

BABCARY NEWS AND VIEWS

2022 promises to be an exciting year. We start with the Road Race on 27th February which will involve up to 100 runners, including many locals who will need cheering on. Plans are underway for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the beginning of June and we have every intention of holding all our other annual events, so lots to look forward to.

Contributions for the March edition: 21st February

Email: carolehartnell@googlemail.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

13th December 2021 Parish Council Minutes

Present: Mr Philip Sketchley, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Damien Pick, Mr Mike Lewis (SSCC) and Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Simon Hoar & Mr John Baber.

1) In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman Mr Hughes took the chair. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 8th November 2021 were agreed and signed.

2) .

Matters Arising

- i) New veranda for the Hut, additional £5000 funding from SCC received, to be used before end of May. SSCC has been asked to comment on planning approval and permission.
- ii) Static property in Dilkes Lane, still no further information, Philip Sketchley to contact County Council for update.

- iii) Parish Council meeting with Gary Warren of Highways to discuss speed issues including 20mph limits and weight limits around the village, signage and Satnav rerouting, meeting feedback from 19th of November, Hut.
1. HGVs - if we have an HGV "rat run" problem they can put in restrictions but we'd need some evidence
 2. A303 diversion routes - we'd need to talk to Highways England to make sure their planned diversions didn't come this way. Sat Nav blocks are problematic.
 3. North Street - signage will be upgraded
 4. Gassons Bridge - road narrows sign will be reinstalled.
 5. Speeding - we'd need evidence before we could get a 30mph or 20mph zone. Only the central Church St-Main St- Percy House zone would be suitable. We'd also need residents to agree that they're happy with 10 or so new posts and signs in the limited zone. Installation of the 20's plenty signs shows that opinions are divided on this.

Monitoring evidence: for £200 per site Highways will install a temporary black box at a location for a couple of weeks to monitor the speeds (and lengths i.e. HGVs) of every vehicle 24/7. Gary though we would need four locations to be monitored and therefore a cost of £800. If we wish to proceed further with possible speed limits we would need to commission a survey to get actual evidence of the speeding and average speeds. To be revisited in January 2022 meeting.

- iv) Fibre Optic Broadband moving ever closer.
T: 07956 333782 | E: christine.o'grady@wessexinternet.com
Christine O'Grady has visited Bab Cary only this week to demonstrate how Wessex are moving forward in rural WiFi access.
Graham Hughes to contact Christine and request a courtesy call prior to installation for farms with lambs.

Finance: Reserve Account stands at £24,957.51

Current Account Balance is £50

- i) Castle Cary Library Heating & Lighting update, £50 contribution agreed, cheque signed and issued letter of thanks received.
- ii) Stationary expenses £66.03 Parish Clerk reimbursed, cheque signed & issued.
- iii) SSCAT (Somerset South Community Accessible Transport) continued support agreed, £100 cheque issued, letter of thanks received.
- iv) Precept discussion held over till January 2022 Meeting.

3) Planning Consultations

- i) Planning Application No 21/01054 and others **The Red Lion Inn**
Awaiting decision.
Asset of Community Value; General Regulatory Chamber appeal - tribunal decision still awaited.

Latest update:

The Parish Council's comments on the SSDC viability assessment and the applicants Flood Risk Assessment have been submitted and can be read on the SSDC planning portal. Awaiting Phosphate assessment.

- ii) Planning Application No: 21/02851/HOU Olive Farm, Les Rochettes Olive Farm Lane Babcary Somerton TA11 7EJ Single storey extension.
Received: Fri 17 Sep 2021 | Validated: Tue 28 Sep 2021 | Status: Awaiting decision
 - iii) Planning Application No: 21/00543/FUL
Site Address: West Farm, Foddington Road, Babcary, Somerton
Proposal: Demolition of existing farmhouse and erection of a replacement dwelling; demolition of barns and replacement with new dwelling; and associated landscaping APPROVED.
 - iv) 21/02891/FUL Land At Steart Lane Babcary Somerton Somerset
Change of use of field to be used as a secure location for dog exercising, erection of secure fencing, provision of two car parking spaces and the erection of a small timber field shelter (RETROSPECTIVE)
OBJECTED not enough space for car parking regards changeover of users, splay too small limited visibility, parking, turning and exit pose a problem for both users and other traffic.
- 4) Correspondence
- i) To help people save on their heating bills and reduce carbon emissions, the Government are funding retrofit improvements to homes with low-income householders, below £30,000 PA.
<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/news/2021/11/residents-on-low-income-encouraged-to-apply-for-government-green-homes-grants/>
 - ii) Mike Lewis from Somerset Council
Coronavirus infection rates: Coronavirus infection rates: As of 29th November, the number of confirmed
Covid cases in Somerset was 68,307 (18% up from 57,072 on 30th September) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 927. The rate per 100,000 stands at 435.2 (709.7) for Somerset with Mendip at 564.1 (853.9), Sedgemoor at 418.1 (653.5), South Somerset 505.5 (668.3) and SW&T at 276.6 (713.0). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 8% above the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.8 and 1.0
 - iii) Julie Nicol, Lyford Parish Council Clerk, suggested joining funds to purchase Speed Indicator Device, Babcary declined offer, currently not able to apply, speed limit to be agreed first.
- 5) Further Business
- i) As part of its commitment to empowering local communities, Somerset County Council allocated funding support for town and parish councils to help support the safe reopening of parish/community facilities and ensure good prevention control measures are in place. SALC is delighted to be working with the County Council on

this project and are managing the fund on their behalf, with support from SCC officers. The first two stages of funding have already seen over £230,000 awarded to town and parish councils and we are now releasing a further £100,000 for a third round of grant funding.

Suggested replacing playground equipment for older Parish Children since climbing frame removed and not replaced.

- ii) Mike Lewis confirmed Council staff will be helping out with increased needs for local vaccinations staff may not be available till later part of January 2022. (Kevin Messenger not present)
- iii) Council Elections 5th of May 2022, normal election would be 2023, 5 year standing to bring back into line, costs could be incurred! Mike Lewis looking into this.
- iv) A303 internal trackway has been put in place for moving soil and materials, Mike Lewis is in regular contact, if any queries should arise.
- v) Trial lane closure of Gassons Lane, Trace Lane & Blackwell Lane to Wales, at the end traffic are trying to cut through which has caused local tension. Friday to Saturday road will be closed for 18 months (bank holidays included), Chapter8 qualified signage, this means if you cross over the designated sign you will negate your car insurance, no breakdown help available!
- vi) Complaint re muddy roads West Camel Via Steart onto the A303, very muddy after 8am, plant crossing night working suspected, can Highways investigate?

10th January 2022

Parish Council Draft Minutes

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mr Graham Hughes, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mrs Jane Burnett, Mr Mike Lewis (SCC) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr John Baber, Mr Damien Pick, Mr Henry Hobhouse (SSDC) and Mr Kevin Messenger (SSDC).

- 1) Minutes of the Previous Meeting 13th December 2021 agreed and signed.
- 2) Matters Arising
 - i) New veranda for the Hut, planning application has now been made through the Parish Council, Mr Simon Hoar to be reimbursed for fees of £131.00 payment.
 - ii) Static property in Dilkes Lane, still no further information, revisit in February meeting.
 - iii) Parish Council meeting with Gary Warren of Highways re speed issues to be revisited in February 2022 meeting (delayed by Covid secondments revisit recommended later in the year).
 - iv) Parish Council agreed to pay Highways to install 2 temporary trial monitors to ascertain extent of speeding in and around the village, is the 20's Plenty enough?
 - v) Fibre Optic Broadband, Wessex Internet made courtesy calls prior to installation for farms with lambs as agreed. Fibre Optic installation has begun in the village.

- vi) New Somerset Council Elections and Parish Council elections will be held 5th of May 2022. Normally the parish election would be 2023, but this will bring them back into line.

NB. If any parishioners are interested in joining the Parish Council they should contact the Parish Clerk, Jasmine Tucker.

- vii) Complaint re muddy roads West Camel Via Steart onto the A303, very muddy after 8am, looked into and resolved
- viii) SSDC SALC grant funding. Suggested replacing playground equipment for older Parish Children since climbing frame removed and not replaced, to be taken on by The Playing Field Committee.
- ix) It is with sadness that we record the loss of Sandy Evans who passed away on the 25th of December 2021. Our condolences to her husband, Ty Evans, former chairman of the Parish Council.

Finance: Reserve Account stands at £24,957.51 (of which £6,500 is SCC verandah grant).
Current Account Balance is £50

Setting of Precept for 2022/23. The Parish Council agreed to increase the precept by 3% to £4,317.00.

4) Planning Consultations

i) Planning Application No 21/01054 and others **The Red Lion Inn**
Awaiting decision. The Heritage Assessment commissioned by SSDC (available on the SSDC planning portal) has confirmed that the proposed application would be detrimental to the character and setting of The Red Lion.

ii) Planning Application No: 21/02851/HOU Olive Farm, Les Rochettes Olive Farm Lane Babcary Somerton TA11 7EJ Single storey extension. Received: Fri 17 Sep 2021 | Validated: Tue 28 Sep 2021 | Status: RESUBMISSION

5) Correspondence

- i) A letter addressed to Babcary Parish Committee was received from Clare & Charlie Garrad regarding The Red Lion planning application and Asset of Community Value. The contents of the letter were duly noted.
- ii) Mike Lewis January 2022 Update. Infection rates in Somerset continue to be extremely high. With the new Omicron variant it is important, even for those who have had both jabs, to remember to follow Government guidance on wearing masks, to continue to observe Social Distancing and to always ventilate indoor areas.
- iii) Reporting faults on the Highway: Utilising a new upgraded online system with an improved interactive map, members of the public can report a highways problem 24/7. From potholes, blocked drains and broken manhole covers, to mud on the road, overgrown vegetation, damaged pavements or cycle paths, faulty traffic lights or missing markings – they can all be

reported in just minutes from a smartphone, tablet or computer available www via www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

- iv) Applications for school places 2022: All children starting school for the first time in September 2022, as well as those moving between infant and junior or first and middle school applications must be submitted by Saturday 15 January 2022.
www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions
 - v) An overview of SSDC's Community Grants Scheme - Wednesday 12th January 2022 (7pm - 7:45pm) Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92051034735> Meeting ID: 920 5103 4735
Mr Philip Sketchley to attend on behalf of Parish Council.
- 6) Any Other Business
- i) Many thanks to Phil Sketchley for repositioning 20's Plenty signs to Foddington.
 - ii) Bollard was pulled out by off road users on the bridleway next to Spring Gardens, parishioners are asked to be extra vigilant and report misuse of the bridleways any photographic evidence would be appreciated. The police have promised to pursue any further evidence
 - iii) ZOE App. Help slow the spread of #COVID19 and identify at risk cases sooner by self-reporting your symptoms daily, even if you feel well 🙏. Download the app <https://covid.joinzoe.com/>. Many people use this app, run by Kings College hospital, and it is highly recommended.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: 8pm in the Hut on Monday 14th February 2022

Parochial Church Council

Services

Sunday	30 th Jan	10.30	N.Barrow	Communion	
Sunday	6 th Feb	10.30	Hornblotton	Communion	
Sunday	13 th Feb	10.30	Alford	Family service	
Sunday	20 th Feb	10.30	S.Barrow	Matins	
Sunday	27th Feb	10.30	Babcary	Communion	
Wednesday	2 nd March	18.30	Alford	Communion	Ash Weds

Church Rotas

		Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee/Sidesmen
Sunday	February 6th	Elisabeth & Mary	Teresa	
Sunday	February 13th	Judy & Sally	Mary	
Sunday	February 20th	Tom & Bridget	Elisabeth	
Sunday	February 27th	Nikki & Karen	Judy H	/Fred & Michele
Sunday	March 6th	Rita & Jenny	Lent	

CHRISTMAS.

We had wonderful outdoor carol service in the churchyard on Christmas Eve again this year and, apart from a bit of rain early on, it was magical. Between the carol service and carol singing around the village we raised £704.24 for the Childrens' Hospice SW - thank you. SIH

SOUP & QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 19th February sees the return of the famous North Barrow Soup & Quiz Nights. £10 per head, pay on the door at North Barrow Village Hall. Starts at 7.30. Bring your own bottle (this is not a work event!) and brain. No fixed team size. In aid of the Six Pilgrims and another charity.

PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Babcary Road Race

The annual road race will be held at 11am on Sunday 27th February. It's a pleasant 7.5 mile, all road circuit, from the playing field at Babcary over to South Barrow and back via North Barrow crossroads through Foddington and home. There will be junior fun runs of 1 mile and 1/4m as well whilst the adult run is in progress.

Due to Covid numbers are limited to the first 100 entries and (bad news) there will be no refreshments in the hut afterwards. To register; email gary@avalonsciences.com or phone 01458 223995. You must register 24 hours before the start as there is no entry on the day.

100 CLUB

The big double draw of the year was held at the Christmas shop on 18th December. First prize went to Sarah Arathoon, second to Tina Hutchins and third to Gwen Baber. The following won consolation prizes: George Stuckey, Ian Diamond, Mary Paul, Esme Ellis, Mel Goymer, Jerry Spence, Colin Stuckey, Gilli Salmons, Emma Baber, Sarah Cuff, Charlie Aric, Lucy Macdairmid, Robin Brown, Gary Tubridy, James Baber, Elisabeth Rutherford, Tom Tubridy, Vee Vyner and Shirley Hoar. Thank you for your support of the playing field.

SIH

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

We were thrilled that the Christmas Bazaar was such an enjoyable occasion – our first event in two years! We exceeded all expectation by raising £900. Thank you all for your hard work and generosity. The Christmas Shop on 18th December was also a great success and put us all in the Christmas spirit.

There will be an extraordinary meeting on Friday 28th January at 7pm in the Hut to discuss plans for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, so watch this space.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shop Rota

5 th Feb	Jan and Karen		5 th March	Helen and Teresa
12 th Feb	Gilli and Shirley		12 th March	Lucy and Jenny
19 th Feb	Sally and Vee		19 th March	Rita and Carole
26 th Feb	Cordelia and Jules		26 th March	Judy and Jane

Don’t forget to bring plenty of milk to the Shop now that people are drinking so much coffee. Many thanks to Richard for donating his coffee machine – never before has the Shop been so busy on a regular basis! Thank you also to those who bring and bake things to sell, especially Rita and Glynis who provide the lion’s share.

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POP LACROSSE

Well, even Covid couldn’t stop Pop lacrosse on Boxing Day! There were 12 intrepid players, plus our usual group of supporters/ballboys who arrive each time we play, whatever the weather.....we couldn’t do without you.

Gary and Harry, David Brock, James Hoar & his brother in law, various members of the Herten tribe, and joy of joys....NEW faces, proving that you don’t have to know anything about the game to take part. Richard Jinman, adding stick skills to his barista proficiency (and his mother, who nobly had a go with a stick and ball) and all the Sparkes -Peter, Karen and William: they only came to see what was happening and found themselves tearing round the tennis court in possibly not the easiest footwear. Since the game, I have found that we have a ‘proper’ lacrosse player in the village, so this year’s standard will be even higher.....we might even score more goals!

Thanks to everyone for taking part

JAH

Mobile Library

Calls at the bus shelter on Thursday 17th February from 12.40 – 12.55pm

BABCARY CLEAN UP

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 2022 MEETING @THE HUT 10am

We are planning to gather for the Babcary Litter Pick on Saturday 5th March. This has proved a veritable Treasure Hunt in the past with finds including a £20 note, various car parts, a pair of knickers and even a kitchen sink! That is not to mention the numerous empty wine bottles.....!

Litter 'grab sticks' will be loaned by South Somerset District Council, as they have been in the past under Nicky and Arf Llewellyn's very efficient management, but if you have your own, please do bring them. High vis' vests will also be available in various sizes at the Hut.

We would ask everyone to come with their own gloves and any (tough) old bin/compost bags so that we can avoid using new plastic bags to gather old rubbish as much as possible, but there will be some available at the Hut for general use.

We'll aim to have a car collecting bags of rubbish throughout the morning.

NEWS VIEWS AND COMMENTS

We were so sorry to hear that Sandy Evans died on Christmas Day and send our condolences to Ty. It would have been their 48th wedding anniversary on 29th December. We will miss seeing her with the horses and running the Win-a-Breakfast stall at the Fete (for well over 30 years). Her funeral was held on 18th January at Yeovil Crematorium.

Welcome to Clare Pouncey, who has moved into Chapel Yard for the next year. She has come from Charlton Adam.

POETS' CORNER

And the greatest of these is love

Love is a gift that cannot be bought,
neither can it be sold,
for the greatest love that man can have
is purer than any gold.

Love is helping someone in need
along life's busy road.

A smile, a word, a loving touch
will lighten the heaviest load.

Love is sharing what you have
with others who have less.

Love is lending a listening ear
when they cry out in distress.

Love is giving your outstretched hand
to show that you really care.

Love is what you bring to them
in answer to a prayer.

Love is all around us in many a disguise,
it's the light that shines when a child
looks up into its mother's eyes.

But the greatest love a man can give
is when he lays down his life for a friend,
for he will return to where love began,
to where there is a world without end.

Betty Witcher, Bramble Cottage, Foddington.

WEATHER REPORT

Babcary received 11.8mm of rainfall in November compared with the average of 71.3mm. It is the driest month on our record (since 1980) and regionally the driest month since records began in 1891. I think we also had our first frost on 1st November.

In December we received 71.1mm of rainfall which arrived mostly at the start and end of the month. The total annual rainfall for Babcary in 2021 was 693.8mm (27.31 inch), well below the annual average of 750mm (29.5 inch).

Reservoir stocks for the Wessex Region at the end of December were at 86% capacity around 13% lower than 2020.

Steve Street

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 14 th February	PC Meeting	8pm Hut
Thursday 17 th February	Mobile Library	12.40 – 12.55 Bus shelter
Saturday 19 th February	Soup and Quiz Night	7.30 N. Barrow Village Hall
Sunday 27 th February	Communion Service	10.30 Babcary Church
Sunday 27 th February	Babcary Road Race	Playing Field
Saturday 5 th March	Babcary Clean-up	Playing Field