



BERKSWICH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

Your Parish Council

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Berkswich Parish Council
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Welcome

The parish council is pleased to announce that Sue Fullwood of Holly Drive has been appointed to the post of parish clerk. We are confident she will be a great asset to the council and the local community.

It is with sadness, however, that we report that cllr Katharine Shubinsky and cllr Liz Harrington-Jones have resigned from the parish council for personal reasons. Their contributions have been substantial and they will be greatly missed. We wish them well for the future. In their place the council has been fortunate to attract two new councillors, Tim Luker and Caroline Pearson. We are very grateful for their enthusiastic support and look forward to working with them.

Walton Wildlife

The parish council is considering the recommendations of a report it has commissioned into the health and condition of Walton and Hollybush coppices. This will form the basis of future manage-

ment actions to cut back overgrowth, introduce succession tree planting and maintain existing wildlife habitats. Walton Coppice lies behind Bluebell Hollow estate on the Milford Road and was donated to Berkswich parish in 2005 by the developer following the completion of construction work. Hollybush Coppice lies next to the playing field near Berkswich Primary School.



Footpath by Walton Coppice. Photo: Jack.

More Damage at Play Area

Hollybush play area continues to be a target of vandalism. The most recent incident saw a bench smashed. Other damage has included fires lit under the slide and climbing frame. To prevent further damage the council will consider daily opening times, with the play area closed from 7 pm until 9 am. Other proposals being considered include the installation of CCTV cameras. The council takes the issue of

vandalism in the parish very seriously. The play area is a valuable local resource and is well used by families and young children. Vandals and trespassers at the site will be reported to the police. If you have views about this issue or others aspects of life in the parish please let us know by contacting the parish clerk.

Repairs to Jacob's Ladder

Winter rains and snow took a heavy toll on the footpath at Jacob's Ladder, as reported in the spring 2021 edition of this newsletter. Grateful thanks are therefore due to the landowner, Richard Hazard, whose timely action saw repairs speedily carried out to both the footpath and gates. The council and other stakeholders are currently in discussion about further repairs to Jacob's Ladder steps, which are now considerably worn and seriously damaged in places. Jacob's Ladder lies on one of the parish's most well-used footpaths which has connected Walton and Brocton villages for at least the past 150 years.

Information Access

Standing near the corner of Milford Road and Brocton Lane, Milford Information Hut has long been maintained by former parish cllr Ian Bearn. Since Ian's retirement, however, no volunteer has come forward to take over maintenance duties. If none can be found the County Council must consider if the hut should remain or be permanently removed. In recent years the local community in Milford has used the site as a place to sell plants and home

produce. If you are interested to learn more about volunteering at Milford Information Hut contact the parish council via the clerk.

Phone Box Library

Residents will be aware that the council purchased the telephone box on the Milford Road near to the Village Hall to use as a free library. All suitable contributions are welcome but users are reminded to treat the red box library with care and keep it tidy



Call in at the phone box library. Photo: Jack.

Berkswich Parish Council to Join Stone Constituency

New changes to the constituency boundaries could see Berkswich Parish dropped from Stafford constituency and folded into a new constituency encompassing Stone and Great Wyrley. The changes are included in new recommendations by the Boundary Commission, published last month. According to its website

the commission regarded local ties, geographic factors and local government boundaries when devising the new constituency boundaries. Berkswich Parish, including the wards of Brocton, Milford and Walton on the Hill has been part of Stafford Constituency since 1976 when the parish was first created. The public has until 2 August to register its views. The proposed changes can be viewed at the Boundary Commission's website: www.bcereviews.org.uk

Waste Bin Canned

Uncertainty swirls around the fate of a new waste bin recently installed on Old Croft Road near the rear entrance of Walton High School. Originally installed in June following a successful application to the Borough Council by a local resident, the bin has subsequently been de-installed by those living nearby who regard it as an eyesore. The offending waste receptacle can currently be found behind a nearby hedge. A final decision on its ultimate destination is expected soon. Until then, the parish council urges residents in pro- and anti-bin factions to exercise restraint in the interest of local harmony.

