

Community Connection for 10 September, 2018.

Our meeting on 3 September, in Fersfield Church, was the last in our summer venue: from October we will be back in the Village Hall for the dark evenings season. The meeting began with a report from our County Councillor, Beverly Spratt, who informed us that the County Council is considering outsourcing its Highways Department....and that at the moment the county precept for 2019-20 looks like having a rise in the region of 3%.....we await further news with interest. Our District Councillor, (Barry Stone) is still convalescing, but we wish him a full recovery, thank him for his message, and look forward to seeing him in October, when there will be plenty to discuss, such as use (or abuse!) of the A1066 laybys and the littering/fouling issues.

Our discussion on Highways per se centred on the continuing dis-satisfaction and lack of NCC action over School Road – particularly since the school has re-opened for the Autumn Term. After all our efforts, we really do expect to see some action over the dangerous state of this busy thoroughfare. Allotments were discussed, particularly in regard to the use of poly-tunnels and the size limitations appropriate to an allotment plot: if this is not controlled carefully, planning permission regulations could be invoked. We are grateful to the Allotment Association and John Kemp for their careful work on this issue. We received a very satisfactory report on the state of our finances and thanked our Clerk for his financial management and accounting.

An important piece of correspondence concerned the new regulations concerning septic tanks. In essence, if your septic tank discharges directly to a surface water, (this includes ditches) even when the watercourse is dry, you will need to upgrade or replace your system by 1 January 2020 - or if you sell your property before this date, (For full regulations look at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-a-surface-water#rules-for-existing-and-new-treatment-systems>)

We had one planning matter on which to comment: Lodge Farm in Algar Road (2018/1813).

The Parish Council holds some responsibility for our two War Memorials. That in Bressingham is in very good condition: that in Fersfield is not. We agreed to pay £400 towards the renovation of Fersfield's War memorial in readiness for the Centenary in November. (Work has already started: already the improvement is very apparent!)

Our next PC meeting will be on Monday 1 October, in the Village Hall.