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**HEYBRIDGE BASIN PARISH COUNCIL**

**JANUARY/MARCH NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the latest edition of the Heybridge Basin Parish Council newsletter which will be the last newsletter of the current financial year.

**The Parish Council**

Since the last newsletter we have held three Parish Council meetings and, at these meetings we have

* Applied to the Local Highways Panel to erect white village gates with Heybridge Basin and the speed limit written on them at the entrance to the Basin,
* Invited tenders to report on the condition of the Conifers at the entrance to the Daisy Meadow Car Park,
* Invited tenders and appointed Internal Auditors for the 2020/2021 Financial Year,
* Updated the Parish Council Asset Schedule to reflect the purchase of two extra waste bins,
* Agreed the monthly bank reconciliations and payments and agreed the accounts for the nine months to 31st December 2020. All financial documents can be found on the Parish Council website,
* Reviewed and made recommendations to Maldon District Council about Planning Applications in the Basin,
* Continued investigating the income options for the Daisy Meadow Car Park,
* Continued investigating the provision of toilet facilities in the Daisy Meadow Car Park.

We are pleased to report that our application to County Councillor Durham for a Locality Fund Grant to purchase two waste bins for the Daisy Meadow Car Park has been successful. The new bins have been delivered and should be installed shortly. Our thanks to Councillor Durham for approving this grant.

We have, of course, also closed the Daisy Meadow Car Park. Council felt it was necessary to do this to reduce the number of visitors to the Basin to comply with the Government’s Covid-19 lockdown instructions. Unfortunately, we were suffering from the number of visitors to the Basin who were ignoring these lockdown instructions, who were not observing social distancing, and who were putting the lives of our residents at risk. We do realise that this has had a mixed reception from Parishioners and that the closure of the Car Park has resulted in an increase in on street parking with the adverse effect that has had on residents. We will be reviewing the situation at our next Council meeting on 6th April 2021. We understand that, when the single yellow line comes into effect on 1st April each year, some parishioners park their cars in the Daisy Meadow Car Park. Could those parishioners contact the Clerk and we will arrange for temporary permits to be issued until the date of our next meeting.

**The Village Amenities Working Party**

As we reported in our last newsletter we have formed a Village Amenities Working Party which is effectively a subcommittee of Council. The Working Party has met on a regular basis and is engaging with parishioners to find out what they want for the Basin in the future.

Additionally a member of the Working Party has been liaising with Maldon District Council to have two extra rubbish bins installed on the Sea Wall. The Council has met the cost of these bins.

**Elections**

We are scheduled to hold elections on 6th May 2021. As previously reported in the newsletter and, because elections were not held in May 2020, we currently have three Parish Councillors who were appointed by Maldon District Council and who will be stepping down on 6th May.

Although you may not have agreed with some of the decisions made by the current Parish Council they have worked hard and without reward on your behalf and for the benefit of the Community as a whole.

This is now your opportunity to stand for Council. Instead of criticising the Parish Council, stand for Council and contribute to the decisions they make. We meet once a month and, on occasions we may look to you to assist the Clerk in his duties.

Act now. Nomination papers can be obtained from Maldon District Council.

**Future Meetings**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held before the Council meeting on 6th April 2021. This is your opportunity to ask questions of the Parish Council. This will be a Zoom meeting and, if you wish to participate, please contact the Clerk prior to the meeting.

The Annual Council meeting will be held in May. Provisionally, this has been set for 11th May but, because of the uncertainty as to whether we will be able to hold this meeting using Zoom, the date and possibly the venue are subject to confirmation. This will be the first meeting following the elections.

**Vacancy**

The Clerk is currently on a fixed term contract until the elections and, following those elections he will be resigning. If you feel that you might be interested in taking on this role, please contact the current Clerk for a job description.