



Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council

Web: www.psbpc.co.uk

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Tel.: **01454 631499** (Jonathan Edwardes - Parish Clerk)

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CASUAL VACANCY

Notice was previously given that by reason of resignation a vacancy had occurred among the members of the Parish Council. The vacancy remains. As nobody in the parish requested an election for the vacancy in the Severn Beach Ward, the Parish Council are pleased to be able to offer this position by co-option.

Any person willing to fill this vacancy should apply to the Clerk in writing before Monday, the 31st of January 2022. Please see the Parish Council website for contact details, or email the Clerk using the email address above.

PILNING VILLAGE HALL

As reported in the previous issue of InView, Pilning Village Hall needs your support with new members for its management committee. Without more voluntary help, there is a danger that the Hall might have to close. The current management committee are looking for people with a variety of skills, and anyone with a bit of spare time would be very welcome. Meetings are held on Monday evenings once a month.

If you would like to find out more about how you could help, please contact Sara at pilningvillagehall1@outlook.com

PILNING PLAYING FIELDS

At some point during this month, a new set of swings will be installed at the Playing Fields for everyone to enjoy. Look out for the new addition!

FLOOD WARDEN VACANCY

A vacancy for a Flood Warden has arisen in our parish. Flood Wardens are volunteers trained to help people in local communities that are at risk of flooding. If you would like to provide a vital link between the emergency services and the community, please register your interest with the Parish Clerk. Full training will be provided.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY RETURNS



Please remember to fill out and return your Neighbourhood Plan survey by the 22nd of December. The Steering Group needs to hear your views about how our community would grow over the next few years, what infrastructure you would like to see, and to ensure that our community needs are met.

The best way is to fill the survey online, but there are collection boxes around the parish for those who would like to use pen and paper. See the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group newsletter for further details.

RAW SEWAGE AND WATER QUALITY

The River Severn, the longest river in the UK, makes up a large part of our parish (which is illustrated in the Neighbourhood Plan logo). That is why the Parliamentary debate about the water quality at the end of October was of great interest to us. We noted that despite being a representative of a coastal constituency, Rt.Hon. Jack Lopresti MP voted against what the media labelled as “making it illegal for water companies to dump raw sewage into our rivers”.

Since then, on Monday the 8th of November, the Parliament passed another amendment to the bill. We understand that this is a compromise to the previously passed legislation that caused a public backlash. As you have heard on the news, the environment minister told MPs that the government’s amendment did place a duty on water firms in England to deliver improvements to storm overflows and *progressively reduce* sewage discharges into the open water. However, campaigners for clean water doubt that the latest amendment creates legal duty to stop releasing raw sewage into waterways, neither it specifies any timescales for the reduction process.



The Parish Council discussed what impact the Lords Amendment to the Environment Bill 2021-22 would have on the water quality in our parish and after a short debate we resolved to write to Jack Lopresti MP regarding this issue. The Sea Wall is very popular for family walks, fishing and bird watching. Our rhines act as an overflow for the Severn at high tides. The river is also an important international migratory route for birds and fish. Since the EU Waste Water Directive 1991 has to be replaced with another piece of legislation, the government must find a way to stop untreated sewage flowing freely through our water network. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the developments around the Environment Bill, which will have such a great impact on our community.

QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACON

As part of the Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations on the 2nd of June 2022, there will be a bonfire beacon in our parish. The Queen’s Pageants Master requested that our beacon should be lit at 9pm. We are indebted to the 1st Severn Beach Scout Group for all their help in organising this event. The location and the running order will be confirmed in due course.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at Severn Beach Primary School on **Monday, December the 6th** starting at 7pm. Please see the parish council website for the agenda and minutes of the past meetings.

SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to serving our parish in 2022.



Article by Olga Taylor on behalf of the Parish Council

Photo: D Hassell