On 6th May Frisby Parish Council welcomed four new members. Learn about your new Parish Council in this issue.

We have a New Parish Council!

IN THIS ISSUE:

MEET YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS 2

NEWS AND COMMENT 4
  Fresh Start
  A New Relationship
  Thanks to Previous PC
  Thanks to Previous BC

MORE NEWS AND COMMENT 5
  New Initiatives
  Drop-In Sessions
  Milestone
  Facebook
  Tree Warden
  Crime
  Defibrillator

DIARY DATES 5

PLANNING UPDATES 6
  16 Oak Way
  Land to the South
  25 Mill Lane
  Water Lane
  Land off Great Lane

CONTACTS 6

“Four new Councillors, four fresh faces - this is a new opportunity and a new start for our Parish Council”
Cllr Ball
This year we have four new Councillors on the Parish Council. Kate Baxter (past Chair) is joined by Jonathan Ball, Leanne Chidlow, Sharon Reason and Alex Warwick.

This was an uncontested election, with only five Frisby residents putting their names forward for consideration (an election would have been needed had there been 6 or more candidates).

Between them, Kate, Jonathan, Leanne, Sharon and Alex have lived in the village for 75 years. Kate, as you know, has been on the Parish Council for the past four years, serving as the Chair for the last two years.

For the four new Councillors, this is all uncharted territory - none of them has ever served as a Parish Councillor before. However, they all feel passionate about the village and its villagers - they wish to create a new sense of community and they want to forge a new relationship between the Parish Council and the residents, working together to protect and enhance the village we all share.

You can read detailed biographies of the five Councillors on the Parish Council website, but below is the shortened version:

**Jonathan Ball (Chair)**

Jonathan has lived on Water Lane for the past 3 years, with wife Trena and their children Thomas and Emily. He is a Director at his family logistics software business, where he has worked for the past 17 years.

Jonathan is an avid Leicester City supporter having been a fan since the early 1980s. He and his wife Trena have thrown themselves into village life and supported numerous clubs, societies and activities. Jonathan is even on the village hall committee!

**Kate Baxter**

Kate has lived in the village for the past 30 years, on Oak Way with husband George. A retired District Nurse with 42 years’ NHS service, Kate is well known by numerous former patients in the village!

Kate has already served on the Parish Council for 4 years, the last 2 years as Chair. She cares passionately about the village and the Parish Council.
Kate Baxter - continued

She has been an active member of Frisby Players since 1999, getting involved in everything from stage managing, to acting and directing. She is the current Players’ Secretary.

Kate brings with her considerable experience as a Councillor and she will of course provide invaluable assistance to the new Councillors as they find their feet!

Leanne Chidlow

Leanne has lived on Water Lane for the past 13 years, with husband Gareth and children Adam and Zoë. Leanne has been a languages teacher for the past 25 years, and currently teaches German and French at a nearby secondary school.

She has been a Frisby School Governor for 11 years and is the current Vice-Chair. Every summer, she can be found leading the annual children’s holiday club at St Mary’s Church, Melton Mowbray - involving songs with silly actions and of course embarrassing her own teenaged children!

Leanne wishes to be part of a Parish Council which works closely with residents, responding to their ideas and concerns to help shape Frisby.

Sharon Reason

Sharon has lived at Carrfields House on Church Lane for the past 4 years, with husband Jim. A shoemaker with 35 years’ experience, Sharon has lived in Thailand and China, working for big named brands. She currently works for a New York based business - and she still travels worldwide on business.

Sharon’s passion however is girls’ / ladies’ football. She is the Chair of Asfordby Amateurs Ladies, Girls and Inclusive Football Club and is very much the driving force! With her husband Jim also actively involved, they now have over 200 players.

As a Councillor, Sharon hopes to improve village life and to make Frisby an even better place to live.

Alex Warwick

Alex has lived on Well Field Lane for the past 13 years, with wife Jackie and children Daniel and Robyn. Alex is the Chairman of a specialist civil engineering company, where he has worked for the past 34 years.

Alex is also a busy and highly regarded drummer, working with German, French, US and UK artists. You may have seen him performing at Frisby Live, which he helps organise. He has a large YouTube following, is sponsored by his drum kit manufacturer, and last year was voted one of the world’s top 10 Edrummers (electronic drums)!

Alex cares passionately about safeguarding our village, and will continue to use his professional expertise where needed to assist in fighting planning applications.
News and Comment

FRESH START

It was evident at the first meeting of the new Parish Council in May that the PC intends to adopt a fresh approach to its meetings, with all Councillors taking an active and constructive role in proceedings.

The May, June and July PC meetings, saw each Councillor provide the meeting with a detailed update on those planning issues and other matters which they had been allocated by the Chair. Judging from feedback received, this has proved to be very successful, giving the community a sense that every Councillor is genuinely committed and fully involved in the agenda.

Since May, the Councillors have visited residents on Hall Orchard Lane and Great Lane to hear their concerns regarding the Bowbridge proposals; they have visited the Burial Ground to discuss with Malcolm Britton amendments to the Burial Ground Regulations; they have visited residents on Oak Way affected by a planning application at No. 16; they have held 2 Saturday morning drop-in sessions; they have set up a new PC Facebook Page; they have refreshed ‘Milestone’; they have issued detailed objections to MBC relating to Mill Lane and 16 Oak Way, and they have provided a very robust written response to Bowbridge’s latest proposals on Land to the South.

They have, above all, listened and responded to residents’ concerns, whether by email, phone or in person. That’s a pretty decent start, we think!

As you know, Jonathan Ball became the Chairman of Frisby Parish Council at the AGM on 14th May 2019. He has this message to give to the villagers:

THANKS TO PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL

The new Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to the previous Parish Councillors for all the hard work that they undertook during their terms of office. Without doubt, the previous PC presided over one of the most difficult and divisive periods in the history of this village, with three significant housing applications submitted and approved; and with the need to oversee the production of our Neighbourhood Plan. The work that went into dealing with all of this, and more, cannot and should not be under-stated.

So, huge thanks and appreciation to Ron Thew, Nick Farrow, Kate Baxter, Charles Sercombe and Kathy Ford.

THANKS TO PREVIOUS BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

The PC would also like to extend its thanks to Edward Hutchison, our previous Borough Councillor. Edward served in this capacity for 8 years and worked tirelessly on behalf of the village.

He is succeeded by Ronan Browne, who the PC looks forward to working with.

A NEW RELATIONSHIP - CHAIRMAN BALL

“This is an opportunity for a fresh start, and it’s important that we as the new Parish Council fully engage with the community. It is my hope that through enhanced communication, and a proactive approach, we can work closely with those whom we represent, for the benefit of the village.”

“With four new Councillors on the Parish Council, this is a real opportunity for a change in the way it operates and a change in the way it is perceived. We must get this right”

Cllr Ball
NEW INITIATIVES

As you will have read elsewhere in this Newsletter, the new Parish Council has made a bold start, with a number of new initiatives being implemented. The purpose of these is to improve communication with villagers and to give people a sense that their Parish Council is truly engaged in serving the community.

Drop In Sessions

The Councillors have already held 2 ‘drop-in’ sessions at the Methodist Hall. These are held between 9 and 10am on the last Saturday of the month, and are a chance for anyone in the village to come and speak to Councillors in an informal setting. The idea is to provide people who might feel uncomfortable speaking at a formal Parish Council meeting, with a more relaxed opportunity to speak. The Drop In finishes at 10am prompt, so please do arrive in plenty of time.

Milestone - a New Look

As you will no doubt have noticed, our Newsletter ‘Milestone’ has been given something of a fresh look. Councillor Alex Warwick has been working hard to produce a newsletter that is a little more interesting to the eye. We have not yet decided how frequently the Newsletter will be published - it will, as before, be an ‘occasional’ Newsletter, which we will produce as and when sufficient news and content arises. We hope you like it - let us know!

Facebook Page

We have decided to launch a new Parish Council Facebook Page. Although we have a presence on ‘Frisby’s Future’, we are not administrators on that Group and much of the content there is unrelated to Parish Council matters. We therefore felt it prudent to start our own Facebook presence. This will run alongside ‘Frisby’s Future’ but will of course be dedicated to Parish Council matters. Do please ‘Like’ and follow the new Page, if you happen to be a ‘Facebooker’ (we fully realise that many people are not on Facebook).

TREE WARDEN

Jackie Warwick has become the Frisby Village Tree Warden. In this role she is responsible for ‘anything tree related’. If you have any queries or concerns about trees in the Parish, please contact Jackie via the PC Clerk.

CRIME

Rob Noble has kindly taken over the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, from David Andrews. Rob provides updates at the PC meetings and he also issues links and alerts via ‘Frisby’s Future’ (and hopefully our new FB Page). If you have any queries or concerns relating to crime, please do contact Rob directly or via the PC Clerk. The Parish Council thanks David for his work in the past.

DEFIBRILLATOR

As you may be aware, Ron Thew has previously taken care of maintenance of the defibrillator. He has recently asked for someone else to take on this role, and Rob Noble has kindly offered to do so. The Parish Council wishes to thank Ron for all his efforts in doing this previously, and also wishes to thank Rob for taking the role on. If anyone has any queries or concerns relating to the defibrillator, please contact Rob directly or via the PC Clerk.

Diary Dates

Drop In Session
31st August
28th September
26th October

PC Meeting
10th September
8th October
12th November

“Someone else can write the Newsletter next time!”

Cllr Warwick
PLANNING UPDATES

16 Oak Way

The Parish Council issued a detailed objection to the proposed extension at 16 Oak Way, on the basis that it was too intrusive on No. 17. Unfortunately only 4 objections were made by residents. As a result, it did not go to Committee and MBC Planners chose to grant permission.

Land to the South

In May, representatives of ‘Bowbridge’, (Land to the South developer), presented to villagers their latest proposals. The event was very well attended and it is fair to say that residents made very clear their concerns about the latest proposals.

The over-riding concern related to the apparent re-routing of the access road from Gaddesby Lane and into the development. The new route cut diagonally across a field and as such was outside the route that had been shown at the outline stage. This meant that it was outside the limits of development set out in both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan.

Residents were invited to write to Bowbridge with their concerns, and this they did, via the Parish Council. In addition, the Parish Council wrote formally and in considerable detail to Bowbridge, setting out its own concerns. You can read the full PC response to Bowbridge on the PC website. Bowbridge are currently considering the matters that we have all raised, and will come back to us in due course. Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide written concerns.

25 Mill Lane

A revised application for a 5-bedroom property has been submitted to MBC. The PC has objected and it is understood that this matter will now go to a full Committee hearing, thanks to the intervention of our new Borough Councillor, Ronan Browne. This gives residents, the PC and the Borough Councillor the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

Water Lane

The landowner is considering a significant reduction in the number of houses to be built, and has had preliminary discussions with MBC and the PC.

Land off Great Lane

The PC has formally objected to the application for the numerous flags / signage etc that Bellway Homes retrospectively applied for at Great Lane.

Residents can of course still make comments to MBC if they wish.

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