

War Memorial at Weeping Cross

Over Easter the War Memorial was hit by a vehicle and damaged. The area is currently taped off in case any loose material falls and injures someone. Repairs have been approved by our insurers and will take place over the coming months and we also hope to have a hand-rail installed and the bronze plaque reattached. We anticipate that work will be completed well in advance of Remembrance Sunday in November.

Berkswich Parish Council

Chair - Cllr Sue Francis

01785 665490

Main Road

Vice-Chair - Cllr Malcolm

Millichap

01785 664036

Village Gardens

Cllr Margaret Crossland

01785 664793

Holly Drive

Cllr Graham Kilford

01785 665334

Main Road

Cllr Tim Luker

07960 043412

The Rise

Cllr Ann Millichap

01785 664036

Village Gardens

Cllr Caroline Pearson

01785 661113

Village Gardens

Cllr Ben Rowell

07885 697148

Congreve Close

Cllr Alan Taylor

01785 664473

Village Gardens

We currently hold one councillor vacancy.

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer - Sue Fullwood

berkswichclerk@gmail.com

07871 645232

Staffordshire County Councillor

Cllr John Francis

01785 665490

Stafford Borough Councillor

Cllr Andy Cooper

01889 881895



berkswichpc.co.uk



Berkswich Parish Council NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

Hollybush Playing Fields Reopening

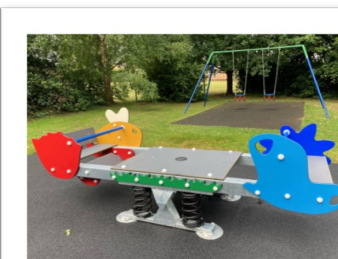
17 July 2022



We have had some play equipment replaced and new items installed at Hollybush Playing Fields (next to Berkswich Primary School). We are holding a 'Grand Reopening' on **Sunday 17 July from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm** with face painting and a bouncy castle

available free of charge. Please come and join us and test out our new equipment!

Parish residents are also invited to **bring a picnic** and blanket and have lunch with us on the field (weather permitting). We are hoping this will be an opportunity for families to connect within our Parish.



Please note that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Parking is very limited in the area so please come on foot if possible.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea



The Parish Council held a celebration afternoon tea at Walton (Berkswich) Village Hall on Saturday 4 June 2022 at 2.30



pm.

Guests, including the Mayor and

Mayoress of Stafford, were served a variety of sandwiches, savouries, cakes and scones along with tea, coffee and prosecco to toast The Queen! A good time was had by all. Special thanks go to Cllr Malcolm Millichap for organising the event, and to the Berkswich Women's Institute for all their help on the day.

Walton Coppice Update

Maintenance work at Walton Coppice has now commenced. Our contractors are felling saplings and trees which are too close together or in poor condition, pruning the large oak trees in consultation with Stafford Borough Council and reducing the existing hedge-row to 2m in height.



2750 hawthorn whips will be planted along the fenceline in Autumn to complete the hedgerow. Many thanks to Cllr Alan Taylor for all his work in this area.

Parish Council Projects

In 2022/23 our main projects are replacing park equipment and work at Walton Coppice. What would you would like us to work on in future financial years? Is there something you think would benefit our community? If you have any suggestions for future projects please email our Clerk at berkswichclerk@gmail.com.

The History of the Parish of Berkswich Part Three



In 1808 a serious proposal was made to demolish Holy Trinity Church, Baswich as it was said that the church needed very expensive maintenance and repairs. Sites at Brocton and Walton on the Hill were considered and eventually, the site at Walton on the Hill was

approved. The land for the building was donated by the Earl of Lichfield and the building itself was designed by Thomas Trubshaw and costed at £957 including the spire and tower. The finance was provided by Rev. Richard Levett, his wife and Thomas Salt. The church was completed and dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle as a chapel of ease in 1842. Holy Trinity Church was never demolished.

St Thomas' Church did not have an easy beginning. In 1845 the spire was struck by lightning and part of it was destroyed. Windows and part of the roof were damaged. Repairs were completed in 1887, but by 1903 it was considered unsafe. The lead roof was replaced with a lighter one and the heavy weathercock was removed and a less weighty one put in its place.

The Local Government Act 1894 reformed local government and introduced elected councils at District and Parish level. The first parish elections took place in April, 1896.

To be continued

Resignation

Councillor Mike Pascoe resigned from the Parish Council in May. We thank him for his service to the community and wish him well for the future. We hope to co-opt a new Councillor at our next meeting on 6 September 2022.