



# Berkswich Parish Council

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

## In this issue:

- \* Welcome
- \* Hollybush Coppice
- \* Improvements at Walton Coppice
- \* Berkswich Fete
- \* Problem Parking
- \* Grounds Maintenance
- \* Berkswich Primary School Grant
- \* Contact details

Welcome to our newsletter for Summer 2024, although at the time of writing it seems like Summer might have been a few days in June! We have been to two local events recently to raise awareness of the Council and what we do.

We have been successful in securing another Farming in Protected Landscapes Grant for work at Hollybush Coppice, next to the playing fields and will be able to show you progress in the next Newsletter.

## Hollybush Coppice Grant

As we have mentioned in previous newsletters, we applied for a Farming in Protected Landscapes grant for improvements to Hollybush Coppice earlier this year and found out in May that we had been successful. Work will begin in August with a gate being installed in the far corner of Berkswich Primary School's field to allow the school direct access to the coppice without having to book children out of school. The work includes hedgerow plants for the school children to plant around the outside of the coppice and tools for the staff and children to use. Some of the trees in the coppice will be removed or trimmed back following results of a tree survey undertaken at the start of the year and leftover logs will be sawn into pieces to create a seating area for the children. We hope that work will be completed before the end of 2024.

## Meeting Dates

Our Parish Council meetings always start with a public session where members of the public can ask questions and raise issues with us. Members of the public can then leave the meeting if they wish to, or they can stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

Agreed meeting dates for the rest of 2024/25 are:

- 3 September 2024
- 1 October 2024
- 5 November 2024
- 3 December 2024
- 4 February 2025
- 4 March 2025
- 1 April 2025

Meeting dates for 2025/26 will be agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 6 May 2025. Meetings start at 7.30 pm at Walton Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

### Walton Coppice

We recently had weeds sprayed around the new planting at Walton Coppice to allow the new plants as much chance as possible to establish and thrive.

We are currently seeking quotes for repairs to some of the fencing around the Coppice and hope to have it fixed before Winter.

### Garden Hedges

Many homes in the Parish have hedges and whilst many are well maintained, we receive complaints about others because they encroach onto footpaths and roads. Could we ask that everyone keeps their hedge within their own property boundary and to cut it back if necessary for the safety of everyone please.

### Flower Beds

The Parish Council are working with their Grounds Maintenance contractor on designs for the flower beds along Milford Road with the hope of brightening up the parish. If you have any suggestions please contact our Clerk (contact details on the back page).

## Berkswich Summer Fete

The Parish Council had a stall at the Berkswich Parish Churches Summer Fete on Sunday 16 June at Milford Cricket Club. The fete was well attended and the weather was kind!



We will be having a stall selling home-made produce at the Barley Mow Macmillan Event on 3 August from 11am at Milford Common. Please come and have a chat and see what we have to offer.

## Problem Parking



We have recently had access issues raised with us regarding people parking on the pavement, particularly near schools. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and endanger pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, mobility scooters or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs. The Highway Code states that drivers must **not** park partially or wholly on

the pavement and people who do can be fined.

## Grounds Maintenance

We are aware that local footpaths have been overgrown recently. This is due to a combination of ideal growing conditions and because our grounds maintenance contractors are struggling to get their work done in all the rain we have been having. If you are having difficulties using a footpath within our parish please let the Clerk know using the contact details on the last page so that she can ensure that it has not been missed.

## Grant for Berkswich Primary School



We recently awarded Berkswich Primary School a grant to pay for litter picking equipment. Year 4 and two Year 5 pupils applied and said that each class in KS2 will have two pupils in the school litter picking team, rotating every half-term. This will show everyone how small changes can make a big difference and encourage people to put their rubbish in the bin.

### Berkswich Parish Council Contacts

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Village Gardens

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Porlock Avenue

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Old Croft Road

**Cllr Tim Luker**

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**Stafford Borough Councillor**

Cllr Peter Edgeller

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