Warndon Parish Council

News

March 2024



Chair's Message

Welcome to our Spring newsletter and a very warm welcome to all the residents who have recently moved into the Parish. The Parish Council usually meets on the 1st Monday of the month at the Lyppard Hub at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you want to raise an issue you are invited to speak for up to 5 minutes at the start of the meeting, please inform the clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting to confirm your attendance. We have introduced a monthly informal surgery where residents can come and have a chat with a couple of councillors about any local concerns. They are held normally on the last Monday of the month at 6pm in the Lyppard Hub.

Things are changing about the way Worcester City Council elects its councillors. Following a Boundary Commission review of Worcester City Council several changes are being made to the wards across the city. Here in the Parish the number of Councillors to be elected is remaining the same, but the names of the wards have changed. Warndon Parish South has become Leopard Hill and Warndon Parish North has become St Nicholas. Also, the City Council has changed the way councillors get elected, from elections in thirds to one election every four years where the whole council will get elected. This year the thirty-five seats will be contested in May. As a result of the changes made at the city, we must hold Parish Elections again this year. We took the decision last year that we should only serve one year in office and so there will be a full election on 2 May 2024.

Warndon Parish Council has eight councillors (all volunteers) and a Clerk Susan Carr. We cover various roles and are all passionate about our area. If you are interested standing for election for the Parish Council in May 2024 then please read the article 'What does a Parish Council do?' and 'What is expected of a Parish Councillor' on page 2.

Drop in and talk to us

The Parish Council hosts drop-in surgeries at the Lyppard Hub, usually on the last Monday of each month 6.00pm - 7.00pm, for residents to meet with a Parish Councillor to raise any matters of concern. No appointment necessary—just turn up! Due to Bank Holidays and non-availability of rooms, our **next dates are**: **Wednesday 3 April, Tuesday 28 May, Monday 1 July**

What does a Parish Council do?

Parish Councils are a statutory body and were formed by the local Government Act of 1894, consolidated by legislation of 1972 and in July 1984 Warndon Parish Council was inaugurated and held its first meeting. Warndon Parish Council consists of eight councillors and is the first tier of a three-tier government in Worcestershire, with Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council being the other two. They are responsible for Health, education, planning, environment, litter, public transport, and highways amongst other things. Warndon Parish Council is in a fairly unique situation as it is part of the City of Worcester, many of matters that are usually passed down to a parish council do not apply because they are already enacted by the city and county. We do have certain powers that includes provision for Parish Allotments. The Parish is unable to determine planning applications but as consultees we can and do make recommendations to Worcester City Planning authority. The Parish Council is able to set a precept which is collected from all residents within the parish through the council tax system and is specified as a separate item on your council tax bill. The Parish Council has certain responsibilities including a duty to behave according to the Code of Conduct and each Parish Councillor will have to sign a register of interests including any conflicts of interests. The Parish Council also has a duty to have the Annual accounts subjected to audit.

What is expected of a Parish Councillor?

The key role of a Parish Councillor is to listen to and understand the views of residents and represent those views on their behalf.

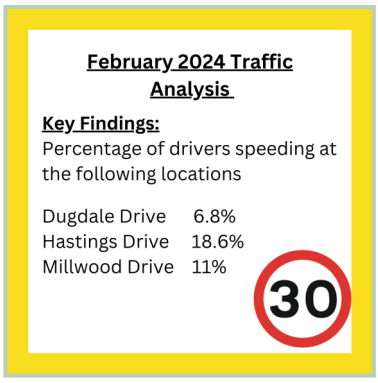
Parish Councillors are elected representatives who put themselves forward to stand for the parish council and will serve four years and work on behalf of all the residents in the parish. If a vacancy arises an individual may be able to be co-opted onto the council. Each councillor has a duty to behave according to a Code of Conduct and to sign a register of interests including any conflicts of interests. Individual Parish Councillors cannot make decisions on behalf of the council. As a Parish Councillor you will have responsibility for managing local services as well as making decisions regarding the finances associated with running the Parish Council. Formal training is available for all councillors as well as support from fellow councillors and the Clerk to the Council. Being an effective councillor does require commitment and hard work. Being a Parish Councillor does mean that you can make a difference to the quality of life in the villages, and you can make a real difference.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, then please contact the clerk – email clerk@warndonparishcouncil.org. You will also need to obtain a nomination pack for the Parish Council election from Worcester City Council - electoralservices@worcester.gov.uk and will also require two nominees along with completing a number of forms about your eligibility to stand.

So, if you want to do more for our community, if you think you can listen and act locally then perhaps you should consider becoming a Parish Councillor .

Cllr Lucy Hodgson

New Speed Sign for Dugdale Drive



A new vehicle activated sign has been installed on Dugdale Drive to encourage drivers not to exceed the speed limit. This is now the third vehicle activated sign that the Parish council have purchased for use on specific roads around the Warndon Villages, to discourage speeding. The new sign can record drivers' speed in both an incoming and outgoing direction, and allows the parish council to understand the number of cars being driven over the speed limit. Evidence from the existing speed signs is that they act as a prompt to drivers to correct their speed so this additional sign will have a positive impact on driver behaviour in the area. Each month, the Parish Council produces a traffic analysis report that is shared and discussed at the monthly meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings, or the reports can be accessed on the Parish Council website under 'Parish Council meetings 'Supporting papers'
https://warndonparishcouncil.org/parish-council-meetings

Introducing Worcester City Council's new Tree Officer



In January Worcester City Council adopted an Ash Dieback strategy which sets out how the disease will be managed throughout the City (including Warndon Villages), during the next 3 years. It will mean removing trees which are a health and safety risk, but where possible some trees will remain but will be heavily pruned. **Warren Davies**, the new tree officer will be responsible for ensuring this strategy is actioned along with future replanting schemes.

I'm an enthusiastic and passionate 'Arborist' who has spent the last 30+ years working with trees in the public and private sectors. With a keen interest in the environment, I'm keen to not only maintain standard of tree care, but also encourage the planting of trees across the county, increase levels of biodiversity and help reduce the carbon footprint. Trees play an important part in everyday life so my goals are to look at ways that we can help maintain this, not just through education but also involvement with local communities and friends groups. My experience has been varied over the last 30 years, first starting off working for a local tree surgery business for domestic customers, then followed by two years on utility arboriculture before securing a job within local authority. Here we were able to provide a robust tree maintenance programme and put back in 20,000 new trees during my 17 years. Three years and a short stint in housing later I'm now the new Tree Officer for Worcester City Council. Looking forward to many challenges and ways we can provide a service for our residents and also for the trees' benefit.

Warren Davies

Enhancement work in the Parish

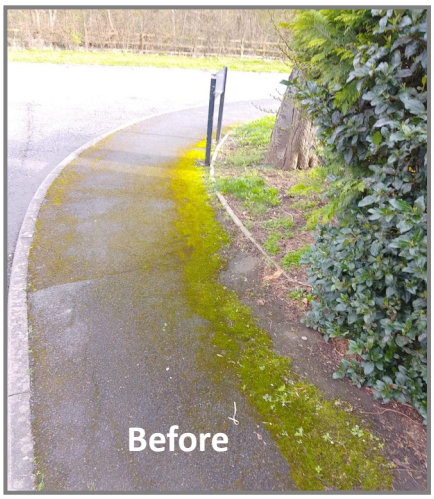
Jake and the Place Team have come up with a re-design of the Marsh Avenue roundabout. Work will be completed by mid– March and will mirror the rest of the roundabouts in the parish. Wildflower beds will be created elsewhere.


Marsh Avenue Roundabout

The hedge maintenance has now all been completed and mowing will commence as soon as the ground has dried out sufficiently not to cause damage to the verges and greenspaces.

James, our Parish Warden has been edging up our footpaths and removing moss which has continued to thrive during the wet mild winter. He will also be carrying out repairs to some of our rotten /broken fencing and installing 5 more benches, 3 being in memory of County and City Councillor Andy Roberts.




Before


Moss removal on the footpath in Barass Avenue
After

Date for your Diary!



Parish Council Meetings 2024

Monday 8 April	Monday 3 June	Monday 7 October
Monday 13 May (AGM)	Monday 8 July	Monday 4 November
Annual Open Parish Meeting	Monday 2 September	Monday 2 December
Thursday 16 May		

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