have kindly sponsored one of the flower beds at the crossroads for a further year and the Cock Inn sponsors the second bed at the crossroads and the bed at the entrance to the Recreation Ground plus raising money as an extra once a year at the Quiz Evening.

Council would like to thank them all for their generosity. This leaves four flower beds without sponsors. If anyone, individual or business, would be interested in sponsoring one or all of the beds please contact the Clerk for information.

**DOG FOULING – SORRY BUT YES AGAIN**

Council continues to receive many complaints about this and has now reached the stage when councillors would like to know from YOU what you think they should do.

There are five dog waste bins in the village, two of these on the Recreation Ground, one at Southdene, another at the entrance to the footpath in Church Road which goes to the old churchyard and the last in the grounds behind the properties at Halstead Place.

Council has looked into creating 'dog exclusion areas' but these are costly to implement and will victimise those responsible and caring dog owners and, will not solve the problem of dogs fouling the footpaths.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS PROBLEM ?  
PLEASE LET YOUR COUNCILLORS KNOW.**

**YOUNG PEOPLE**

Do you have youngsters who don't know what to do with themselves ? Councillors are asking you as parents to let them know what your children would like to do or are interested in. Please contact your Councillors or the Clerk with your thoughts.

The Freighter Service will return on **SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2013** parking at **Southdene and Station Road.**

**PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE (part 2)****WINTER SAFETY PROGRAMME**

The Parish Council is preparing its winter safety programme which will be available on the website and posted in the notice-boards. Volunteers are required to help councillors with gritting the footpaths and filling up the salt bin at the entrance to the car park at the Recreation Ground. A one tonne bag of grit has been delivered and this will be distributed from an agreed location. Please consider volunteering and remember to check the website for up to date information. If you are interested in having regular weather updates in case of extreme weather let the Clerk have your email address and she will include you in the weather updates provided by Kent Highways. This is assuming that the service will continue in 2012.

**ALLOTMENTS**

At the November Parish Council meeting the documents were signed for the transfer of the land in Beldam Haw from the District Council to Halstead Parish Council. This is a positive move and interested people are advised to check the website for regular updates.

**Contact the Clerk if you wish to register your interest in an allotment plot.**

**COUNCILLORS' CONTACT DETAILS**

Cllr. David Taylor : Chairman of the Parish Council / Member Finance, Ex-officio all committees.

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Cllr. Terry Brooker : Council Vice Chairman/Chairman Planning Committee /Member of Finance Committee.

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Cllr. Mrs. Sheila Bent : Member Planning Committee

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Cllr. Chris Ford : Member of Amenities & Highways Committee/ Member Planning Committee.

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All Correspondence for Council should be sent to the Clerk at the above address.