

Old Woughton Parish Council Newsletter

Woughton Park

Woughton-on-the-Green

Passmore



KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH!

*Welcome to the January 2018
issue of the Old Woughton
Parish Council Newsletter.*

Parish Budget

At the meeting on 8th January your Parish Council unanimously voted a budget for next year that is based on this year's expenditure. This means that the Precept will stay the same – for the 4th year in a row and your local tax will stay approximately the same. We can do this because we keep our operating costs, including the allotments, under tight control. We continue to be one of the lowest taxing parishes in Milton Keynes.

The Canal in Our Parish

As many of you will be aware, the Parish Council has a list of willing volunteers who are prepared to turn out each month and work on the towpath. Gradually it is being repaired with the help and support of the Canal and River Trust (C&RT). We have been labouring for just over 12 months and are proud to announce that we have won the VORA Shield for the current year. This is the Volunteer Organisation Recognition Award for the SE England area of the C&RT. Congratulations to all who have participated in this venture. The shield will be placed in Ye Olde Swan Inn should you wish to see it, no doubt the landlord will be pleased to see you!



Bushes and Trees

In this Parish we are fortunate to have so much greenery and space around us. We have a rural atmosphere while being almost in the centre of the city. However it is a continual struggle to keep the trees and bushes in order with pruning and cutting back. We would like to encourage you, the parishioners to report any overgrowth you discover that causes a hindrance by blocking paths etc. You can do this at MKC using the following address:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/>

Sometimes it is our own gardens that spread themselves into public areas, so if it is your hedgerow that has strayed over onto Redways or pavements, please be a responsible citizen by trimming it back. Meanwhile OWPC will continue to pressure MKC on your behalf to fulfil their duty of care and keep the public roads and walkways clear of obstructions.

Parish Gardeners



Many of you will have noticed the lovely flowers that are growing under and around our road signs. There is a loosely connected group of gardeners whose aim is to beautify this area and recently someone on Passmore has joined the team. We now have some attractive herbaceous perennials and daffodil bulbs under the notice board and one of the house number signs. Our grateful thanks go to all who participate in these efforts. If anyone else has an idea or would like to join in this venture, please let me know.

Judith Howson:

jhowson@oldwoughton.org.uk

The Orchard Village Green

Unfortunately, on 16th December 2017, the MKC Regulatory Committee turned down our application to register the Orchard as a village green. Both MKC (the landowner) and the Parks Trust (the lessee) had objected on legal grounds. This is very disappointing because almost 100 residents had completed evidence forms in support. We will not let this set back, nor those of the Playing Fields and the Paddocks, deter us from future action to protect these open spaces. Watch this space

Dog Walkers

Recently OWPC has received reports of dog mess being left around in the parish, usually just in the grass. We have many dog owners in this beautiful area and many of us enjoy walking through the countryside. We know that most of you clear up after your dogs and we applaud you for your efforts. Please may we encourage you to be extra vigilant?

However, we are also aware that there are several professional dog walkers who bring dogs into the parish and we would like to assure you that we are endeavouring to find a way of encouraging them to follow your good example. We will be in consultation with the Parks Trust about additional signage but we are aware also that extra bins can be unsightly, they need emptying regularly and this puts up the operational cost of running the parish.

Did you know that dog faeces can be harmful to humans, especially children and that parasites and serious disease can be transmitted to livestock (sheep and cattle) via dog waste left in grazing areas. Please remove waste from all locations always, including grazing land, to minimize these risks.



If you are a Professional Commercial Dog Walker and you use the parks and green spaces in Milton Keynes, did you know that you need a licence to operate?

For further information and licencing, please contact the Events and Community Engagement Manager at The Parks Trust: **01908 233 600** or events@theparkstrust.com



Parish Council Meetings 2018:

Monday 12th March 7.30pm

Monday 9th April 7.30pm – Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 14th May (with A.G.M.)

*All held in St Mary's Church,
Woughton on the Green*

The first 15 minutes of each meeting is reserved for the public to address the Council with questions or issues you wish to bring to our attention.

How to contact us:

Email us through the clerk:

clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk

Telephone: Landline: 01908 465811

Mobile: 07866 412706

Write to us:

P.O. Box 7575, Milton Keynes, MK11 9GR

For all Email contact details visit our website at

www.oldwoughton.org.uk

Also find us on **Facebook**

Search "Friends of Old Woughton"

Canal and River Trust

enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk

*Just a reminder of the individual
contact email for your local
councillor.*

ahumphries@oldwoughton.org.uk

mblomley@oldwoughton.org.uk

jhowson@oldwoughton.org.uk

rbrown@oldwoughton.org.uk

rkenyon@oldwoughton.org.uk

rgrindley@oldwoughton.org.uk

pnash@oldwoughton.org.uk

chall@oldwoughton.org.uk

vgwynn@oldwoughton.org.uk