



BREWOOD & COVEN PARISH COUNCIL with Bishop's Wood & Coven Heath

Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Your Councillors:

Bishop's Wood:

Jan Jeffries 01902 851831
Mary Sambrook
01785 841398

Brewood:

David Evans 851326
Anne Holmes 850611 (Chairman)
Kevin Kearney 850336
Wendy Sutton 851682
Richard Taylor 850594
Mac Webb MBE 850671

Coven:

Moira Alden-Court
703528
Janis Bradshaw 791435
Janet Carr 791443
Richard Dakin (Vice Chairman)
850938
Antonio Pupino
07857 061 128
Glen Sibley 790059

Coven Heath:

Linda Tomkins 786008

District Councillors:

Joyce Bolton 851079
Brian Cox 01785 840482
Anne Holmes 850611
Wendy Sutton 851682

County Councillor:

Mark Sutton 851682

The scheduled meetings of the Parish Council for this quarter are:

29 Nov, 13 Dec, 10 & 31 Jan.

Council meetings are held at **7.00pm** in the Council Chamber, 35 Stafford Street, Brewood and include a 15 minute public participation session at the start of each meeting, when members of the public are able to address the Council.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2nd MAY 2019

Thursday the 2nd May 2019 will see District and Parish Council elections take place. These elections represent a tremendous opportunity for local people to be involved in their communities not only as voters but as Parish Councillors, should they be elected.

Parish Councils are the part of local government closest to the people and as such deal with matters at a local level with a view to representing the whole electorate within the parish, delivering services to meet local needs and endeavouring to improve the quality of life of local people. There are many powers under which a parish council can act including: local youth projects, playing fields and Open Spaces, public conveniences, allotments, bus shelters, crime reduction measures and traffic calming. This is, of course, all subject to financial limitation. Funds are largely raised through the Council Tax collected each year.

A Parish Councillor is elected by the public for a four-year term and in the role will be involved in deciding, as part of the council, what activities to support, where money should be spent at a local level and what services should be delivered. Much of this work is directed by the budget determined and approved by the Council at the annual precept meeting held in January each year. Councillors will also monitor service delivery and represent their constituents and local organisations, taking up issues on their behalf.

Anyone can stand as a candidate provided they meet these qualification requirements:

- ❖ Aged over 18
- ❖ A British or Commonwealth Citizen or Euronational Citizen (who is a registered elector)
- ❖ Resident for 12 months prior to the day of the election – either in the Parish or within 3 miles of the boundary
- ❖ Occupied land or premises for 12 months as owner or tenant – either in the Parish or within 3 miles of the boundary
- ❖ Have a principal place of work – either in the Parish or within 3 miles of the boundary

There are some reasons why you cannot stand for election, including bankruptcy, criminal offences and imprisonment. Further details of the specific restrictions are available from the Clerk or on the Parish Council's website: www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Parish Councillor please come along to some of our scheduled meetings which will provide an excellent opportunity for you to see how things work. Agendas, detailing the business to be discussed, are published in each village on the Parish notice-boards and on our website, as are the dates and times of the meetings. Anyone interested in standing for election for the Parish can obtain a nomination pack from South Staffordshire Council from the beginning of March.

Should you wish to discuss standing for election as a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk to the Council.

IF YOU REQUIRE THIS NEWSLETTER IN LARGE PRINT PLEASE CALL 01902 850809

Your Local Councils – An Easy Guide to Services

Many people are confused about which service each of our councils provide. In this area we have three tiers of local government: Staffordshire County Council, South Staffordshire Council and Brewwood and Coven Parish Council.

Here is a ‘cut out and keep’ guide of which councils do what in the Parish:

Staffordshire County Council is responsible for:

- ✓ Highways
- ✓ Potholes
- ✓ Maintaining roadside hedges
- ✓ Rights of way, including footpaths
- ✓ Road signs
- ✓ Street-lighting
- ✓ Blocked gullies
- ✓ Road closures
- ✓ Bus routes
- ✓ Traffic management
- ✓ Adult and children’s social care, including safeguarding

If you wish to report any of these issues you can either call **0300 111 8000**, email: [**highways@staffordshire.gov.uk**](mailto:highways@staffordshire.gov.uk) online at: [**www.staffordshire.gov.uk**](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk) or download: **MyStaffs App** to access key services. For road works, including closures and diversions, you can visit: [**www.roadworks.org**](http://www.roadworks.org) to get live updates.

South Staffordshire Council is responsible for:

- ✓ Bins and recycling
- ✓ Fly-tipping
- ✓ Fly-posting
- ✓ Licensing
- ✓ Street signs
- ✓ The Goodlife
- ✓ Planning decisions and enforcement

If you wish to report any of these issues you can either call **01902 696000**, email: [**info@sstaffs.gov.uk**](mailto:info@sstaffs.gov.uk) online at: [**www.sstaffs.gov.uk**](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk) or download: **MyStaffs App** to access key services. The Goodlife: [**www.southstaffordshire.thegoodlife.uk.net/**](http://www.southstaffordshire.thegoodlife.uk.net/)

Brewwood and Coven Parish Council is responsible for:

- ✓ Allotments
- ✓ Playing fields
- ✓ Bus shelters
- ✓ Public toilets
- ✓ Benches
- ✓ Amenity areas

If you wish to report any of these issues you can call **01902 850809** email: [**brewwoodparish@btconnect.com**](mailto:brewwoodparish@btconnect.com) online at [**www.brewwoodandcovenparish.org.uk**](http://www.brewwoodandcovenparish.org.uk) or find us on **Facebook**.

This is not an exhaustive list and you can, of course, always contact the Parish Council for advice and assistance on any local issues that you are concerned about.

Annual Precept Meeting

The Parish Council will be setting its annual precept for the financial year 2019-20 in December 2018.

The Precept is the money that the Council collects from South Staffordshire Council, paid for from local Council Tax.

It is spent by the Parish Council on the maintenance and improvement of the Parish Council's assets including the three playing fields in Bishop's Wood, Brewwood and Coven, two skate board parks, a number of amenity areas, Sandy Lane WCs, Coven changing rooms, the Bront, the Parish council office, Coven and Coven Heath allotments, benches and bus shelters.

In addition to this, each year the Council awards grants to local groups, e.g. three village halls, Christmas Lights Committees in all four villages and Brewwood Parish Sports Association. Other beneficiaries have been Coven Scouts, Barnfield Sandbeds, Brewwood Music Festival, the First Responders, Brewwood Bowling Club, and many more deserving groups.

If you are involved in a local community group please visit our website and download a grant application form in order to apply for a grant for next year.



Christmas Lights Switch-On Events



Brewood – Brewood's switch-on event takes place on Sunday 25th November, between 2.30pm and 7.00pm. Children from all the local schools will be singing on stage and there will be the usual attractions of children's rides, BBQ, tombola, raffle stalls and mulled wine. Santa will be in his grotto waiting to see excited children who can have their faces painted as part of the family party atmosphere.

Bishop's Wood - The switch-on of the Bishops Wood Christmas lights will take place this year on Friday 30th November at Bishop's Wood Village Hall commencing at 6:30 pm. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served with musical entertainment provided by popular local group the Bishop's Wood Babes.

Coven – Coven's switch-on will be on Saturday 1st December. The event will be opened at 4.30pm by the Parish Council Chairman Diane Holmes and the entertainment will be by South Staffordshire Community Pop Choir starting at 5.00pm. The switch-on will be undertaken by Alan Badger, a local resident who bid for the privilege to raise funds for St Paul's First School, following the flooding earlier in 2018.

Coven Heath - Coven Heath's switch-on will be on 1st December at 6.30pm. Residents will enjoy festive music, mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine, which have been all donated by residents. This year the lights will be switched on by Coven Heath's youngest resident and Father Christmas will be residing in his Christmas grotto to give presents to the children.

Brewood Defibrillator is Replaced

A replacement defibrillator has been installed in Brewwood on the wall of the Co-op Store, thanks to a donation of over £2,000 from The Midcounties Co-operative and additional donations from a number of local groups, who were all present at the unveiling by the Chairman of the Parish Council Anne Holmes. Members of the local community have been extremely supportive of the initiative.

The Midcounties Co-operative's carrier bag fund donation has not only enabled the defibrillator to be installed, but also covered the service agreements for the next three years, as well as providing replacement equipment and a free counselling service. The fund uses money collected from the Government plastic bag levy in its South Staffordshire stores to help local causes.

The unveiling also featured a two-hour training session delivered by the Community Heartbeat Trust, one of the groups to have supported the project extensively, providing a defibrillator on loan until a permanent one could be installed. The session was attended by twenty-two people, including colleagues from the local The Midcounties Co-operative, Rotary and Brewwood and Coven Parish Council.

Good Life Energy - hassle free and easy!

Call South Staffordshire Council's Good Life Energy Team on 03333 058671 or email info@cebltd.com

In an era when switching energy provider has become ever more confusing, the Good Life Energy Team are available to help you. The Good Life Energy Scheme has been set up by South Staffordshire Council to help both residents and businesses obtain a better understanding of their energy bills and get the best price for you.

Good Life Energy was initially a 'grass roots' project developed to help the community with the aim of making switching energy suppliers hassle free and easy.

Local businesses and residents told the team that they find their energy bills confusing, don't have time to look around or the expertise to resolve problems. Many also said they still had loyalty to an energy company or have just had a bad experience trying to switch by themselves. These are the people that could be paying the highest amount for their energy.

If you are a resident or a local business we would urge you to get in touch with the Good Life Energy team for free, talk to them or attend one of the energy surgeries going on in the district this autumn and winter. It's all part of the personal service we offer to any Good Life Energy customers. The next surgery will be held at :-

**Brewood Community Library
Friday 23rd November from 2.30 - 4.30pm.**

Go along, meet the team. Take your energy bills with you to see if they can save you some money.

Multi-Use-Games-Area?

Sometimes a grassy field is not enough. The Parish Council is considering a MUGA in Brewood playing field, perhaps with an all-weather surface, so that games can be played even when the grass field is wet. There are many styles that could be used... with a wall, with basketball or netball nets, marked out or not – the designs are varied. What do you think? Please let the Parish Council know via a note, an email or through our Facebook page.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Council Office:

35 Stafford Street,
Brewood,
ST19 9DX

Tel. 01902 850809

Or find us on Facebook

Open 9.30am to 12.30pm
Monday to Friday.

Meetings start at 7.00pm

Clerk:

Maggie Birtles PSLCC

**Assistant Clerk:
Gemma Jones.**

Voluntary Car Scheme:

Tel. 01902 851786

**Car Scheme Co-ordinator:
Sofena Phillips.**

Proposed Tong Garden Village

The Parish Council is monitoring any possible development in Tong, whose Parish Council borders on Bishop's Wood. At a meeting on Monday 12th November 2018, Tong Parish Council again discussed the possibility of development around Tong. Whilst the formal consultation of Shropshire County Council Plan is not due until the spring of 2019, there is still the possibility of "industrial development of regional if not national importance" in this area. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Brewood Parish Sports Association

We have been asked by the BPSA to remind people that the exercising of dogs on its land is not permitted and anyone found doing so could face prosecution.

The Parish Council endeavours to distribute this newsletter in a timely manner but sometimes this is not possible. There may be occasions when you receive your copy after some events have taken place. This is due to circumstances beyond our control.

Email the Parish Council:
brewoodparish@btconnect.com

Visit our website:
www.brewoodandcovenparish.org.uk

Find and like us on: Facebook.
Report all dog fouling to **South Staffordshire Council.**

Staffordshire County Council have responsibility for roads and pavements across Staffordshire:

Please report problems such as pot holes, street lights, blocked gullies to: 0300 111 8000

Email: highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

Online at: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Or download: MyStaffs App to access key services.