



Wilton Town Council Newsletter

SPRING 2017

Welcome to the Town Council's Spring Newsletter

Dear Resident

The lead-up to Christmas involved a number of very enjoyable events. The lighting of the Christmas Tree with the new lights around the Market Square set the scene. I hope that those of you who came along found the event a very festive occasion. The Gurkha Welfare Trust held a fund-raising event in the Community Centre and the Thursday Club had a pre-Christmas lunch. Wilton and Barford Primary School gave a superb performance of their Nativity play. The Community Carol Service and the Midnight Service at St Mary and St Nicholas Church were both well attended. On Christmas Day an excellent lunch was served in the Community Centre for some forty local residents. Sincere thanks to the volunteer drivers and helpers who gave their time to make the event so successful.



I visited Downside, a sheltered housing facility in Bulbridge, following concerns about health and safety issues; particularly the lack of appropriate fire doors within the property. This turned out to be the case and a letter to Wiltshire Council resulted in action being taken. Three Wiltshire Council officers visited the premises on 25 January and have promised further follow-up action.

Precept

Councillors have been working on the precept to ensure that any Council Tax rise for the coming year is proportionate and fair.

For a band D property an increase of £10.68 will apply for 2017/18 i.e. £1.06 per month. Wilton Town Council (WTC) had expected to meet the full cost of £15,000 for the Wilton Parkway Railway Station feasibility study, however, Wilton Estate has very generously contributed two thirds towards this cost. This is greatly appreciated and helps to keep the rate increase to a modest level. As mentioned in a previous edition, WTC took on the public toilets in April 2016. WTC is planning to refurbish the toilets and a provision has been made to ensure that they are maintained properly.

Strategic Planning

In order to plan appropriately for the future, WTC engaged the services of the Local Government Resource Centre (LGRC). A Saturday meeting was held in December 2016 to brain-storm the issues that WTC considered that it might face over the next five years. We also identified more difficult aspects such as taking on additional Wiltshire Council (WC) assets and responsibilities.

These might be, but not limited to:

The Sheep Fair Field - other WC buildings - increased planning involvement - the weekly market - the Charter Fair.

EV Naish Ltd

On the 12 January 2017, the Southern Area Planning Committee was held at City Hall to consider the application from EV Naish Ltd for the development of the Felt Mills.

The main issues of concern remained as those discussed at the public meeting held at Wilton Community Centre in May 2016. The application was rejected by the Southern Area Planning Committee by majority vote.

We await further news on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Batchelder

Mayor of Wilton

CONTACTS

Wilton Town Clerk

Mrs Catherine Purves

Council Offices, Kingsbury Square, Wilton, SP2 0BA

Phone: 01722 742093

e-mail: clerk@wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

The Town Council Offices are open to the public from Monday to Friday, between 10.00am and 12.00noon.

Further contact details and information are available from the Wilton Town Council website:-

www.wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

3/4/5 March 2017

The Great British Spring Clean, see Wiltshire Council's Website

17 March 2017 Mad Hatters' Ball, Michael Herbert Hall. The Mayor's fund raising event. Tickets £15 each from Wilton Hardware or the Mayor Cllr Batchelder. Deadline for tickets 13 March 2017. Admission by ticket only.

Mid-March 2017 Notice of Election published by Wiltshire Council

4 April 2017 Nomination papers to be submitted to the Wiltshire Council by 4pm in person

Until 23 April 2017 at Mottisfont Abbey, Hampshire Rex Whistler: More than Murals Exhibition Opening Times 11am - 4pm

4 May 2017 Election Day

EVERY WEEK

Thursdays

Wilton Charter Market 8am to 3pm
Market Square

Fridays

Wilton Country Market 10am to 11am
held at the Community Centre

Wilton Town Cemetery

Wilton Town Cemetery is open daily to the public, and is located at the western end of Shaftesbury Road. Originally opened and dedicated in 1891, it was a chapel, if wished, and a toilet for use by mourners.

By law, all interments must be checked by a representative of the



extended to its present size in the late 1920's, and so far has received the remains of over 2000 people.

The Town Council is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the cemetery generally, whilst families are responsible for their relatives' graves. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for the memorials of thirteen identified soldiers who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

The cemetery records are kept at the Town

Council offices, and the Clerk is always happy to try and help relatives locate the graves of past family members, only please remember to provide as much information as possible - the date - even the year of death is very helpful.

Facilities also include a waiting room, which can be adapted for use as

Town Council, prior to being placed in the ground. This role is currently carried out by Cllr Matthews, who also keeps a watchful eye on the cemetery on behalf of the Town Council.



The current fees for the cemetery are available to view on the Town Council's website, but if you have any queries, please contact the Clerk in the first instance at:-

clerk@wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk
or by telephone 01722 742093

Rex Whistler

On show at Mottisfont Abbey, near Romsey, until 23 April 2017, **Rex Whistler: More than Murals** includes large-scale paintings to working designs, sketches and some personal items. The exhibition borrows work from Plas Newydd, the Whistler Archive at the Salisbury Museum and the Welsh Guards. There is also the well-known portrait of Edith Olivier, a former Mayor of Wilton.

Edith Olivier MBE (31 December 1872 – 10 May 1948) was an English writer, also noted for acting as hostess to a circle of well-known writers, artists, and composers in her native Wiltshire.



She formed a profound friendship with Rex Whistler and acted as a frequent hostess to an elite, artistic, set which included Cecil Beaton, Siegfried Sassoon, William Walton, and Osbert Sitwell.



Edith Olivier as Mayor of Wilton
from a photograph by Cecil Beaton

Wilton Town Council Elections 2017

Being a Town Councillor is a rewarding experience. You get to know and understand your community in greater depth. You may be faced with issues that you have not previously given much thought to – planning applications, roads, parking, flooding, installation

from Wiltshire Council's website, once the Notice of Election has been published.

In order to be able to stand for election as a parish or town councillor, you must qualify as being eligible for office, i.e. an elector who is over 18, who is a

papers must be hand delivered in person to the nomination office of the unitary authority – which will be the Five Rivers Leisure Centre and not to the offices of Wilton Town Council.

On 5 April 2017 by 4pm a Statement of Persons nominated will be published. Where there is the same number or fewer candidates as seats, the notice will name all those standing for election and it will be deemed that they are elected without contest. The statement sets out whether a poll is needed to be held on Thursday 4 May 2017; whether there are any vacancies on the council; whether the council is quorate or not (the council must have three or a third of the number of seats filled, whichever is the greater number). Subject to the Council being quorate,



of new Christmas Tree lights and so on. You will also be offered the opportunity to attend various training days to help develop your knowledge and gain experience of what is required to be a parish or town councillor. If you are thinking of becoming a councillor for the first time, The Good Councillor's Guide, which is available from www.nalc.gov.uk is worth reading. Alternatively, speak to any of the current Town Councillors or the Town Clerk.

The Town Council is formed of eleven councillors, from whom the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected for the forthcoming year.

In May 2017, not only will there be elections for Wiltshire Council, but also for Wilton Town Council. A Notice of Election will be published by Wiltshire Council in mid-March 2017. If you are interested in becoming a Councillor, a limited number of nomination packs will be available from the Clerk or, downloadable directly

Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a member state of the EU. Additionally you are qualified if you have, during the whole of the 12 months before the day on which you are nominated as a candidate or the day of the election, resided in the locality or within three miles of it, or occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises therein or had your principal or only place of work there.

The deadline for submitting your nomination papers is 4pm Tuesday 4 April 2017. Nomination

where there are not enough validly nominated candidates at the election, the elected councillors may co-opt others to fill the seats after they have taken office on Monday 8 May 2017.

If a poll is held for Wilton Town Council on 4 May 2017, due to there being more candidates than seats available on the Council, following the election, any previous councillors who are not successful will cease to be councillors. The new Council comes into operation from Monday 8 May 2017.



Parish Steward Update

The Parish Steward Scheme has been in operation since October 2016. As a community we have the services of the Parish Steward for two days per month. In that time a number of activities have been addressed to help enhance and improve the look of our Town. So far our Parish Steward has:



Before



After

- Cleared weeds and other debris from the top of road gullies around the town.
- Cleared silt that has come off footpaths and bridleways at the bottom of the Hollows and along Water Ditchampton – thereby reducing the amount of silt and debris getting into our surface water drainage system.
- Cleared leaves that have accumulated on footpaths in Russell Street and Minster Street (although technically this is not part of his role).
- Cleared the Pound Meadows area.
- Strimmed long grass around lamp-posts and bus stops.

It is important that we use the services of the Parish Steward each month. It is also vital that Wilton as a community gets involved in letting the Town Council know if there are any issues that it would be appropriate

for the Parish Steward to undertake. Remember it is just one man in a van with hand tools, so requests do need to be realistic.

The photos (left) show just how effective the Parish Steward can be in improving the tidiness of our community. Our Parish Steward cleared the weeds and debris that had accumulated over several years in Victoria Road, which clearly shows an improvement.

The sorts of activities our Parish Steward can undertake are:

- Hand-clearing of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers.
- Hand-clearing of blocked drainage gullies, grip, culverts, pipes and pits which it is not possible to jet.

- Clearing of storm debris from the roads and footways.
- Pedestrian barriers preparation and painting.
- Securing existing small road signs, verge marker posts and supplied street nameplates.
- Hand cutting of grass and vegetation in visibility areas.
- Hand treatment of weeds.
- Hand clearance of encroaching growth and soil from footways.
- Repair of small potholes in roads and on footways (it may sometimes be more appropriate to log pot holes via Wiltshire Council's MyApp).

If you have any issue that you feel the Parish Steward could address, please let the Town Clerk know at clerk@wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk or Phone 01722 742093

Wilton Town Council Meetings

Most Town Council Meetings are held in the Council Chamber just off Kingsbury Square.



A Full Council meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm.

Members of the public are invited to attend Full Council and Committee Meetings. There is always an opportunity for you to raise issues when you attend. In addition to the monthly Full Council meeting, there is also the Amenities and Planning Committee which meets on the third Tuesday of the month and the Finance & General Purposes Committee which meets on the fourth Tuesday. The agenda for each meeting is posted on the Parish Council noticeboard on the Thursday before the meeting.

If you have a problem or concern about something locally, just get in touch with the Town Clerk on 01722 742093 and she will be able to advise you as to how you should proceed.

In the meantime, if you have something you'd like to tell the Town Council, please complete and send this form to the Town Clerk, Wilton Town Council, Council Offices, Kingsbury Square, Wilton, SP2 0BA. or email clerk@wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Dear Town Council

I think you should know about the following:

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Name:

Address:

Telephone No: