

## **NEWS from Wolston Parish Council – September 2016**

At the meeting in July it was reported that Severn Trent had been undertaking a regular cleanse at the pumping station, which is located near the ruins of the old Brandon castle on the other side of the river. Councillors were also told that Severn Trent are looking to upgrade the pumping station in or before 2020.

Councillors were pleased that the Wolston Scouts had been successful in their grant application to secure funds for Scout Hut repairs. Councillors reviewed the resolution made at the April meeting whereby the council agreed to provide match-funding of any grant from RBC and Cllr Milne proposed endorsing the £10,000 to be released from the reserves. The Parish Council was keen to ensure that the essential work to protect the fabric of the Scout Hut would be carried out. This will extend its viability, and give the youngsters who are keen members of the uniformed organisations the security of knowing that they can continue to meet in the Recreation Ground.

Councillors were sorry to hear that a resident had fallen outside the chip-shop on the slippery footpath. This appears to have resulted from a lack of drainage through the countryside kerbing with the result that the pavement became treacherous. Rugby Borough Council sent out a road sweeping machine to clear the area, and the Lengthsman has been asked to keep an eye on the area until Warwickshire County Council has improved the drainage.

The saga with the Automatic External Defibrillator continues, and Councillors were furious that their efforts to provide access to emergency first-aid techniques in the guise of a defibrillator in a high-visibility yellow weatherproof cabinet was being blocked by members of the Planning Department because the colour of the cabinet didn't fit with the Conservation Area and because its size and proposed location was at risk of obstructing the public highway. Common sense now seems to have won the day and the Parish Council hopes that the high-visibility cabinet will soon be in place in front of the shops.

The chairman raised concerns that the village clock on the front of the Co-operative shop is not working. Fellow councillors felt that a new clock would enhance the village centre. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Co-operative shop is likely to be refurbished, possibly in September, and this should include the exterior of the building. Therefore it was felt that installation of the new clock could be tied in with renovations, subject to the landlord's approval and confirmation of whether planning permission would be required in the Conservation Area.

At the meeting in August, during the public forum, Borough Councillor Derek Poole and Mayor of Rugby Councillor Mrs Sally Bragg reported on an issue of anti-social behaviour in the area near to Paddocks Close in which the Police were taking an active interest.

There was discussion on the standard of grass-cutting which had been undertaken in the current year and comparison of the standards in operation in different areas of the village. Councillor Smith suggested that the only way to improve the standard was to consider employing our own staff who could cut it when it needed doing.

At the moment the contractors work to a fortnightly schedule and come out come rain or shine. With the growing season we have had this year, and some issues with the contractor's machines, the standard has fallen short of what we would like. Many residents remember with affection the work of former employees such as William Wise and Geoff Ollis, who would often put in additional time to ensure that they achieved a consistently high standard. It remains to be seen what effect cuts to County Council and Borough Council services will have in the future but, having now achieved their best cut of the season so far, it is to be hoped that the contractor can maintain this result.

Following feedback from the Quarry Liaison Committee representatives there was general agreement that the new wheel washing facility had made a difference to the standard of the road surface leading up to the A45.

Members of the Community Speed Watch Team were anxious to get out in the village and act as a deterrent to speeding motorists. They agreed to liaise with their counterparts in Brandon and Bretford Parish Council to gain access to the speed-gun.

There was feedback from Neighbourhood Development Plan members on the NDP and the Housing Needs Survey, and details were given reporting when the meetings are held.

The chairman gave members of the council a copy of a positive report for the academic year from September 2015, prepared by Carl Woodend, the senior Worker in Charge of the Youth Project, which is run by the Parish Council. Carl describes it as a vibrant club functioning very well and meeting the needs of young people from the village.

Councillor Parker raised concerns about the footpaths in Paddocks Close which had been discussed as needing full repair in 2011, and had not been done. He felt this merited further discussion. A decision on automatic enrolment for staff in a pension scheme, and a decision on which would be the best for the staff and the most cost efficient for the future council tax payers, was deferred to allow the HR working group to investigate further, including the possibility of getting independent financial advice. They would then come back to the next meeting with a recommendation.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 1st September in the Village Hall.

**Tim Harvey-Smith**  
**Chairman**  
**Wolston Parish Council**