

Cheverell Magna Parish Council

The Council met on 5 June, and will meet again on 3 July, after which it takes a well-earned summer break, meeting again on 4 September.

The Council's 2016/17 Accounts have been completed and submitted for external review. They are now open for inspection under the Exercise of Public Rights by any Elector of the Parish. This period lasts from 26 June to 4 August inclusive. If you wish to exercise this democratic right, please contact the Clerk.

Councillor Hazel Simons and the Clerk recently attended a meeting of Wiltshire Council's local Community Area Traffic Group (CATG), when the crossroads south of the village leading up to Salisbury Plain (Pear Tree Lane) was discussed. The problems of this junction were sympathetically discussed, and it is hoped that improved signage and cutting-back of overgrown verges will soon improve the sightlines, making it safer for all.

The Council notes that, now it's summer, hedges are getting very bushy and, in some cases, starting to obstruct the highway. There is a legal duty to cut hedges back under Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980. So you are politely requested to trim your hedges before Wiltshire Council is forced to do it for you, for which you will be charged. The Council will monitor this situation and, if necessary, write to specific house owners.

The Council is also very concerned about the amount of dog mess in the village, particularly along Green Lane where children walk to school. It's unhygienic, unpleasant, and totally anti-social. So responsible dog owners (are there any other kind ?) are again asked to 'bag it and bin it'. The Council takes littering in general, but particularly this issue, very seriously - if necessary, irresponsible owners will be named and shamed, and reported to Wiltshire Council which has the powers to levy a £1,000 fine. You have been warned.

The Council works hard to identify, and notify Wiltshire Council, of any potential highways hazards such as potholes. Recently, an elderly resident had a bad fall outside the Village Hall, where the pavement is uneven. This issue is being pursued with Wiltshire Highways, but villagers are asked to be aware of the risks and to tread carefully.

On a lighter note, the Council is considering improvements and additions to the playground near the Pavilion, Witchcombe Close. If you have any suggestions, please contact the Clerk or any Councillor.

Chris Hall, Parish Clerk

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