Important Parish Council announcement

The Parish Council prepared an emergency plan for the village some years ago. However, it never considered how the Parish Council might address a situation like the spread of a virus and a consequential health emergency. We are currently reviewing the plan to make it more relevant.

The Parish Council will support the work of healthcare professionals and emergency services through the provision of local initiatives and through providing information at a local level. Initially this will be through use of the village web site and newsletter. You may find the The Neighbourhood Watch leaflet reproduced on page 9 useful.

Here are a few ideas about how we can all help each other in the villages:

- Please contact us by phone or e-mail if you would be prepared for your contact details to be made available as a person or group who may be able to help others. It might be by collecting medicine, dog walking for a poorly person, delivering shopping, delivering newsletters and so on. The aim will be to create a public register for the village.
- Please contact us if you are prepared to help as a group, or if you already have support plans in place that we can share, or if you could help co-ordinate.
- Please contact us if you are an individual and you anticipate needing help or need help now.
- Our village shop has already committed to obtaining additional products where appropriate, and providing or co-ordinating a delivery service.
- Medicines that are prescribed by the Langport surgery can be delivered to the shop by the Thursday bus.
- We need your advice on the best methods of sharing information, and in identifying those in the community who may be most in need.
- Initially please contact micev@btconnect.com and 01460 281114 with offers of help. We will prepare a reference list and see how we can create a permanent support group.

Thank you.

Simon Denley - Parish Council Chair
01460 281340 Mobile 07766 250656
simon_denley@hotmail.co.uk
Apology from Mike: I had a few dates wrong in the last newsletter. Sorry, sorry, sorry!

**FOSHA Easter Bingo** Friday 27th March at Hambridge Village Hall, doors open at 6.30 p.m., eyes down at 7pm. Please come along for a fun evening. If you have any unwanted gifts etc that you’d like to donate to a raffle we will be very grateful.

Looks like a hugely successful Murder Mystery Event on Friday 6th March and luckily they found the criminal so we are all safe.

Over £1000 raised for new IT equipment. What a great success and FOHSA would like to thank all who helped.

**Rec Trust:** Wow! A decision on the toilet refurbishment soon. Thanks to grants and fundraising it looks as if we can finally start on a toilet upgrade. Replacing the toilet flooring is a major item and it looks as if that bit will have to be subcontracted to a specialist firm. Tenders and costing for the whole job are being compared. The cost of heating the hall is massive, so if anyone sees the heaters or lights being left on, please don’t be afraid to get involved and ask why. No appointment of a handyman yet, but we should know next month.

**Trees** - The Parish Council were successful in the draw for free trees from the district council & they have arrived! The next step is to work out what we have won (quantities & variety) & to organise positioning & planting in the playing field and around the village where we can. Ideas please? It’s likely that there will be enough trees for a few individuals to have one for their own garden. Beware, they could be big or small trees! Please let us know if you would like one.

**Hambridge and Westport Youth Cafe** from Mandy Brister and Ruth Evans ...
We currently meet in the first Tuesday of the month from 7pm to 9 pm. Anyone in School Years 7 to 11 welcome. £1 subs and there is also a Tuck Shop so you can purchase some treats. On Tuesday 7th April there will be Easter themed games and activities.

**Suggestions please** ....Each year, The Chair of Somerset County Council invites the Parish Councils to make a nomination for the **Chairman’s Award** to be made to a volunteer serving the community. The deadline for nominations is **Tuesday 12th May 2020**. Suggestions to The Parish Council.
Crisis time at the shop update! Some facts you might not be aware of at the stores even more relevant at this time

- You can have your medicine from Langport surgery pharmacy delivered to the stores to pick up. The bus delivers them on Thursday.
- You can get cash out at the post office with no fee.
- You can pay cash in and it’s immediately shown in your account for most banks.
- You can pay cheques in with a paying in slip.
- We sell tobacco and cigarettes.
- You can charge your electric key.
- We sell newspapers (but they need to be ordered).
- We have fresh bread delivered daily.
- We have fresh milk from a local dairy which means even when large supermarkets can’t get milk we can!
- You can get deliveries from Bonners the butcher, Sausage Shed or Daren Robinson the fishmonger.
- We sell pasties, sausage rolls, paninis, made up rolls, lots of cake and of course coffee and tea!
- If you give us a list of items you need, we will do our best to get these for you!

So, you see, we are so much more than a convenience store 😊 We still need your support 🙏

P.S. And don’t forget Friday is Fry-day! Just give the shop a call (and they will even do a take-away breakfast says Mike ......) , and in these slightly uncertain times isn’t it great to have our own local shop to rely on! Thanks so much to Linda and the team. We can all put on weight together, so don’t forget the yummy cakes.
VE Day – Message from Delia

I am trying to find anyone who served in the Second WW who came from Isle Brewers or Westport. I have only one name so far but I think there must have been others. We have several names on our First World War plaque, both those who served and those who lost their lives. If you think it appropriate, I would like to see if there are any in Hambridge who have any knowledge that would help my quest. I have a request for information in our Benefice magazine this month. I will be most grateful for any help you can give me.

Some early info about VE Day… May 8th (it’s a bank Holiday Friday)

There will be an evening of entertainment at the Lamb and Lion, with a swing band, BBQ, vintage cars and vehicles, last post & beacon lighting ceremony, games, memorabilia and many other things are in the planning as we speak. People are encouraged to come dressed for the period (optional), get into the VE Day spirit and dance the night away. No charge for entry. Watch out for posters and flyers around the villages with more info.

If anyone would like to get involved or has ideas for the day/evening (we are getting more and more) they would be very welcome to join the team. They can contact Graham Hill, Richard Meecham, Jeremy at the pub or Linda at the shop.

There will also be a ‘Best Dressed’ house/garden competition, for the property with the best VE Day decoration. More details to follow.

The Entertainments Group really want this to be part of the wider village celebrations, so why not join us at the afternoon Street Party in the Village Hall on the same day. This will be a great opportunity for youngsters and older folk to have some fun. There will be afternoon tea, party food, yummy cakes, scones and sandwiches for sale, and cups of tea and pop! Dress up if you like and we’ll sort some games and entertainment from the 1940s. Perhaps musical chairs, pinning the tail on the donkey and anything else we can dream up. All very low key and just about having fun together.

Big Breakfasts in The Village Hall

Saturday 4th April 9.30-11.30 In aid of Evie’s Borneo trip. Contact Graham or Tammy

Saturday 2nd May 9.30-11.30 In aid of the School Gardening Club. Contact Kerry

These breakfasts really are becoming more than just a chance to have a scrumptious start to the weekend. It’s a chance to meet old and new friends and there is a warm welcome to those who have moved to the village more recently. So, if you are new to Hambridge and Westport let people know, and you can always contact us to offer to help.

For more information call 01460 281114 phone/text 07831 600375 micev@btconnect.com www.hambridgeandwestport.org
St James the less - Village “Lead” Watch

Many of us will have been saddened by the theft of lead from the roof of six local churches. This can have a huge impact on a village, as replacement is often a huge cost. Most of the churches are listed buildings so the preferred historic repair is to replace the lead and seemingly wait for it to go again. One of the alternatives is to use treated stainless steel, which although being the same cost for replacement, has little scrap value, so breaking the cycle. Our church has minimal lead, and there are adjacent buildings with big dogs! However, we can all play a part and report any suspicious activity, or challenge unusual behaviour.

Services in April

Sunday 5th  9.30 a.m.  PALM SUNDAY  Holy Communion at Isle Brewers
Tuesday 7th  6.30 p.m.  Stations of the Cross
Thursday 9th 6.30 p.m.  MAUNDY THURSDAY  Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
Friday 10th  11 a.m.  GOOD FRIDAY  Service of reflection
Sunday 12th 9.30 a.m.  EASTER DAY  Holy Communion

Jesus is alive!  Come and celebrate with us!

The service will be followed by refreshments of simnel cake and coffee/tea

Sunday 19th  9.30 a.m.  Family Service  followed by refreshments
Sunday 26th  9.30 a.m.  Parish Service at Isle Brewers

If anyone would like a lift to church in Hambridge or Isle Brewers, please ring Gill on 01460 282913

Dates to remember-

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting this year will be on Monday 11th May at 7 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our Gift Day will be on Saturday 13th June from 3-5 p.m. in the church.

News from Trevor: As if we didn't have enough to worry about with the lead being pinched, the van break in at Curry and the virus, here's some more gloom from Trevor. The good news is that Trevor helps us understand the risks and how to address them.

There have been thefts from garages and sheds locally, so Trevor is pointing out the need for secure padlocks and security lights. There is a great leaflet on shed security with advice on ground anchoring bikes and blocking off windows which we have reproduced on pages 11 and 12. Quite often tools are taken from sheds and are then used to break into the main house.

For more information call 01460 281114 phone/text 07831 600375  micev@btconnect.com  www.hambridgeandwestport.org
More news from Trevor …. Also be aware of a new scam email advising that you are entitled to a tax refund (rebate) of £128.34. The email states that this is a precautionary measure in cooperation with National Insurance and National Health Services, it is NOT. It goes on to suggest the funds can help protect yourself against COVID-19 and to access the funds now by clicking on the blue hyperlink, Please DO NOT do this.

What Should You Do?

1. If you are looking for information on the coronavirus, visit known reputable websites like the World Health Organization.

2. Be on the lookout for phishing emails, which may appear to come from a trusted source. Remember, you can look at the sender's details - specifically the part of the email address after the '@' symbol - in the 'From' line to see if it looks legitimate. However, even this is no guarantee.

3. Although social media companies like Facebook are cracking down on ads spreading coronavirus conspiracies and fake cures, some ads may make it past their review process. Remember, it’s best to seek information on the disease from official sources.

In addition the Neighbourhood Watch team have provided a simple check list for householders relating to the health situation which we have inserted on page 9

History Group

There’s a slight change in the plans for a display cabinet. The Rec. Trust committee decided that they would prefer an alternative memorial for Stan other than the display cabinet. The proposal is now to have a mural of a tree to which "engraved recognition plates" are attached. These plates will recognise the contribution of the many people who have supported the Recreation Trust since its inception. For those who have been to Musgrove Park Hospital it will be based on the design of their tree. It is hoped to use a local artist to paint the mural. The alternative plan for a cabinet is to improve the existing display cabinet in the committee room. A great find by Jean. A bottle opener with Langs and Hambridge cast in the handle. Definitely one for the cabinet! The next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Monday 30th March at 2 p.m.
The Parish Council: recent topics from the February and March meetings include:

- Planning for a canal side house in Westport which aroused significant opposition.
- Development at the Mill. (see their proposal and the Parish Council response later in this Newsletter)
- Canal carpark, and Westport canal bank planning developments.
- Introduction of the "Ranger" scheme
- Road safety improvements
- Footpaths

(Full details of parish council meetings will be published in the minutes. Normally a printed copy is in the shop as well as online.)

Meetings are open to the public (with a very few exceptions), and there is a slot allocated for public comment. The next meeting is in the committee room of the village hall on Monday April 20th at 8 p.m.

Parish Council documents are held on the website www.hambridgeandwestport.org. The Parish Council would be pleased to receive any contributions for the newsletter or for discussion at the meetings. Just contact Simon Denley on 01460 281340 or Jenny Ludgate our clerk on 01458 251432 m.ludgate@btinternet.com, or for the newsletter, e-mail Mike Evans micev@btconnect.com or call 01460 281114 or check www.hambridgeandwestport.org.

Recently we had a question regarding the publication of the minutes from our Parish Council meetings. The Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities requires those with a turnover below £25,000 to publish draft minutes thus:

"Minutes, agendas and papers of formal meetings"

29. Smaller authorities should publish the draft minutes from all formal meetings (i.e. full council or board, committee and sub-committee meetings) not later than one month after the meeting has taken place. These minutes should be signed either at the meeting they were taken, or at the next meeting.
30. Smaller authorities should also publish meeting agendas, which are as full and informative as possible, and associated meeting papers not later than three clear days before the meeting to which they relate is taking place."

More about the Village web site ..... It was brilliant that we had a local response to our request to develop the village web side. Now it's your turn to give your thoughts. There is a proposed outline design based on the existing pages from www.hambridgeandwestport.org. We will possibly add a village calendar and a secure file storage area to the proposed structure. You are welcome to have your input, just call 01460 281114 and be part of the planning team. It is important you are involved at the planning stage as it will be more difficult to re-design at a later time.

On the following page is the precept (budget) for the Parish Council for the current year.
News from the Vicarage - We have had a busy month at Vicarage House, with our Valentine’s day lunch, Tina the dancer with her Pom Poms and a couple of lovely music sets. The stay and play child minding sessions are a huge hit with the residents voting the visits as the highlight of the week!!

Going forward into March we have plenty to keep everyone busy with pet therapy visits, dancing with Pom Poms, several birthdays and events and our gardening projects.

We have a “Lucky for some” party on Friday the 13th March with music and games for the residents to enjoy. We also have a Mother’s Day high tea on Sunday 22nd March at 2pm (open to all that would like to attend) and a big birthday celebration for several of our residents that celebrate birthdays in March.

The ladies of Vicarage House get to celebrate International Women’s Day on Sunday 8th March, with cocktails and pampering.

If there are any friends in the village that would like to join us for a cuppa and a chat or could volunteer for an hour, then please pop over. We are also holding an Easter raffle to raise money for our summer fete, so any donations would be greatly received. Thank you so much.

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| Totals                               | £ 13,210.00        | £ 20,912.60                 | -£ 7,877.80       |
|                                      |                   |                             | £ 13,500.00       |
**News from the WI:** February’s Hambridge and Westport WI started the first meeting of 2020 with new members and old joining together in creating some hand sewn hearts in aid of ‘Show the Love’. These hearts are now hanging with pride in the village hall!

We meet every 2nd Tuesday in the month in the Village Hall commencing 7:00 p.m. Our April speaker will be telling us all about Driftwood and Design. Our competition of the month will be for each member to bring a wooden object which will be judged at the end of the evening. Members bring a ‘flower of the month’ from their gardens. Guests are warmly welcomed (for a small donation of £3) so come along and see what we do and enjoy the evening. Tea/coffee and cakes are provided. Members receive monthly magazines which inform us of future WI events in our area.

There are many things you can participate in, bowls, quiz night, trips out etc. An amazing wealth of knowledge and skills to be shared by our lovely ladies, put forward your own ideas and make your WI what you want it to be.

We have been very fortunate to have had several new members to swell our small group, so that has been lovely: new ideas to bounce off each other which makes our meetings more interesting and varied. We look forward to hopefully seeing more new faces from the village.

**Neighbourhood Watch advice - 10 ways you can protect yourself, your loved ones and your community:**

1. Meet with household members, other relatives, friends and neighbours to discuss what to do if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in your community and what the needs of each person will be.
2. If your neighborhood has a website or social media page, consider joining it to maintain access to neighbours, information, and resources. Alternatively, share phone numbers and email addresses particularly with those who are isolated or vulnerable.
3. Consider establishing a ‘buddy’ system within your community to ensure everyone stays connected to COVID-19 related news, services and can receive support safely, such as essentials deliveries.
4. Plan ways to care for those who might be at greater risk for serious complications.
5. Choose a room in your home that can be used to separate sick household members from those who are healthy.
6. Learn how to self-isolate. (apparently this is now termed 'stay at home' because some people did not fully understand self-isolate) Guidance can be found on the NHS website: [https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/)
7. Create a list of local organizations that you and your neighbours can contact in the event that one of you need access to information, healthcare services, support or resources. Consider including organizations that provide mental health or counselling services, food and other supplies.
8. Create an emergency contact list of family, friends, neighbours, healthcare providers, teachers, employers, the local public health department and other community resources.
9. Learn about the emergency operations plan at your child’s school or childcare facility, and your employer’s emergency operations plan.
10. Practice everyday preventive actions including regular hand washing.
The proposal for the Mill – extract from the Parish Council minutes

Savills Estate Agents presented an initial outline of a proposed development of the Hambridge Mill, which until recently, has been owned by Chalon’s. The proposed development shown in a booklet including outline sketches, had been prepared by Angus Meek Architects on behalf of a Housing Developer who was in the process of buying the site. The Savills’ representatives stated their presentation was considered as the initial engagement with the Parish Council and the residents of Hambridge and Westport. The summary of the initial outline proposal was as follows:

• The site has an area of just over 6 acres, which includes a considerably wooded area along the old Mill stream, this area is planned to be retained without affecting the existing trees.
• The plan is to target 28 dwellings on the site.
• The existing dwellings will be retained, including 3-5 conversions in the Grade II Mill House.
• The target is 23 individual new dwellings, including 35% affordable housing, which would be 8 to 10 affordable houses with 1 and 2 bedrooms.
• The remaining houses would be a combination of houses with 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms.
• South Somerset District Council has reported that the greatest need is for detached and semi-detached houses with 3 and 4 bedrooms.
• In accordance with the Planning requirements, the development will provide at least the minimum requirements identified by the Somerset Waste Partnership.
• Landscaping and open spaces will exceed the South Somerset District Council Planning requirements.
• Examples of the Housing Developer’s previous projects showed contemporary dwellings.
• The existing buildings on the site occupy 3,788 sqm, the proposed building footprint, including retained buildings will be 2,637 sqm.
• The development will provide central public space, connected to existing public right of way along the Mill stream.
• To support the development, there will be car parking spaces for 102 vehicles.

The Parish Council thanked the Savills representatives for the presentation, the initial feedback from the Parish Council was as follows:

• Any development would need to retain the key features of the Hambridge Mill as it is a key part of the history of the Villages. This is part of the proposal.
• The number of proposed dwelling is too high; this development is about a fifth of the size of Hambridge and Westport.
• There was concern about the impact on the existing Sewage system that is already of concern.
• Any development would need to be carefully considered with respect to existing flooding near the site and the impact the site with add to any potential to flooding. Flood protection needs to be considered on the site.
• There was concern that there is not sufficient low-cost housing for local residents. The proposed units would be toward the high end of property prices.
• Concern was raised about the impact of the considerable volume of additional vehicles that would be travelling in and out of the village.
• The proposed entrance/exit to the site is within the national speed limit with poor visibility.
• As the road narrows at the Mill Bridge, outside the proposed development, this bridge would need to be widened to cope with the significant additional traffic.
• Concern was raised that any development would need to offer Sustainable energy solutions, including: use of the Mill stream to generate energy, electrical car charging facilities, with use of solar panels, use of air and ground heat source pumps.
• The development would be good support for the local amenities; the Church, Primary school, Village Hall, Pub and Shop.

Savills were requested by the Parish Council to investigate suitable solutions to the issues identified above. The Clerk agreed to send these issues to Savills.

More security advice from Trevor

Outbuildings – Garages

Garage doors are vulnerable and you can make them more secure by installing additional security, such as padlocks, to provide multiple locking points or using floor-mounted locking T-bars.

If you have an internal door leading to your home directly connected to your garage, ensure this door is solid and robust and secured with an accredited mortise lock and additional security.

Remember if items can be seen from outside they will be vulnerable, so cover up valuable items and tidy away tools. And don’t forget that ladders, tools and wheelie bins can be used to break into your home.

Use a ground anchor to secure motorcycles, pedal cycles and other high value items to stop them being easily removed.

Consider extending your burglar alarm to include your garage or outbuildings or use a separate audible alarm system.

Garages are often used as additional storage rather than as the main place to leave a vehicle. By using it as a place to park this can reduce the chances of your vehicle being stolen or damaged.

Ensure that your contents insurance covers the items stored within your garage, shed or outbuildings.

Remember to secure the window in your garage by screwing it closed or locking it. Alternatively you can place a grill over the window but always think about how you will get out in an emergency.
Outbuildings – Sheds and other outbuildings

Shed alarm

Closed shackle padlock on a hasp and staple

Many criminals target sheds and outbuildings to steal tools and they use these tools to break into your home. Ensure that your contents insurance covers the items stored within your garage, shed or outbuildings.

And finally …….

SAVE THE DATE
Hambridge & Westport
75th VE Day Celebration
Friday 8th May 2020
Family Events Taking Place Throughout the Day & Evening
Further Details to be Announced Shortly

Published by Mike Evans and generally reflects the views or discussions of the Parish Council

For more information call 01460 281114 phone/text 07831 600375 micev@btconnect.com www.hambridgeandwestport.org