



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

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

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:

**14 & 28 March, 11 & 25 April, 9
& 30 May.**

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.



Best Kept Village Competition 2019

It only seems five minutes since we put the Christmas decorations into the attic and now our thoughts turn to summer, particularly as we have already had some warm sunny days at the end of February! Brewood will be entering the Best Kept Village Competition again this year and hopes to do as well as last year, when it won the best large village in the whole of Staffordshire. For the past couple of years Brewood has been the only entrant in the Parish. If you live in Coven, Bishop's Wood or Coven Heath why not get a working group together and enter? The more villages that enter the better the competition!

There are three rounds of judging in May, June and July, and if successful, a final County judging round. We are not told when the judges will visit, so will need to be prepared! The judges are looking for a tidy village, free from litter (including cigarette ends), attractive public spaces and evidence of a whole community effort.

Dog fouling continues to be a blight, in Brewood, Bishop's Wood and Coven, so please pick up after your pets. 1st Coven St Paul's Scouts have been busy making 'dog poo' bag dispensers from used plastic bottles which will be dotted around Coven village. South Staffordshire Council has donated 1000 'poo bags' to keep the dispensers well stocked for the first few months, please use them if you forget to take bags with you!

There is still time to cut back any branches and hedges which overhang footpaths or pavements, before the onset of rapid growth in late spring. Overhanging branches not only look unsightly but can be dangerous; vehicles trying to avoid them are often forced into the paths of oncoming traffic and even onto the pavement.

The Parish Council continues to carry out maintenance and improvement works around our four villages including refurbishing fingerposts, bus shelters and benches. Our handyman can be seen cutting back overgrown verges, planting flowers in our amenity areas, regularly litter picking outlying areas and keeping the weeds down on footpaths.

Please be considerate when parking your vehicle. If you obstruct the footpath, wheelchair or mobility scooter users and people with pushchairs sometimes have no alternative but to use the road. Grass verges become churned up and unsightly, and in narrow streets, emergency vehicles are prevented from getting through.

The Parish Council is happy to sponsor each community group entering the BKV competition by funding the cost of the entry fee and official posters. We also provide a photocopying and laminating service and fund prizes for the children's poster competition.



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REMINDER – PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2nd MAY 2019

Thursday the 2nd May 2019 will see 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. **If you wish to stand for election, you have until 4pm on 3rd April to submit your nomination papers.**

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.

Brewood Open Gardens Weekend

Brewood Open Gardens is an annual event which this year will happen over the weekend of 6th and 7th July from 11.00am until 5.00pm each day. Please look out for posters around the village nearer the time for further information on how to enter and where tickets and programmes can be purchased.

Bus Services in the Parish

The Parish Council has been approached on many occasions when the bus service has left passengers stranded at the bus stop. Unfortunately we do not have any control over the service or service provision, it is either the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council or the independent bus company concerned. We are regularly updated on the timetable changes which seem to have fewer and fewer regular buses. We will continue to lobby for a better service on your behalf but the argument is often that there are fewer and fewer service users and running empty buses is not cost effective.

Grants Awarded by Your Parish and District Councillors during 2018/2019**Village Halls:**

Bishop's Wood Village Hall, Jubilee Hall, Brewood and Coven Memorial Hall each received **£2,880**. Coven Heath Community Association received **£700**.

Christmas Lights Committees:

Brewood and Coven received **£2,250** each.

Bishop's Wood and Coven Heath had an allowance of up to **£200** for their expenditure on Christmas lights. Event insurance cover was provided by the Parish Council.

Community Groups:

Brewood Parish Sports Association (Engleton Lane) received a grant of **£3,000** to cover grounds maintenance and building insurance of the changing rooms.

A donation of **£150** was made to **Brewood Royal British Legion** for poppy wreaths.

Brewood Music Festival received **£2,500** which was put towards ensuring that entry to the Sunday afternoon event was free of charge.

Brewood Tennis Club received **£1,500** towards replacement floodlights.

Friends of Barnfield Sandbeds was awarded **£250** which provided native species of plants around the site.

Brewood Bowling Club were awarded **£5,000** which they intend to keep and use as match funding towards a new club house.

Stafford Samaritans were given **£30**.

Brewood Women's Institute received a grant of **£200** for replacement planters and plants.

Brewood Chess Circle received **£500** for some digital chess clocks.

Campaigners against West Midlands Interchange were awarded **£1,000** specifically towards legal expenses.

Each year South Staffordshire District Councillors are allowed a £500 budget to be spent for the benefit of their wards. This year the three District Councillors for Brewood and Coven and Coven Heath wards used their budgets as follows:

District Councillor Joyce Bolton gave £250 to 1st Coven St Paul's Scout Group for shelving and equipment in their shed and £250 to Brewood Jubilee Hall towards the wi-fi system.

District Councillor Diane (Anne) Holmes gave £200 towards Coven Players for their pantomime production and £300 to the Royal British Legion in Brewood.

District Councillor Wendy Sutton gave £500 to the Royal British Legion in Brewood.

The opportunity to apply for grants during 2019/20 has now passed but community groups can apply in December for grants in 2020/21.



Your Community Speed Watch Needs You!

This is a national initiative where local communities join with the Police to monitor the speed of vehicles. The aims of the initiative are to help local people address speeding problems in their own area, increase driver and public awareness of the dangers of speeding and improve community safety. Community Speed Watch (CSW) teams use hand held radar equipment at pre-identified locations to check vehicle speeds. Registration numbers and makes of vehicles exceeding the local speed limit are recorded. These details are then collated and passed to the central coordinator at Staffordshire Police, where they are processed and letters are issued.

Drivers found to be speeding are issued with an advisory warning letter by the Police requesting that they slow down and observe the speed limit. If the same vehicle is caught on a second or subsequent occasion by any Community Speed Watch team a follow-up final letter is issued. If the vehicle has been caught speeding through any Community Speed Watch for the third time within 12 months, the vehicle will be checked and information passed to the local policing team who will organize for the keeper to be visited and warned. We currently have nine fully trained volunteers, including some Parish Councillors.

If you would like to become a Community Speed Watch volunteer, please contact the Clerk for further information.

St John's School Bishop's Wood

This year, St John's School, Bishop's Wood celebrates 50 years on its present site. On 11th May, the school will be hosting a Reunion and Family Fun day for all, at which they will be covering the history of the school and exhibiting memorabilia.

Watch out for more information locally!

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.

Parish Council Allotments

The Parish Council has two allotment sites; one in Coven at Chambley Green and one in Coven Heath, just off the M54 motorway/A449 Stafford Road at Ball Lane.

The annual rent of an allotment at either site are £25.00 for a full plot.

Renewal notices have been sent out to all our allotments holders during February and as a result we currently have two vacancies (one at each site).

If you would like to apply for an allotment please get in touch with the Clerk.

The plots will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

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.