



Newsletter – June 2023

Parish Council – 2023 Election Update

Following the election process there have been some changes to Shurdington Parish Council. Cllrs George Porter and Phil Surman have stepped down as Parish Councillors, with George being elected as Tewkesbury Borough Councillor for Shurdington. The Parish Councillors would like to thank both George and Phil for their contribution to the Parish Council over the last few years.

At the Annual Meeting of Council on 15th May 2023 Cllr Derwen Hinds was voted as the new Chair of the Council and Cllr Chloe Gunn as the Vice Chair. A new recruit, Mrs Janet Warne was co-opted to Council with eight of the nine Councillor positions are filled and one vacancy remains. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk or any of the current Councillors to find out more.

Cllr Hinds writes “Whilst not being born in Shurdington, I have lived here for just short of 46 years. As the incoming Chair, I would like to build on the work led by George and the Parish Council to engage with the Community following the successful Platinum Jubilee, Community Tea Party and Crowning Extravaganza events.

Also, the ‘Warm Mondays’ were held at the Community Centre during the winter with its regulars. This has now been replaced by ‘Open Mondays’ on the second and last Monday of the month between 11am and 4pm with refreshments - soup, sandwich or a full meal with tea, coffee and biscuits always available free of charge, with newspapers, jigsaws, table tennis, phone charging or just a rest and a chat, with all welcome.

The Parish Council has now started a tree planting project and soon to have flower beds on the edge of the Green, more about this further on.

In 2014 the Parish Council undertook a Community Consultation project which produced a "Parish Plan" based on the responses, as this was 10 years ago, it would be good if this could be repeated for 2023/24.

If anybody has ideas for what the Parish Council can do for Shurdington, please don't hesitate to email me and the Clerk."

Parish Council

Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month at 7pm in the Shurdington Community Centre and residents are welcome to attend. The next meeting of Council is on Monday 12th June 2023.

The council has decided in January 2023 not to increase its parish portion from your council tax bill for the current tax year (2023/24). This decision was based on the high rise of everyday living costs and the Council's healthy reserve funds.

Parish Council funds are used to pay for cutting grass on the village green and other locations within the village, to support local community organisations grant funding requests, the previous Taxi Voucher Scheme (see replacement scheme further on), to contribute to other organisations' expenses such as maintenance of the Churchyard, and for various items such as notices, litter bins, dog bins and bus shelters.

Grant Funding Awards

Shurdington Parish Council encourage local organisation to apply for grant funding. In the last year, the Parish Councillors have provided a total of nearly £8.5k in grant funding. The organisations who benefitted from this funding are:

15th Cheltenham (Shurdington) Scout Group, Greenway Gifts, PCC of St Pauls Church, Enigma Explorer Scout Unit, Greenway Community Choir and Shurdington Community Centre.

For more details on how to apply for grant funding please visit our website www.shurdingtonparishcouncil.co.uk/?services=522 or email the Parish Clerk.

Environmental Projects

In 2022 the Parish Councillors completed Phase 1 of our environmental project “Planting in Shurdington” - this included the planting of trees on the village green. These trees are now part of a maintenance regime which includes regular watering.

The Parish Council are committed to carrying out further planting in 2023 and we are currently in discussions with the Shurdington Community Centre for the introduction of electric vehicle charging points.

Our four phase “Planting in Shurdington” presentation for the 2022 Annual Assembly is available on this link: <https://shurdingtonparishcouncil.co.uk/?services=planting-in-shurdington>

Parish Newsletter (Electronic Only)

Should you wish to receive future editions electronically, please provide your name and email to the Parish Clerk. Shurdington Parish Council will not use the details provided for any other reason than to send you the latest edition of the newsletter and you can unsubscribe at any time by emailing the Parish Clerk.

Some print copies will be available in public buildings and shops within the village.

Community Transport Scheme

Unfortunately, we have been unable for some months to find a local taxi company who was willing to accept vouchers towards the payment of taxi fares for local residents. The Parish Councillors have been considering other options and have concluded the best way to continue to support local residents who require transport assistance is liaising with Community Connexions.

Community Connexions are a non-profit organisation who provide transport services to many different groups within local communities. We particularly focus on carrying vulnerable groups of people to schools, supermarkets, hospital appointments, day centres and events.

Shurdington Parish Council would like to offer that they will meet the cost of the registration fee should you wish to consider using this transport. If you would like to take up this offer, then please contact the Scheme Co-ordinator Mrs Clare Stewart on 01242 862598.

There is more information available on the Community Connexions website: <https://communityconnexions.org.uk/>

A417 Missing Link

At the 2023 Annual Assembly we received a presentation from Keir Highways who are the main contractor. The proposed 4-year delivery of the A417 Missing Link road improvement which aims to solve the historic traffic issues at Crickley Hill, Air Balloon and Nettleton Bottom.

A phased approach for the construction will take place from October 2023 with much of the works considered “off line” meaning the existing traffic will be unaffected.

Planned road closures of the A417 will be overnight (9pm to 6am) with some weekend closures for some of the larger engineering works required. Daytime closures would only be in emergency or unforeseen circumstances. The official diversion route during the closures will be A46/A40/A435/A436. It was noted that not all traffic would follow the official diversion but signing would be present locally and on the M4/M5 to try to encourage traffic to follow the signed route.

Link to Presentation: <https://shurdingtonparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Shurdington-Parish-Council-April-23-1.pdf>

Farm Lane Allotments

The Allotment Committee manage the allotment site at Farm Lane, Shurdington on behalf of Shurdington Parish Council. The email address for the committee is shurdingtonallotments@gmail.com

At the current time there is only a small waiting list for potential new tenants, currently the waiting list is open to residents of the parish only. If you are interested in becoming a tenant, please contact the Parish Clerk who can provide more details.

Speedwatch

Over the past 12 months a group of local volunteers carried out a number of speedwatch sessions around the village. This activity was sponsored by the Parish Council and was enthusiastically supported by Gloucestershire Police.

The purpose of the speedwatch initiative was firstly to highlight the issue of road safety within the village by providing a visible reminder for drivers to remain within the speed limit, and secondly to gather and present road safety data to the relevant authorities to assist with future road safety and planning campaigns.

We welcome any feedback you may have on this activity and thank all those who gave their time freely to try and improve our local environment.

Local Events

Greenway Gifts Food Bank, held at the Church Hall every Monday from 9 00 - 10 00am, with Coffee on the third Monday of the month.

The free Coffee Morning is on the first Tuesday of the month at the Community Centre from 10 00 - 12 00 noon.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Care Direct	0800 444 000
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Electricity faults	0800 328 111
Emmaus	01452 413095
Furniture Recycling	01452 331333
Gas faults	0800 111 999
Gloucestershire Highways	08000 514514
NHS (Out of Hours)	08454 220220
NHS Direct	111
Police (non-emergency)	101
Street Light faults	08000 514514
Tewkesbury Borough	01684 295010
Water faults	0800 783 4444

Village Organisations

Church Hall hire	01242 701127
Churchwarden	01242 862598
Scout Group	07770 480272
Gardening Society	07792 269353
Sports Club	01242 862826
Mothers' Union	01242 862467
Three in One (Editor)	01242 862518
Pre-School	07867 813627

Written correspondence for the Parish Council should be addressed to the Clerk:

Parish Clerk: Mr John Kay

c/o 131 Woodvale, Kingsway, Quedgeley, GL2 2BU.

Tel: 07841 204404

Website: <https://shurdingtonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Email: shurdingtonpc@gmail.com

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