

# **SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**December 2008**

## **A Sad Goodbye and a Warm Welcome!**

Shortly after our October meeting, Cllr. Desmond Deans decided to retire from the Parish Council. As many of you know, Desmond served on the Council for many years and was a past Chairman. We shall certainly miss him and wish him well in the future. With a seat to be filled, we posted statutory Notices on our notice-boards, offering a bye-election. This was not requested, so we were asked by Chichester District Council's Returning Officer to co-opt a new Member to fill Desmond's place. Diane Snow came forward, having narrowly missed gaining a seat at last year's May Elections. She was co-opted at our meeting on 26 November - we are delighted to welcome her as our new Parish Councillor.

## **2009/2010 Budget**

Our 2009/2010 Budget process has now been completed and after much careful thought and discussion, we have decided to keep the Precept at £11,025 as we are expecting some expensive items, including tree-works at the Glebe Field. With the new houses, this will mean that the Parish Council's share of your Council Tax will be slightly less, as there are more homes this year to share it.

## **Trees at the Glebe Field**

As we mentioned in our last Newsletter, we were arranging a professional survey of the five trees on the boundary of the Glebe Field, which are the Parish Council's responsibility under the terms of our lease with the Diocese. The survey found that four of the five trees need to be felled, so with the help and advice of Chichester District Council's Tree Officer, we now have permission to carry out this work. Having obtained four quotes and chosen a contractor, we are hoping to do the work shortly. The diseased trees will be replaced by four new native species, at least two metres high.

## **Dog Fouling**

We have been very encouraged by local response to our appeals to "scoop", but please use the dog bins provided and not public litter bins! The bin at the playground is open and these packages are making it a very unpleasant health hazard for children who use the area and for the kind volunteer who empties them. We have made repeated requests to the District Council for another dog bin and hope that one day this will happen!

## **Maintenance of Riverbanks**

We have had several enquiries recently from local residents asking who has responsibility for maintaining riverbanks. The Environment Agency has confirmed that this rests with the riparian landowner, meaning the title deed holder bordering the watercourse. Riparian owners normally own to the centre of the watercourse unless otherwise stated on the deed. The Environment Agency might undertake work under permissive powers, but riparian owners are ultimately responsible. The Environment Agency took over as enforcing body from Chichester DC three or four years ago and at that time, advised us that they wrote to the occupants of all riverside properties, explaining their roles and responsibilities. We hope that this clarifies the position, but advise local residents to contact the Environment Agency for individual or more technical advice.

## **Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 14 January 2009 at 7pm at Singleton Village Hall**. Please spare a little of your time to come along - local electors are always given the opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting and PCSO Jason Lemm is usually able to join us to give a report and answer questions on local policing matters.