

SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL

May 2023

Dear Residents

We hope this newsletter finds you well.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This event was held on the evening of Friday 12th May in the village hall and was very well attended. Villagers enjoyed wine, beer and soft drinks, along with some delicious canapés.

Reports were given by representatives of various village groups and organisations including the Church, Jubilee Close, the Village Hall and the School. These reports will be available to read in due course on the village website southrop.org.uk

There was plenty of participation by those present and the productive discussions left us all feeling very positive about our village community.

All agreed that the Coronation lunch held at the village hall was a great occasion, attended by well over 100 people and the SPC was very glad to be able to subsidise the event. The organisation of this was a tremendous achievement so many congratulations to the committee of people who made it all happen.

The Village Fête committee made a plea which we'd like to pass on here. They are looking for more people to offer a little of their time to help run a stall on the day, 10th June. Many hands make light work and then everyone gets a chance to actually enjoy going round the fête themselves! If you feel you could offer an hour to help with something, please contact Andy Howarth on 01367 850400

An annual report was also given by Tim Guest, our SPC Chairman (reproduced in full in the minutes which will be posted on the website) and also by other members of the SPC, covering the following topics:

Highways (Peter Brickley)

We work closely with Gloucestershire Highways to improve the road through the village and to attend to various other matters including village drainage, the South Farm Crossroads road markings, bridge fencing and more, with some success. They have been made aware of the state of Lechlade Road. It is not yet on their schedule but if we report potholes regularly, in our experience that may change! <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/report-it/>

Speeding (Russ G & Peter B)

We have joined the queue to acquire unmanned traffic cameras and have agreed three locations with the Police. We await Glos Highways to price up their work to implement this. In addition, we are exploring the possible installation of white verge 'gates' to make drivers more aware that they are entering a village 20mph zone.

Flood Warden Scheme (Cathy B)

SPC have signed up to the county-wide Flood Warden Scheme operated by the Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council (GRCC). Joining this network will give us access to advice and practical support in the prevention of flooding, whilst also strengthening our ability to cope if a flood does occur. **Cathy Brickley has taken on the role of flood warden but in reality there are residents of Southrop who know a great deal about the local fields, ditches and culverts, whose knowledge would be invaluable. Please speak up if you can help in any way!**

During the recent heavy rain, which resulted in one household suffering a flood, the Parish Council was able to quickly purchase some 'snakes' which are an alternative to sandbags for providing a barrier against water ingress. It is our intention to have a small number of these devices stored for quick deployment if needed. That household was also very grateful for the loan of three pumps by

another villager. This is exactly the sort of community action which helps us all to increase our resilience, particularly in the face of climate change and the increasing likelihood of extreme weather events.

If you know your house is at risk of flooding, you might like to procure your own flood defences. There are many available online from suppliers such as Screwfix.

Our Community Emergency Plan already covers possible emergencies such as heavy snowfall, high winds, the loss of power, loss of mains water etc and will now be updated to detail contacts and procedures in the event of flooding. **As part of this we'd like to carry out an audit of any available equipment there may already be in the village, which we might be able to call upon if needed. We'd be grateful if any residents who own pumps, small generators or any other items that may be useful would kindly let us know what they have and how it may be made available to borrow at short notice.**

In addition, we'd also like to hear from anyone with particular experience of emergency situations and anyone with skills such as medical or first aid training who we might be able to call upon in the event that emergency services cannot reach us quickly.

Please call any of the numbers below or email southroppc@gmail.com if you can help in this effort.

Best Wishes

Tim Guest 01367 850189 Russ Giles 01367 850270 Rod Jones 01367 850185

Peter Brickley 01367 850504 Cathy Brickley 01367 850504