

SHIRLAND & HIGHAM

PARISH COUNCIL

WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

A Parish Council is the lowest of three tiers of local government, the others being the District Council and the County Council. Clearly, the Parish Council, being composed of local people and meeting locally each month, is the most easily accessible part of the democratic system and it is rightly used by residents wishing to question or raise concerns about services, request help or make suggestions. The power of the Parish Council is limited – but it does have ready access to the next two tiers of government. The Parish Council can help focus local opinion and represent it to the outside world as well as carrying out those local tasks on a small scale.

Shirland and Higham Parish Council owns the Parish Hall and its site in Shirland, the Parish Sports ground, Pavilion and MUGA in Stonebroom, the Shirland Cemetery, Play Areas in Shirland and Stonebroom, a selection of bus shelters, grit bins, lamp posts and holds the Stonebroom Recreation Ground in Trust. It recently purchased land and built a BMX track in Mickley for the young people of the parish. It also administers allotments in Mickley and Stonebroom. It is responsible for dog and litter bins, oversight of footpaths and hedges etc., and is consulted on planning matters by the District Council.

In order to ensure proper representation of local matters it works closely with County and District Councils, the police and other agencies. Twelve Councillors are elected for a period of four years and the Council meets every month except August either in the Parish Hall in Shirland or the Parish Pavilion in Stonebroom. The public are

welcome to attend and 15 minutes is allotted to the public to raise issues or comment on parish matters. A separate Parish Meeting is held in March when the public can raise any matters and vote on resolutions – although the Council is not obliged to act on them. The Annual General Meeting of the Council is held in May when the Chairman and committees are elected. The Council has the right to raise a Precept and this is shown on the annual Council Tax notification received by ratepayers from the District Council. The Council is also able to make small grants to local groups who otherwise would struggle from a lack of funding.

Meeting agendas are posted on noticeboards around the Parish and minutes are available in Post Offices, parish buildings and on the parish website.

To contact the Parish Council please telephone Tom Tait the Parish Clerk on 0203 371 7613 during office hours or email: shirland.higham.pc@icloud.com.



**A MESSAGE FROM BARRY BARNES,
CHAIR OF SHIRLAND & HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Hello everyone,

January 2015 sees the introduction of our newsletter, which the Parish Council is putting together for our parishioners. As Chairman I am delighted to inform you that our Clerk has asked Councillors to give their individual input into the newsletter and I hope this will make interesting reading.

Last year, 2014, was busy and projects were at times challenging. Importantly, your Parish Council purchased land at Shirland for the extension of the Cemetery. This is in a beautiful country setting ideal for people to visit their loved ones.

We also purchased about eight acres of land at Mickley just to the side of the village hall. This is divided into two fields; the field nearest the village hall is the site of our 'state of the art' BMX track. This was built as a direct result of the young people of Mickley getting involved and attending Parish Council meetings with youth workers from Rykneld. They then started to raise funds by participating in sponsored bike rides in the summer holidays.



The Parish Council started searching for funding. Our Clerk at that time was Niall Johnson who retired in August after eighteen years in service to the Parish, and he contacted funders such as Viridor, Rykneld Homes, the Police Commissioner Alan Charles and Apolo who are contractors for Rykneld Homes, to achieve this project with the Parish Council. Also funding was raised to enable us to build the smaller scooter and skate board track for the younger children. We must not forget the youths of Mickley who raised over eight hundred pounds! Well done guys!

Below: Police Commissioner Alan Charles and Chair of the Parish Council Barry Barnes at the opening of the BMX Track.



The track is well used by all and was built by a company called 'Bike Track' who has a good reputation for building these tracks all over the country. Alan Charles, Police Commissioner, who was delighted to be involved, officially opened the track. He told our young people that they have something to be proud of and wished them well. Also in attendance were a professional BMX Team demonstrating their skills that were very impressive. Among them was Britain's champion so the challenge is there now let's have a number one BMX champion from our parish! I would like to thank all the agencies that were involved in helping us to achieve this project.

On request from parishioners, we have installed dog waste bins in areas where there was fouling in an effort to make public places more pleasant to visit. There is still a long way to go in trying to control this situation and the Council asks for your support in reporting any problem areas. We try to react to requests as soon as possible after receiving a report. Also, in response to requests from parishioners, two new bus shelters have

been sited, one on Stretton Top, Mickley and another by Stonebroom Church.

The villages for some time now have been suffering with poor road and path surfaces, which we report regularly to the County Council. Unfortunately, they cite cut back in funds from Government as the main reason for road repairs being delayed. Both the Parish Clerk and myself will continue to pressure them for the necessary repairs to be completed.

I mentioned earlier in my report the retirement of Niall Johnson from the post of Clerk. Our new Clerk, I am happy to say, he has been in office since September. He is Dr Tom Tait who lives on Hallfields Rise. Tom is proving to be a very efficient and proactive member of the Parish Council team and puts his management and business skills to good use. I look forward to continue working with him in the future.

Kind regards,

Cllr Barry Barnes.

SHIRLAND & HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2015

January	Monday 19th
February	Monday 23rd
March	Monday 23rd
April	Monday 13th
May	Monday 11th
June	Monday 15th
July	Monday 20th
August	<i>No meeting</i>
September	Monday 21st
October	Monday 16th
November	Monday 19th
December	Monday 21st

MAY 2015 ELECTIONS

Do you want to do something positive? Would you like to help make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community?

Then why not stand for election to become a Councillor on YOUR Parish Council?

Who is eligible?

Any person over the age of 18 who is a citizen of the UK, the European Community or the Commonwealth can be a Councillor if they are an elector, work in or live in the parish or live within three miles of the parish boundary. You don't have to belong to a political party to be a Parish Councillor.



Key points:

- A Councillor's normal term of office is 4 years;
- There are 12 Parish Councillor positions to be filled;
- A Councillor is a holder of public office and not a volunteer, but the position is unpaid;
- There is no cost incurred in standing – no deposit, no fees or charges – other than any costs you choose to incur in publicising yourself (and there are statutory limits to what you can spend – the vast majority of candidates spend nothing).

Timetable

- Publication of notice of election: Monday 30 March 2015 (at the latest);
- Deadline for receipt of nomination paper confirming you are standing: Thursday 9th April at 4pm (must be hand delivered to NEDDC election officials – by appointment);
- Publication of those who have stood for the election: Friday 10th April at 4pm (at the latest) – if there are 12 or less candidates then all will be elected in an uncontested election, but the candidates don't take office as a Councillor until Monday 11th May 2015 (4 days after Polling Day)
- Polling day: Thursday 7th May 2015 7am to 10pm (General Election day) – if there are more than 12 candidates then voting will take place.
- New Councillors take office and old Councillors leave office: Monday 11th May 2015.
- Annual Parish Council meeting: Must take place between 11th and 24th May 2015.

MY ROLE AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR - *JULIE BACON*

I have always had a strong desire to get involved in in the work of my neighborhood and gain some insight into different levels of local government so I went along to a meeting of my Parish Council.

I was surprised at the diversity of issues discussed. I found myself wanting to attend the next month's meeting to find out the outcome of the action agreed ... it gets addictive!

After attending many meetings I joined the Council as a 'co-opted' member when a place became vacant. I have enjoyed the ups and downs, challenges and successes when sitting round the table with my fellow councillors ever since.

To be a councillor you need: a desire to help fellow parishioners with problems that you can help solve with the support of the council; to be brave when you may be publically criticised for the action you took; to be prepared to look at the bigger picture and take advice when required; a commitment to read all correspondence you receive and stick to agreed deadlines; attend all the meetings and sub committee meetings as appropriate; to be a Team Player. You are part of a team and remember that together everyone achieves more; and to actively participate in the work of the council.

One project that I was proud to have been involved with was the building of the new pavilion in Stonebroom. My role was helping commission the interior décor and met with the architect and fellow councilors on a regular basis.

Seeing the new building and sports facility being used regularly by the young people of the parish makes me very proud to have been part of the project.

If you have found my ramblings of interest or would just like to attend a Parish Council meeting to find out what takes place yourself, then just come along. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

STONEBROOM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Stonebroom community centre is in the very heart of Stonebroom. Currently it is in use every day offering a range of activities to the people of the parish including kickboxing, line dancing, generation group, bingo, dancing, tai-chi, yoga and jujitsu just to name a few!

The Christmas Carnival Committee holds their meetings at the centre and are always looking for new volunteers.

The Christmas Fair this year was an unqualified success and the Parish Council extend their grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the event.

If you would like to attend a session or want to find out how you can book the centre for your event then contact Cllr Pauline Stevens:-

Telephone 01773 873685
Email paulinestevens7@talktalk.net

THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is situated in Shirland and is owned by the Parish Council. A committee made up of local residents, parish councillors, and members of some of the groups who use it manages the hall. The Parish Hall Committee is a registered charity. The team are always looking for new volunteers to give a few hours of their time to support the valuable work the committee undertake on behalf of the local community.

The Parish Hall is wonderful resource for all residents of the Parish young and old. It can be hired for a variety of events including, celebrations, anniversaries, keep fit, various educational classes and fairs. The hall offers good access for people with mobility needs.

Currently the following weekly events are being held at the hall:-

Tuesday	7pm - 9pm	Slimming World
Wednesday	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Weight Watchers
Thursday	7pm - 9:15pm	Bingo (Transport can be arranged at a small charge)
1st, 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month	7pm - 10pm	Sequence Dance
2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month	7pm - 10:30pm	Sequence Dance
1st Sunday of each month	9am - 11:30am	Table Top Sale
3rd Sunday of every other month	10am- 2pm	Craft Fayre

All activities are open to everyone and you will receive a warm welcome.

More activities could be run at the hall; mums and grandparents, why not start a group in the daytime where you can meet for a chat, make new friends and have a coffee whilst the toddlers play and learn to socialise?

Whilst the children are at school why not give some time to yourself? Do keep-fit, learn Yogo or Tai-Chi, we can help to find instructors if there is enough interest. Do you have a hobby that you could teach to others? Why not start a club? It only takes a few interested people to do this, we can help with the advertising, soon your club will grow. Could you run a Youth Group - football training for local youth – organise a basketball team or 7 aside football? There are lots of activities that could be held in YOUR Parish Hall if there are enough interested, willing people to organise them.

The hall is also available to hire for parties, weddings, and group events, occasions to raise money for charity or local groups. The cost to hire the hall is: main hall - £10/hour weekdays, £12/hour weekends; Small room £8/hour any day; Kitchen £5 or £10 per event; Bar £25 per event.

There is a 10% discount for residents of Shirland & Higham Parish (Mickley, Stonebroom, Shirland, Higham and Toad Hall Furnace)

If you would like to hire the hall, run a group/club or require information on any of the events being run, please contact Parish Councillor Anne Brown by phone: 01773 831749 or email: anne.brown@shirlandandhighamparishcouncil.co.uk.



Above: The Village Hall is a great venue for a variety of parish activities.

SHIRLAND CEMETERY

Shirland Cemetery adjoins the Graveyard of St Leonard's Church and is the property of the Parish Council who took over the management of the Cemetery nine years ago. The Council's intention is to provide an attractive amenity and maintain reasonable charges. In consequence burial fees are set at a level sufficient to cover maintenance costs and are lower than most others in North East Derbyshire. However, charges are increased for non-residents of the Parish.

Inevitably there have to be regulations governing the Cemetery and the erection

of memorials. This is to ensure that the Cemetery remains a peaceful and attractive place where loved ones can be remembered in pleasant surroundings. Shirland is a "lawn cemetery" – that is to say, a grassed area in which monuments can be set. The rules relating to monuments are there simply to maintain a degree of uniformity and so that maintenance can be carried out properly to keep the Cemetery clean, tidy and well-tended for anyone's benefit.

Details of current charges may be obtained from the Parish Clerk.



SAFER ROADS IN SHIRLAND AND HIGHAM PARISH

Shirland & Higham Parish Council was one of ten parish councils in the North East Derbyshire area have clubbed together to provide a speed camera for police to use in a joint bid to make local roads safer.

Ashover, Heath and Holmewood, Morton, North Wingfield, Pilsley, Shirland and Higham, Stretton, Sutton cum Duckmanton, Tupton and Wingerworth parish councils have all contributed to the campaign, and provided funding for the camera and maintenance.

Joanne Taylor, a local clerk representing the councils, said: "Local residents regularly raise concerns regarding safety and speeding in their community and look to their local parish councillors for help."

Officers plan to use the camera in the area to help educate drivers, for enforcement checks and in regular speed awareness campaigns.

Sgt. Les Rawson, of the local Safer Neighbourhood policing teams, said: "Speeding and road safety is a concern to local residents and this device will be a real benefit to our teams, and the officers who work in the Clay Cross area.

"We already have a great partnership with the local parish councils and will use the camera as part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our roads safe, as well as focusing on any areas which may have been highlighted as an issue to the parish councils."

Below: *Shirland & Higham Clerk Tom Tait testing the camera with Barry Barnes (fourth left) and various members of the Safety Partnership Scheme.*

