

The Bulletin

Spring 2017

The Acton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 01

Dear Resident

Welcome to this first issue of *The Bulletin*, the new Acton Parish Council newsletter. We hope to use it as a means of keeping residents within the parish apprised of both Council and community activities.

Over the next few months the Council will be taking positive steps to respond to residents' concerns about the speed of traffic through Acton. Although unable to alter the speed limit along the High Street and Waldingfield Road (this is the responsibility of the County Council), we will be installing a Speed Indicator Device to deter excessive speeds. We also plan to resurrect the Acton Community Speedwatch Team. This means that, periodically, a team of residents will record the identity of vehicles exceeding the speed limit and report these to the police. If you would like to volunteer to assist with this please contact the Clerk.

You will be pleased to learn that the East of England Ambulance Service has donated a community defibrillator to the Parish Council. We are grateful to them. Thanks also to Tim Mukunthan, the owner of our community shop who has come to our aid once again, indicating that the defibrillator can be placed on his forecourt alongside our notice boards.

I draw your attention to the appeal from the Acton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association on page 2. We have few resources within the parish. Our church, school and village hall, our pub and shop are key elements of our community. All deserve our support. Please help if you can.

In conclusion, Spring is with us and I look forward, as I'm sure you do, to warmer weather and more time in the garden.

Christine Johnson, Chairman, Acton Parish Council

Councillors: Nick Antill, Paul Chaplin, Peter Edwards, Trudy Fisher, Lisa Franks, Christine Johnson (Chairman), Margaret Maybury, Jonathan Matthews and Will Shropshire

Clerk: Paul MacLachlan actonparishcouncil@gmail.com 07958 932480

Councillors' contact details can be obtained from the Clerk or from the Parish Council website at <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/councillors>

Acton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association NEEDS YOU!

The village hall and adjacent playing field are important community assets providing not only a meeting place but also an area for recreation. Without this facility where would organisations such as the Garden Club and the Sunday Club meet? Where would karate and ballet lessons take place, where would birthday and christening parties be held? Our football and cricket teams would have nowhere to play.

Chris and Trudy Fisher have worked tirelessly over many years to ensure that the hall has been available for village use, often going beyond their remit and responsibility in order to be of assistance. As they step aside we all owe them a huge debt of thanks. Inevitably, they leave big shoes to fill.

Although a new Bookings Manager and Cleaner has been appointed, a small number of volunteers are urgently required to join the Management Committee responsible for overseeing the smooth running of these facilities.

The Management Committee meets no more than 6 times per year.

If you value the village hall and playing field and feel you would like to play a part in securing the future of these facilities for the community please contact Chris Fisher for further information on 07854 118747 or at actonvillagehall@aol.co.uk.

The things we do ... One of the important tasks undertaken by the Parish Council is to ensure that the play equipment at Lime Tree Green is safe and maintained in good condition. Councillors undertake weekly inspections of the equipment and, in addition, arrange for play equipment professionals to inspect the equipment three times a year. For completeness the Parish Council organises an annual inspection by a different company to ensure that any potential hazards are appraised by a different pair of eyes. Over the next few months it is planned to re-paint some of the equipment and improve the safety surface under the swings.

For more information about the work of your Parish Council visit the website at <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/acton-parish-council>

2017/18 Parish Council precept	<p>The precept fixed by Acton Parish Council for 2017/18 is £45,000. Although the sum is paid directly to the Parish Council by Babergh District it is paid by residents of Acton via their Council Tax. Good stewardship means that while Babergh District Council's budget sees an increase of £5 per annum on a Band D property the equivalent Parish Council contribution has fallen by 2.03%</p>
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<p>Residents will have noted the tree surgery work undertaken along Jennens Way in mid-March. Following professional advice and permission from the District Council, it was with regret that the Parish Council made arrangements to fell 5 lime trees. Now that this work has been completed the Parish Council propose to combat the sometimes wet conditions along parts of Jennens Way by applying a further shallow layer of gravel.</p>	Tree surgery and footpath maintenance along Jennens Way
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More regular maintenance for Acton Rights of Way	<p>The Parish Council is pleased to announce that, following representations to the County Council, key rights of way within the parish will be maintained three times a year rather than twice. The cost to the Parish Council is an additional £353.47. However, councillors feel that this represents excellent value and are confident that this additional maintenance will be welcomed by the many regular users of these public footpaths.</p>
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<p>Parish Council meetings are planned as follows:</p> <p>Bi-monthly meeting – 15 May 2017 Bi-monthly meeting – 17 July 2017 Bi-monthly meeting – 11 September 2017</p> <p>Meetings are held in the Village Hall commencing at 7:45pm unless otherwise indicated. A full list of 2017 meetings is available on the Parish Council website.</p>	Parish Council meetings
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Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and can participate during public question time
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Acton Annual Parish Meeting

The 2017 Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Acton Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm on Thursday 18 May.

Although the agenda is yet to be finalised it is hoped that the following business will be conducted:

- a demonstration on the use of the community defibrillator
- a presentation about the proposed Acton Speed Watch Scheme
- approval of the minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting
- to receive the Chairman's Annual Report
- to receive the District Councillor's report
- to receive the County Councillor's report

Importantly, the Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to hear from Acton residents, societies and organisations wishing to report or raise matters of local interest. **Please put the date in your diary.**

Christine Johnson - 50 not out

After 50 years of distinguished service to Acton Parish Council, Cllr Christine Johnson chaired her last full meeting on Monday 20 March 2017. Christine has served the Council as both Clerk and Councillor but has decided that, while she will remain on the Council, the time has come for others to take on the added responsibility of chairing the Council. Christine, the whole community is indebted to you.

Community calendar

We would like to be able to use *The Bulletin* to help community groups advertise their meetings and events. If your organisation meets in Acton or exists to serve local residents please email details of the what, where and when to the Clerk at actonparishcouncil@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Is there a pothole that needs repairing or a street light not working?
Go to <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council-news> to find out
how to report it**