June 2019

Dear Parishioner

**Parish Assembly**

The annual Parish Assembly was held in the Village Hall on Friday, 12th April. Unfortunately, as in past years, only about 30 residents attended. We would like to see more of you come along to hear about the work carried out by the Parish Council over the past year. The agenda for the meeting was as usual with the Parish Councillors introducing themselves, individually. Presentations were then made by the chairmen of the four committees, Assets, Finance, Planning/Highways and Policy. There were also reports from Wootton Park and South Wootton in Bloom and from one of our Borough Councillors, Mrs Elizabeth Nockolds. Residents were able to ask questions after each presentation. After the meeting closed, everyone was invited to stay and enjoy ‘cheese and wine’ refreshments.

 More information can be found in the minutes of the meeting, which will be published on our website.

**Local Elections in May**

In the Borough Council Elections, three Councillors have been elected for the new ward of ‘The Woottons’ (comprising North and South Wootton and Castle Rising). They are, Mrs Elizabeth Nockolds, Lord Greville Howard and Mr Graham Middleton. There was no Parish Council Election as our current 14 Councillors were elected unopposed. There remains one vacancy for the Parish Council and if anyone is interested please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Land west of Nursery Lane**

You will recall that the planning application submitted by Bowbridge for 125 new properties west of Nursery Lane was approved by the Borough Council Planning Committee last December. Since then, some of you may have seen a ‘Cruso and Wilkin’ notice board advertising the land for sale with planning approval.

It appears that Bowbridge is a Land Promotion Company which has a Promotion Agreement with the landowners to sell the land on the open market. There is no guide price for the sale of the land which will be determined by market forces.

The land has Outline Planning permission for 125 houses but if the new owners want to change or modify anything, they will need to go through the planning process again to change the number or any of the conditions made on the original application. The Parish Council will keep a close watch on developments.

 **Wootton Park 200 Club**

The 200 Club is a valuable contributor to the cost of upkeep on the Park. Currently the club has 125 members and we would like to encourage more people to join. Membership costs £24 per annum and there are three worthwhile cash prizes provided with each monthly draw. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please contact the Parish Office for details.

**South Wootton in Bloom**

South Wootton in Bloom is a small but very active group of volunteers who are busy throughout the year keeping the village looking at its best. They are responsible for the large displays of daffodils in Spring, the planting of flowers in tubs and flower beds, as well as the wildflower strip on Wootton Park, in the Summer and Autumn. Also, they have produced the 20 hanging baskets located at the Village Hall and the shops along Nursery Lane. Other community projects include the Infant and Junior School gardens and the Churchyard garden at St Mary’s Church.The work is financed via a donation from the Parish Council and other fund-raising activities.

The ‘Anglia in Bloom’ competition is held every year and last year the village was presented with a Gold Award. This year the Judges will be visiting the village in July. They judge the whole of the village not just the work done by the volunteers. You can help by making sure that the areas near where you live are kept weed free and look neat and tidy. Please help to get Gold for the village again this year!

The Group would welcome new members interested in gardening to help. This need not be on a regular basis as occasional help with jobs would be useful. If you feel that you can give us some time, we would love to hear from you. Please contact either Margaret Albinson (01553 670241) or Theresa Banks (01553 672303), for more information.

Your sincerely

David Price

Chairman of the Parish Council