

Mareham le Fen Parish Council Newsletter

Chair of the Parish Council :Mel Percival

April 2022

Annual Parish Meeting 2022

It's been three year's since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2019. A sign that covid has had an impact. The Annual Parish Meeting is back. Annual Parish Meetings stretch back to the Middle Ages when the residents of settlements would meet in the vestry to discuss and decide local issues every year.

The law states that Annual Parish Meetings should take place between 1st March and 1st June every year when the registered electors come together to raise and discuss local issues. For those parishes with a parish council the meeting is convened by the Chair of the parish council, local parish councillors or a few electors. It is not a meeting of the parish council – it is a meeting of the residents of the parish.

The Chair of Mareham le Fen Parish Council, Mel Percival, will chair this year's meeting starting at **7pm on Wednesday 20th April 2022 being held in the Lancaster Hall at the Community Centre.** Tea and coffee will be available.

Anglian Water representatives have been invited to speak to the assembly about their services and particularly about the concerns raised by residents during recent planning consultations about the water and sewerage infrastructure. An opportunity will be offered for questions and answers.

Local groups and organisations are welcome to present in person or to submit a written report to be read out about their activities, particularly any changes that have arisen because of the pandemic or about their future plans.

Residents of Mareham le Fen parish are welcome to attend and raise issues during the open discussion. It is your chance to raise your concerns, issues and feedback – good and bad – and to hear the views of others.



Replacement of Commemorative Tree

Residents were unhappy to find that the commemorative tree had been cut down as the new housing development started on Main Street. Parish Councillor Peter Bourn contacted Gleeson, the developer for the site. They have issued the following statement to the parish council, "Gleeson is currently undergoing groundworks on its Birkwood development, located on the edge of the village.

Unfortunately, whilst completing works, a subcontractor caused damage to the village tree. Gleeson would like to sincerely apologise for the damage and upset caused and understand the importance of the tree. The company value its place within the community and will shortly be replacing it."

The parish council will keep in contact with Gleeson to ensure the replacement is suitable, delivered and its return is suitably marked.

Noticeboard Upgrade



The parish council noticeboard outside the Post Office/Shop has become rotten and was damaged in

Grass-cutting contractors

An open tendering exercise has been completed to appoint contractors for the next three years to undertake the cemetery, churchyard, roadside verge and footpath grass-cutting in Mareham le Fen. Two contractors have been appointed: Mr Lawrence will do the grass-cuts in the churchyard and Idverde will undertake regular grass-cutting elsewhere.

The parish council signs an annual agreement with Lincolnshire County Council which set most of the public highway verges and footpaths that must be cut. While the county council requires a minimum of three cuts a year the parish council has specified much more frequent grass cuts to keep the village tidy and allowing residents to walk around safely.

Parish Council Vacancies

There are 4 vacancies on the parish council. If you are interested in helping your community you can join the parish council. You can be co-opted onto the parish council. Just let the Clerk to the Parish Council know.

A Co-option Policy and Procedure sets out how you can apply and is on the parish council's website.

this year's Winter storms so water is leaking inside.

Having considered a range of suppliers and their quotations the parish council proposes to purchase a new noticeboard that will be 40cm wider than the current noticeboard.

One side will be for parish council notices and the other side will be available for community use.

Before we go ahead come along to the Annual Parish Meeting and let us know if you agree with our proposal

Platinum Jubilee weekend

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has reigned for 70 years and Thursday June 2nd to Sunday June 5th is a national holiday to celebrate that achievement.



The parish council has been working with the community centre trustees and local volunteers to plan events for the village. The plans will be finalised towards the end of May. The details will be published on noticeboards, parish council website and in the Mareham le Fen facebook groups.

Events planned for the whole Jubilee weekend are a Scarecrow Weekend and a Village Trail and Quiz to be filled in and returned by 4pm on the Sunday.

On Thursday 2nd June at 9.15pm it is expected that the bells of St Helen's Church will be rung and residents will come out on their doorsteps to join a round of applause with a Community Clap. On Sunday 5th June in the afternoon the Community Centre will be open and serving Pimms and Cream Teas, a bouncy castle has been booked. Various stalls, traditional games, hog roast and bring your own Picnic on The Green are expected to be available. In the evening a Family Disco with Sparkle Entertainment.

A grant has been made by the parish council towards Jubilee commemorative mugs for the pupils of Mareham le Fen Church of England Primary School which will be presented just before half-term break.

New Benches



For some time the parish council has been seeking to purchase a couple of benches for the village. It is proposed to place one at the end of Fen Lane opposite the shop and another on Church Walk against the church wall. The parish council is working with Lincolnshire County Council to obtain the licences to place these on the public highway. Suitably qualified tradesmen accredited to work in accordance with the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 are sought to install them in the agreed locations.

Cemetery developments

Parish Council have recently looked at the fees being charged in other local cemeteries in Lincolnshire and in light of the ongoing costs of grounds maintenance have published new fees effective from 1st April 2022. New solicitors have been appointed to complete the purchase of the cemetery extension at the back of the current cemetery and consultants appointed to begin the process of meeting the increased environmental protection criteria to be assessed by the Environment Agency when we apply for planning permission to use it as a burial ground.

There is expected to be enough burial space in the cemetery to probably meet need for 3 to 5 years but as the parish population is growing demand is expected to increase. Consultants have advised

that developing the new cemetery extension may cost in the region of £40 to £80,000 some of which will depend on the conditions imposed by the Environment Agency and East Lindsey District Council during the planning process.

Funding options may be considered including a Public Works Loan to spread the cost over future years.

Exclusive rights of burial and cemetery plots can be purchased if you wish to buy a plot next to a loved one already buried in the cemetery or for you to use in the future. These will be valid for 50 years. Council records show that no Grants of Deed for Exclusive Rights of Burial to reserve a plot have been purchased since 2016. If you would like to reserve a plot contact the parish council to organise this. You will be issued with a formal Deed of Grant.

The parish council has joined the Institute of Crematorium and Cemetery Management to provide technical guidance and support in managing the cemetery.

Fix My Street

If you find an issue such as broken streetlights, missing street signs, potholes, damaged roads, blocked paths, flytipping, uneven pavements, for instance, please report it. The fastest and most reliable method is using an app or website called 'Fix My Street'.

You can upload a picture and pinpoint the issue on a map. You can leave your details so you get a response telling you what is being done to fix the problem.

Keeping in Touch

Email: clerk.marehamlefen.pc@gmail.com

Website:

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