

Looking back on 2023-24

Update following the AGM of the Parish Council held on Thursday 16th May at Parsons Meade Community Centre.

Chair: Cllr Carl Squires

Vice Chair: Cllr Linda Hook

Clerk: Fiona Young

"We are a mixed team on the council, some very experienced like Linda, Kathryn and Richard, and we welcomed a new councillor; Pete Spink who has brought new and fresh ideas to the council. Between us, we are all passionate that West Hunsbury is a safe and attractive place for our community." Cllr Carl Squires.

To find out more about your Parish Councillors please visit our website.

Grants

The council continue to issue grants to local organisations, this year that included £750 for Space 2 Talk and £264 for the Friends of West Hunsbury Parks. We were pleased to be able to help out Hunsbury Hill School at Christmas time and continue to provide gifts for the leavers every year. *We always welcome applications that benefit our community.*

Events

In April, we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with decorations around the parish including scarecrows, flags and floral displays. Thanks go to our friends at Hunsbury Hill WI and the Friends of WH Parks for their fantastic displays.

Unfortunately the bi-annual fireworks had to be cancelled due to flooding, we have met with WNC Officers to look into the reason why this part of Ladybridge park flooded so badly.

We put up a Christmas Tree outside St Benedict's Church, the third we've done, and supported a lovely carol service under the tree which we hope to repeat again.

We're looking forward to delivering more events in 2024 in partnership with St Benedict's and Friends of WH Parks.





New Website

In July, we launched a new website with improved accessibility. You'll find links to all local services, a calendar of local events, and all of the Parish Council meeting papers. We also share to the Parish Facebook.

Planning

We deal with the various planning issues that we have to comment on. There are a couple of new developments planned on our doorstep so our role is to ensure any development is in keeping with the area, traffic is controlled, and to ensure we get a proportion of money from developers to improve the local area.

Street Furniture

In October, we installed a bench in Claystones open space, this followed an open consultation on the area and what people felt it was lacking. We also undertook a continual upgrade of the grit bins and waste bins, six have been delivered so far and a further six ready to go.

Bus Service

We were disappointed with the loss of the Number 3 bus and have continued to work with WNC and Stagecoach to reinstate a service, the loss has caused hardship and distress to many residents. We now have a new Number 13 bus service which goes to Tesco and the town centre however we will continue correspondence with WNC to address concerns.

Finance

We are not like a lot of the other Parishes in that we have very few assets to manage, as a result our precept; the amount we raise from the households is quite small, around £27,000 per year and is one of the lowest in the County. We kept the increase in the precept to a small amount this year to avoid dipping into our reserves.

Looking forward

Thank you to all that fed into the questionnaire for our Parish Plan, we will continue to develop this and share the results. Green lane – the Drivers path has been a continual battle hopefully we will see some more improvements here as we work with WNC Councillors. We want to build on our relationships with other groups in the area and partner with them on various initiatives. We're always looking for volunteers to help so please do get involved and help support your local area, Thank you.

