HOLYMOORSIDE & WALTON PARISH COUNCIL
December 2020 NEWSLETTER

Council Meetings

A public questions session is held at every council meeting. If you would like to put a question to the council or to make observations, then please come along.

If you would like the parish council to discuss any matter or seek their help, please send an e-mail or letter to the clerk or a councillor. For an item to be included on an agenda, the matter will generally need to be received by the clerk by 11.15 on the Monday the week before the meeting is to be held. This is subject to change in the event of staff holidays.

Forthcoming meetings are scheduled for;
Tuesday 5th January
Tuesday 2nd February
Tuesday 2nd March
Tuesday 13th April

Meetings commence at 7.30 pm unless indicated otherwise but please check the website to confirm whether the meeting will be in Holymoorside Village Hall or by video conferencing (subject to the latest covid-19 legislation).

Holymoorside & Walton Annual Remembrance Service 2020

Although many councils had decided to cancel their services for this year The parish council were very pleased to provide a socially distant and covid compliant Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November.

Strict government guidelines were adhered to, including safety measures, which included the fact that the event was not advertised, only wreath layers were allowed in the memorial garden and no singing was allowed. Parish Council Chairman, Martin Thacker M.B.E. noted that "In spite of Covid, the Parish Council thought it important to remember those who have served our country and all who have lost their lives. The pandemic has meant things have been done differently this year. Residents who couldn't join us for the Remembrance service due to lockdown, will have found their own way to demonstrate respect for the fallen. We will never forget."

Pride Of Parish Award 2020

A Holymoorside resident who was born in the village and lived here all his life, has been honoured by Holymoorside and Walton Parish Council. Mr. Terry McBride was presented with a 'Pride of Parish Award' in recognition of his remarkable 71 years' tenancy of an allotment in Holymoorside. He began tending the allotment in 1948 and maintained high standards of care from the outset. He has several times won trophies for 'best kept allotment' and set the bar for others to aspire to.

In presenting the award to Mr. McBride, Council Chairman, Cllr. Martin Thacker said; "throughout his time, Terry has demonstrated a real pride in his allotment and in the village. It is a privilege for the Council to acknowledge his fantastic work in this way; he is a deserving recipient of this award"

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Pride of Parish Awards 2021

Would you like to nominate someone who you think deserves the annual Pride of Parish award for outstanding work for the parish, the promotion of well-being and community involvement? If so please contact the Clerk by 31st January 2021 via e-mail or letter of no more than 100 words. Please note that unsigned or anonymous nominations will not be considered. Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish scheduled for Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7.30 pm, dependant on the current covid-19 situation.

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Parish Council News in Brief

Administration-both the Administration Assistant and the Clerk have been kept very busy trying to keep up with government legislaion in relation to how council duties can be fulfilled and what bookings are allowed in the hall. Risk assessments for allowed activities are written on a weekly basis and constant monitoring is on-going. Council meetings continue via a video platform and the council have been pleased to welcome various members of the public to these meetings.

Community events-the difficult decision to cancel the annual Christmas concert was taken with a heavy heart and, currently, no plans are in place for any events next year. However the council is hopeful that, when life returns to some normality, that some events can be scheduled for the community.

Health & Safety-will always be a major part of the council's responsibilities and, following the retirement of the current independent advisor, members have agreed to appoint a new company on a one year trial. This will ensure H&S standards to the highest achievable level for all users of parish amenities and staff.

Recreation ground and play area-are both now subject to Public Space Protection Orders so no dogs are allowed off a lead and no dogs allowed in the play area at all. All dog mess needs to be cleaned up. New signage has been placed so if any dog owners are unaware of the legislation please refer to these to ensure your complaince or risking a fine of up to £1,000.

Village Hall – every effort has been made to ensure the hall remains open subject to guidelines and both Caretakers have risen to the challenge of additional cleaning duties and many hirers have adapted their bookings so they can safely be accommodated. The Post Office has returned on a Monday and Wednesday morning with stringent covid safe measures in place so anyone wishing to access their service can do so safely.

Although it has not been prudent for many regular hirers to return, this has left space for new hirers to come forward, including additioanl yoga classes and a children's dance class.

It was with regret that the council decided not to place any Christmas decorations up in the hall this year due to the new cleaning requirements but the outside tree will still be lit to provide some much needed Christmas cheer.

Walton Community Development Centre-a council working party is still in discussion with the current trustees of the property but the latest lockdown means that the most recent scheduled meeting has now been postponed until January 2021.

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Holymoorisde & Walton Parish Council Climate Change Action Strategy

Members of Holymoorside and Walton Parish Council acknowledge that climate change is one of the greatest challenges currently facing the world. At a recent meeting Councillors considered a need to implement a Climate Change Action Strategy to reduce carbon emissions in the Parish, along with a range of initiatives to address issues in the local environment and promote awareness of climate change and plastic pollution.

The Council has launched its Climate Change Action Strategy document that outlines a number of intended actions. The Council will work closely with a community group to ensure actions are monitored and strategies are sustainable.

At the launch, Holymoorside and Walton Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Martin Thacker said: "The Council has made a start by declaring we need to do more to tackle climate change. If other organisations such as ourselves do the same, together we can make a tremendous difference."

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Parish Grit Bins

All the bins in the parish have now been filled and a limited supply of grit is in stock. Residents are reminded that the grit is for use on public highways only and must not be taken for personal use. The ability of the parish council to keep the bins filled rests on the supply available from Debyshire County Council and, if there is a sustained spell of snowly or icy weather your parish council will not be issued with any further supplies to ensure the bins are restocked so please use responsibly.

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Anyone for Tennis?

Even in the winter months it is good to get some fresh air, exercise and to hit a few tennis balls down at the newly refurbished courts! Holymoorside Tennis Club welcomes all to come and play. Subject to current Covid safeguards and lockdowns, the courts are generally open and available for use throughout the year. Membership and casual (play as you go) options available. Further information can be found on the noticeboard at the club house or find us on Facebook.

The courts are a community facility and most of the time (when not in use for club events), are available for public use. There is no need to book. A day fee of £3 per adult and £1 per junior is payable which we ask is put in the day fee box at the court entrance before entering the court or pay by BACs.

We are following Lawn Tennis Association Covid guidance to keep players and visitors safe. Please observe social distancing, "rule of six" and the other publicised safety precautions when at the courts. Please check our Facebook page for the latest on Covid-safe play.

Disclaimer -please note the articles from the external groups expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the view of the parish council.

Holymoorside Pre-school

Pre-school is up and running, we have put systems in place to help protect children, parents and staff. We receive countless government updates to help keep the group appraised of new rules and we do adhere to these.

Parents are not permitted inside the building, saying goodbye at the door must be very daunting for a two-year-old who doesn't know us or the building, however they have all accepted the situation, entered the hall alone and settled very well.

Last term was a great success, spending a lot of time outdoors exploring the park and village. Among other outings we had walks to the dam to find ducks and watching the friendly workmen mend the pavements on Windyfields, the machines were a little scary but most impressive.

Children learnt colours and shapes, practiced our counting skills, made countless collages and paintings to take home. On the last week we all became pirates, making hats, climbing the rigging, walking the plank and using maps to find treasure. Everyone dressed up and had their own small boat to row ashore which they took home at the end of the week to the delight of all the parents.

This term we have started with a spooky week, with scary stories and yet more collages, which they love to make and take home to stick on the fridge.

Christmas party will be a low-key event this year as we cannot have our usual soft play. However, we have lots of fun and games planned and we have asked Father Christmas if he can drop in for a socially distant wave and hopefully bring some gifts.

Thank you to the village hall staff for their invaluable assistance and awareness of our needs.

Also thank you to all our families for their understanding, support and cooperation.

If you are interested in a place for your child aged 2-5 years old you can phone: -
Sandra 568515 or Diane 566619.
Alternatively, you can message our Facebook page.
Email; preschoolholymoorside@gmail.com

St Peter's Memorial Garden Dedication Service September 2020

On a bright but chilly afternoon in late September, twenty of us, all clad in our face-masks & socially-distanced, gathered at last on the slopes of St Peter's Churchyard for the official Service of Dedication of the new Memorial Garden.

This project was initiated a couple of years ago under the guidance of our Minister at the time, Bill Bazely, & it was lovely to have both him & his wife, Mogs, present at the service. Clergy from St Thomas', Brampton, St John's, Walton, & the URC jointly conducted the short but moving service. Some friends from St Thomas' joined us, & representatives from Churches Together in Holymoorside, Walton & Holymoorside Parish Council, Holymoorside Ladies' Club, & Holymoorside Well-Dressing Group were all present, all of whom had contributed to the success of the project, through careful planning & generous fund-raising.

The graceful L-shaped stone wall bordering its large square of grass with such a wonderful view was all made possible thanks to the skills of one of St Peter's church members, experienced builder Howard Stockton, also present at the service, of course! The Memorial Garden means that we can now bury ashes in perpetuity here in the village.

As part of the service, a poem entitled 'Our Village' was read aloud, its lines compiled (via email) by some members of St Peter's during Lockdown, under the guidance of Ken Franklin.

It was all in all a special time for us to be together in such a beautiful place, celebrating this new Memorial Garden, created for our community of Holymoorside.

Ann Cleaver, St Peter's Church, Holymoorside

The Parish Council sends season's greetings and a best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021