Village News

in Swindon Village, Cheltenham

Your local newsletter sponsored by the Parish Council and delivered by volunteers.

November 2024 Edition No.508

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Monday 4th WI Meeting 7.30pm St Nicholas Church Hall

Saturday 9th Craft Fair 1pm-5pm at Village Hall

Sunday 10th Remembrance Service St Lawrence Church

Monday 11th Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area

Sunday 17th Litter Pick. Meet 10.30am at Village Hall

Wednesday 20th Swindon Village Society. 7.30pm Village Hall

Talk - 'The History of Gloucester Docks'

by Tony Condor. Non members welcome £3.

DECEMBER

Monday 9th Parish Council Meeting - 7:30pm in the Village Hall bar area

A Connected Community!



Using your phone's camera to hover over each QR Code square below for direct link access.





Parish Council Website

For full, detailed information from and about the Parish Council visit www.swindonparish.org.uk





Parish Council Facebook Page

A public page for live information and news updates from the council: www.facebook.com/swindonparish





Swindon Village Facebook Community Group

A private group for the discussion of local issues, sharing and requesting help in the local community.



Anti-Social Behaviour

If you have any concerns about anti-social behaviour do not hesitate to contact the police.



Ring 101 (you may be charged for this phone call) or **email 101@gloucestershire.police.uk**

NB: Get an INCIDENT REPORT NUMBER and let the parish know about it. If the police are not made aware of the problem THERE ISN'T A PROBLEM.

A Note From The Editor

You will see later in the edition that the Swindon Village Society had a talk about the floods of 2007. It was a scary time for most, but my memories are different. The rains started on the last day of term and by the time we picked up from school, Church Road was a river. We'd taken welly boots with us and the children really enjoyed splashing around on the way home - obviously not in the road which was fast-moving water. I can't recall the sequence of events and when we lost our water supply, but what I do remember is the excitement of the bowser arriving in the village and then the speculation and stories when it vanished; makeshift pipework in the garden to gather the rainwater; boiling kettles to make a warm soapy paddling pool instead of a bath for the children.

My brother was a retained fireman in Tewkesbury at the time and helped with the evacuations and trying to keep the flood water at bay. After the initial 24 hours that they were on duty, the crew would work a twelve-hour shift and then have twelve hours off to sleep before back for the next shift. They were based in The Gupshill carpark. When the emergency services finished work, the pub and other food delivery companies would bring free meals out to the crews enabling them to use the down time to rest instead of worrying about cooking.

They say that you are either a glass half empty or half full person, but I disagree. I hope that I am a glass almost full to the brim person. I'd like to think that I can see the good in awful situations. There are terrible things happening to people everywhere in the world and even in our lovely village. If we can show a little thoughtfulness and kindness and fill up someone's cup even just a little bit, like providing food during the floods did, shouldn't we do so without hesitation?

Take care

Karren



Swindon Parish and Community Website: https://swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

I have described in gruesome detail the process of taking ownership of the Village Hall car park from the Borough Council to secure its future. Despite yet another glitch, courtesy of a cyber attack that left the Borough Council solicitors unable to access their emails, we have finally lurched over the line! It's easy to think that "it's just a patch of tarmac" but other car parks have been sold to developers, so securing the land for the community has been a big priority for the Parish Council. Also, it has been achieved predominantly with grant funding.

The sewer pipes under the car park should have been replaced by the time you read this.

The Swindon Farm development off Manor Road continues apace.



Manor Road has been reopened but there are now traffic lights in operation whilst work continues on one carriageway at a time. Sadly the H bus service continues to avoid Sainsbury's and Gallagher Retail Park. We are trying to establish who we need to prod to get this justified (or, ideally, changed).

When developments such as Swindon Farm take place, the developer has to pay to the County and Borough Councils funds to be used to



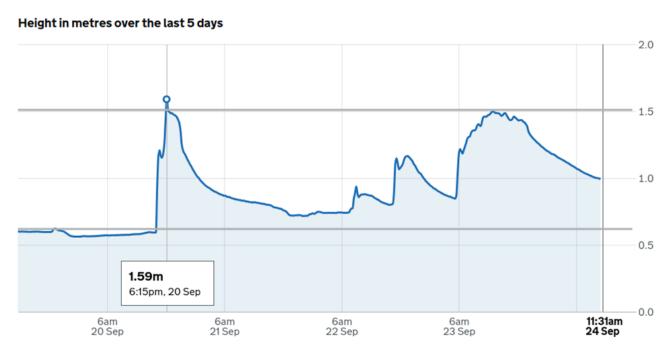
alleviate the effect of their developments on the community beyond their boundary. Part of that money finds its way down to the local Parish Councils. The Swindon Farm development is the first part of Elms Park. The Parish Council will receive money from the Community Infrastructure Levy as it is known (or CIL for short). This and other developments will dramatically increase the money we have but also the number of residents in the parish. We need to think carefully about these changes.

The Cross Hands was not a traditional village pub as such, but it was a pub. With its new "residents only" policy there is no longer a pub in the parish. Owners Whitbread are converting some of their combined hotel and pub/restaurant sites into hotels only. They are selling off some of their properties and it is easier to dispose of hotels rather than pubs. They are also converting some spaces that were formerly restaurants into additional hotel room space. I have no knowledge of their plans for the Cross Hands.

We will be doing our usual monthly litter pick on 17th November, but note that we will be meeting at the Village Hall, not the Cross Hands as previously advertised. As a bonus attraction we will be combining this with tree planting in Old Mill Way (the old Amenity Area). Everyone is welcome to join us for either or both. Tools and camaraderie provided. Tom has written an article on the tree planting elsewhere in this issue.

I was away in York when the major rains hit the south of England. We were enjoying good weather in the north so it was difficult to believe the reports of flooding and devastation reaching me from home. The water level gauge on Wymans Brook tells the story of how quickly the level rose.





At 4:00pm on Friday 20th September water level was normal. Then the deluge came. After an hour and a quarter the water had risen a metre and the gauge was showing its highest ever recorded level.

Karren appealed for bits of content for the Village News that aren't urgent but that could be used to fill up odd spaces as required. I will occasionally highlight websites that people might find interesting or useful. The above is an example. It can be found at https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/2200. You can type that into your browser or click the link in the Village News if you are looking at it on our website.

The banes of my job (can you have more than one bane?) are trees (always contentious and expensive, sometimes dangerous) and noticeboards. Struggling to post notices on a recalcitrant noticeboard on a cold, wet, winter night is not fun.



The noticeboard in the churchyard had been particularly uncooperative of late. The door had become almost impossible to open. If I did manage to open it the subsequent closure and locking was equally problematic. I am delighted to sing the praises of a kind individual who has replaced the lock and given it a fettle. The noticeboard and I are now at peace, at least for now.



Staying in the churchyard, several Parish Councillors plus yours truly were shown around by Hugh. We need a good understanding of what the "big ticket" items would be if we were to take responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard once it is closed.

I work part time as Parish Clerk. Some clerks might take on another small parish to increase their hours (and earnings). On a recent course we were asked which parish or parishes we represented. One clerk said she worked for Twigworth. And Down Hatherley. And Cowley, Coberley, Innsworth, Elkstone, Sevenhampton and Brimpsfield. I hope they don't all meet on the same night!

I have just written and then deleted a paragraph saying that this is the last Village News before Christmas. I'm getting my months mixed up. Happy Halloween!

Shaun Cullimore, Clerk to Swindon Parish Council



Volunteer Tree Planting

The next volunteer litter pick (17th November) will be combined with a tree planting session in Old Mill Way (formerly the Amenity Area). Come along to either or both!

The trees were left over from planting at the new Arle Court park-and-ride and donated by a local worker to save them from the tip. There are roughly 100 saplings of various native species (Hawthorn, Hazel, Dogwood, Blackthorn, Hornbeam, and Guelder Rose). Most of the saplings will form a hedge on the slope above the path, with a few Hazel and Hornbeam scattered in the open glade created by the felling of the horse chestnut.

The trees will benefit wildlife by providing forage and shelter for pollinators, birds, and small mammals. They will also provide other environmental benefits, such as sequestering carbon dioxide and reducing runoff into the Swilgate during flood events. It should also be a fun day out for any villagers hoping to get their hands in some soil and make a positive difference in their local area.

We will have use of two augers for making holes, and all the stakes and guards needed to protect the young trees from deer and voles. Tea and coffee will be provided. If attending please bring gardening gloves, and any lump hammers and spades would be welcome. As usual, meet at 10:30am at the Village Hall. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Tom Harcourt
Parish Councillor





FOOD & GIFTS

GET YOUR GIFTS AND DECORATIONS
WHILE SUPPORTING LOCALS



NOVEMBER 9TH

1PM - 5PM

SWINDON VILLAGE HALL, CHURCH ROAD, SWINDON VILLAGE. GL51 9QP



The Swindon Village Society

In September Dr Timothy Brain returned to tell us the background details of the great water emergency of 2007. Tim was Chief Constable at the time and probably was lead throughout the emergency. It all went as well as could be expected. Although the level of the flood was particularly high it was known that such a thing could happen and so there was a good level of planning in the background. A number of other things worked in favour of the emergency services. Only a short time before the floods, a joint headquarters had been established which allowed all the emergency services to be co-located with desks ready for the extra help needed from the armed forces and other external assistance. It even had a helipad outside which got good use.

So, there was a plan and to a large degree it worked. However, as with any good emergency, there were unforeseen elements ready to throw rather wet spanners in the works. The first was the near flooding of the Mythe Water Works such that it had to be shut down so that much of the area was without water. Call in the Army who in short time were shipping bottled water into the county. Then there was a need for people to organise the distribution. Organisations provided volunteers and with immense effort we were all kept supplied. However the real crisis arose when it seemed as if the main electricity distribution on Alney Island might also be flooded. Call in the Navy who raised the surrounding wall such that the floods only got to within six inches of the top. Then the Water Works did get some degree of flooding that had to be pumped out before it could restart. Call in the Army and the RAF who provided manpower. And with all this service and emergency services manpower operating in unexpected locations someone had to feed them, so enter civilian volunteer organisations such who took on this task, sometimes without being asked. Finally the floods went down and there were sighs of relief all round. Someone had to tidy up, look after those who had lost their homes for months, and then someone had to write it all down so that the preparations would be better next time.



Tim spoke for an hour and a quarter without notes, an amazing feat to me. But when I spoke to him afterwards he pointed out that he had given the talk dozens of times before. However, it is still an amazing feat to me.

So what do we have for the future? Well there is only November to go. Tony Condor will tell us the tale of Gloucester Docks. So do come along, member or not, and afterwards you will be able to give your visitors all the information when you go there for a coffee and a shopping expedition. We are working on next year's programme. More in the next edition.

We then take December off but are back in January with the AGM and a short talk, possibly on a different crisis.

Barry Simon

St. Lawrence's Church

Chatterbox

Every Tuesday

10.30am to 12noon

Pop in for coffee/tea and biscuits and a good old chat about anything and everything.

Everyone's welcome, old or new. (It's free!)



St. Lawrence's Church

RECTORY REFLECTIONS - REV JACQUELINE

As we move swiftly through the variation of the seasons and the nights become longer, we turn to a busy time in the Church's calendar. We have celebrated Harvest in school assemblies and by having a joint service with St. Mary Magdalene. We focus this month to the more sombre tone of the season of Remembrance. We will celebrate All Saints and All Souls before commemorating the Armistice on Remembrance Sunday.

Why is the legacy of the First World War still of such significance to us? One answer is that the reality of trench warfare bore no resemblance to the propaganda and images which were portrayed to those at home. Those brave men who survived often found themselves unable to talk about what they had seen and endured - a far cry from the language used by politicians that the war was a glorious, righteous and straightforward pursuit of justice. We celebrate those who stormed beaches, were torpedoed at sea and flew over heavily defended countries during the Second World War. They understood that this glory and heroism had more to do with endurance, loyalty and the daily struggle to survive in the midst of horrific, unspeakably dreadful conditions. As the Royal British Legion declares, "Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life." There are several war graves in the St. Lawrence's churchyard of local men who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of their country.

War and conflict are no longer talked about using language of chivalry and heraldic battles. Instead, the focus is perhaps more on the human cost of those caught up in violence, power struggles and the sheer terror of war. War is not a historical fact; it is something we continue to witness daily throughout the world. With the progress of



St. Lawrence's Church

technology, we are able to see first-hand what life is like in warzones. Remembrance Sunday is an opportunity for everyone, whether a member of an armed service or a civilian, to gather to give thanks for those who fought and continue to fight for liberty and peace.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the 25th anniversary of the end of the war in Kosovo. Yet, we continue to live alongside those who have been displaced by war and are affected by what they have left behind. Perhaps as we gather this Remembrance Sunday, we might reflect on how we, who are not on a front line or facing the threat of violence, may offer support and comfort to those whose lives have been torn apart and now seek stability and safety.

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.' Psalm 82 vv.3-4

Rev. Jacqueline







St. Lawrence's Church

From the registers



Baptisms

We welcomed into the family of the church
Valerie Freija Jones 13th October

Burial of ashes

We commemorated the life of
Christine Pearl Hunt 26th September



St. Lawrence's Church is part of the

Morth Cheltenham Team Ministry

Enquiries about baptisms or weddings

If you would like to enquire about baptism (also called christening) or would like to book a wedding in St Lawrence's church, please contact Karen in the Team Office on **01242 244373** or admin@northchelt.org.uk

You can contact the Team Vicar, **Revd. Jacqueline Henson**, by email: **revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com** or by phone: **01242 220053** or via the office as above.

Services and events in November

3rd Sunday 10.30am Together @ Ten Thirty for All

5.00pm Saints

In Loving Memory - a service to remember those we love

who have died

(No Evensong today)

5th Tuesday 10.30am Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

6th Wednesday 10am-12noon Church open for private prayer

10th Sunday Remembrance Sunday

9.15am Holy Communion

10.45am Act of Remembrance at the

War Memorial

6.30pm Taize for Remembrance at

at St. Nicolas's church

12th Tuesday 10.30am Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

13th Wednesday 10am - 12noon Church open for private prayer

17th Sunday 9.15am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

19th Tuesday 10.30am Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

20th Wednesday 10am - 12noon Church open for private prayer

24th Sunday 9.15am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

26th Tuesday 10.30am Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In

27th Wednesday 10am - 12noon Church open for private prayer

Services and events in December

1st Sunday	10.30am 6.30pm	Together @ Ten Thirty for Advent Holy Communion	
3rd Tuesday	10.30am	Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In	
4th Wednesday 10am-12noon		Church open for private prayer	
8th Sunday 10th Tuesday	9.15am 6.30pm 10.30am	Holy Communion Evensong Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In	
11th Wednesday	L0am - 12noon	Church open for private prayer	
15th Sunday 9.15am 6.30pm 17th Tuesday	Holy Communion Evensong Chatterbox Coffee Drop-In		
	10.30am	Church open for private prayer	

Details of Christmas and New Year services will be published in the December issue of the Village News



18th Wednesday 10am - 12noon

St. Lawrence's Church

All Souls service Sunday 3rd November at 5.00pm

Our annual service to remember all those we love

who have died

Everyone is welcome

If you would like the name of a loved one read out during the service please contact Karen Evans – **karen.j.evans@outlook.com** or **01242 241678**

St. Lawrence's Church, Christmas Tree Festival

An advert for the Christmas Tree Festival is elsewhere in this magazine.

Would you like to take part? We welcome trees from individuals and groups – the more, the merrier!

Put your thinking caps on and decorate a tree on this year's theme of "Our Natural World".

If you've been to the festival, you'll know that we stand the trees on table-tops, because of the lack of floor space, so most people use a 3ft tree. What you do with your tree is entirely up to you and "thinking outside the box" is actively encouraged. It doesn't even have to be a traditional Christmas tree. You can give your tree a title within the theme. The only rule is that any lights on it must be battery-powered as we cannot get electricity to the trees. (Someone will switch the lights on and off for you at the beginning and end of each day.)

The church will be open from 4pm until 8pm on the Friday evening (6th December) to set the trees up. You can bring your tree readydecorated or decorate it in situ – there's usually a bit of excitement in the air amid the chaos! We'll make arrangements with you to collect your trees on the Monday. (We leave them in place for the Sunday services.)

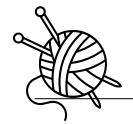
In addition to the trees, we'll have a stall for cakes and miscellaneous goods and there will be a raffle for Christmas hampers – we would appreciate any donations you can make to these.

If you would like to register a tree or want any more information about the weekend, please contact me.

The Christmas Tree Festival makes a fun start to the Christmas season – be part of it!

Karen Evans
01242 241678, Karen.j.evans@outlook.com





Marle Hill WI

We met on Monday 7 October with our speaker telling us about his experiences of seeing Big Cats not only in this County but all over the UK.

We continue to enjoy our Book Club, Knit & Natter, walks, workshops, meals out and social events. We are busy planning our Birthday Lunch and our Christmas meal (these seem to come around at an alarming rate).

There was a discussion about the changes that the National Federation are looking at changes to our Constitution.

Our next meeting is on Monday 4 November 2024 at 7:30pm at which will be our Annual Meeting with the voting on of our the committee .We meet at St Nicholas Church Hall.

Do come as a visitor and you will be warmly welcomed. If you want any more information contact Sara Jefferies.

Sue Davies Marle Hill







Each of the answers to the following questions includes a word that is the surname of a famous Bob or Bobbie:

- 1. Which Queen song was the official theme song for 1994 FIFA World Cup?
- 2. What was the name of the hippy rabbit in the Magic Roundabout?
- 3. Which acting duo had a hit (cover) with Unchained Melody in

1995?

- 4. What was the original name of Mickey Mouse?
- 5. In which area of Cheltenham is Balcarras School?
- 6. Which patriotic song has the second line "Mother of the Free"?
- 7. Which film, about a golden Labrador, stars Jennifer Aniston and

Owen Wilson?



- 8. What word is used to describe a large metal container in which coal or charcoal is burned to keep people warm when they are outside in cold weather which can also be used for cooking.
- 9. When you receive benefits you are said to be "on the"... what?
- 10. What name did Tom Hanks give to the ball in Castaway?



Hello Gardeners, Autumn is well and truly is here with lots of rain and cooler temperatures. For me it's still an enjoyable time in the garden with lots of tasks to do to prepare for next year.

One of the tasks I've been doing a lot of in the past week is repotting our Strawberries. For those that don't know, most Strawberry varieties do tend to get diseased when they're 2-3 years old, usually not to the point of no return, but a weakened plant that produces few, if any, fruits.

For this reason I always allow a few runners in late summer to go into small pots of compost, because the young plants are more likely to produce a good crop the following year. I usually pin down the runners with some bendy gardening wire then cut off the link to the parent plant around 3-4 weeks later.

For the more mature strawberry plants, that are at least a year old, now is a good time of year to repot them with fresh compost. Top tip, they love Nitrogen, so give them 'Tomato Compost' (usually quite cheap to buy in Autumn/Winter) or mix in some used coffee grounds into the spent soil! Repotting will give them refreshed vigour next year, as well as reduce the chance of disease in the following year or two.

We recently invested in some more fence planter boxes for our strawberries, as we've found they fruit the best in that position and have the added bonus of being very tricky for garden pests to get at.

Finally, don't be afraid to just throw away/compost heap your older Strawberry plants, if they're diseased and close in the soil to other healthy plants, there's a chance the disease can spread, hence the logic behind creating baby plants from runners every year.



It seems like 5 minutes ago that we were basking in the summer sun, but, as the leaves turn golden creating a beautiful autumnal view across the park, our thoughts are turning to what looks to be a busy run up to Christmas.

The team have been busy with a number of maintenance jobs around the hall, tidying up the carpark, sorting out doors and locks to keep things safe and secure. The new shed is, for want of a better word, fantastically "sheddy", and this has helped the new owners of the early years nursery get up and running. We are also barely able to contain ourselves with the excitement of some large building works in the carpark to solve a long-standing drainage issue

Looking ahead to the festive period, we have a number of exciting events coming up, with a Christmas Craft Fayre (9th of November), Wreath making workshop (7th December), Carols in the Bar (13th Dec) and the ever popular Christmas Grotto (19/20 December). All of that sounds exciting, but it's nothing compared to the razzle dazzle that is Giovanni from Strictly. We can now share that he is hosting dance classes in the hall 1st March 2025! Bookings are online at his website. We know the new years party has historically been popular, but we're not planning on running anything this year.

We're a small team of volunteers who run the hall in our spare(?) time, and we're always looking for help. If you would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. We're particularly looking for people with enthusiasm, but someone to help with social media, or running events would be really helpful. Please get in touch with any of the committee for more details.

Come and meet Santa





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Answers

- 1. We are the Champions
- 2. Dylan
- 3. Robson and Jerome
- 4. Mortimer
- 5. Charlton Kings
- 6. Land of Hope and Glory
- 7. Marley and Me
- 8. Brazier
- 9. Dole
- 10. Wilson

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Answers to quiz:

- 1. Keats
- 2. The Underworld
- 3. Halloween
- 4.1980
- 5. Brighton
- 6. Microsoft
- 7. Opal
- 8. Peter Philips (the son of Princess Anne)
- 9. World Conker

Championships

10. Munich

SWINDON PARISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Footpaths John Heathcott 527753

Scouts, Cubs, Beavers info@ 1sv-scouts.co.uk

Rainbow Guider Hannah Butler 07464 784155

Village Hall Chair Jana Bridger 07913 911930

swindonvillagehall@gmail.com

Village Hall Bookings Jana Bridger swindonvillagehall@gmail.com

Villge News Distribution Hugh Evans 241678

Play Group (Playgroup hours) 690479

For Sept 24

admission 07949 352507

School Headteacher Geraint Mills 690016

Friends of the School chairfosvps@gmail.com

Art & Crafts Club Lynne Mumford 07515 461876

Swindon Village Society Barry Simon 521723

Mary Godwin Under 5s (Playgroup hours) mgu5@hotmail.co.uk

Marle Hill W.l. Sara Jefferies 07477894639 / 692500

Please inform the editors of any changes to the contact details for village organisations.

Deadline for the next issue of the Village News is the 16th November 2024

Please send contributions to the editors via Karren Parsons at 29 Dark Lane or e-mail village-news@swindonparish.org.uk

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Lisa Whitaker (Chair)	07715	470842
Cllr. James Cornish	.07950	196709
Cllr. Sharon Collicutt	07884	184423
Cllr. Natalie Blankley	07725	948935
Cllr. Alison Berry	07754	006634
Cllr. Lynne Allen	07979	890134
Cllr. Tom Harcourt	07963	581371

There are currently <u>TWO</u> vacancies. Please get in touch if you would be interested in joining

07833 089435

Mr Shaun Cullimore (Clerk to the Council) parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk

Cheltenham Borough Councillors

Springbank Ward (south of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Peter Jeffries	07717 493686
Cllr. Suzanne Williams	01242 230648

Swindon Village Ward (north of Tewkesbury Road)

Cllr. Flo Clucas	01242 255844
Cllr. Frank Allen	07402 011272

County Councillor

Cllr. Bernard Fisher 07523 421012

ST.LAWRENCE'S CHURCH

Part of the North Cheltenham Team Ministry

Team Vicar: Revd. Jacqueline Henson revjacquelinehenson@gmail.com

220053

Churchwarden: Hugh Evans,241678

Tower Captain: Hugh Evans,.....241678
Organist: John Collins......511950

North Cheltenham Team Ministry Office 244373

admin@northchelt.org.uk

The office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 1.30pm, and on Friday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

Outside these hours please leave a message on the answer-phone.

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors or the Parish Council.