

EGGLESCLIFFE & EAGLESCLIFFE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 81

April 2013



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year the Annual Meeting of the Parish Assembly will be held on
Thursday 25th April at 7.30pm
in Egglecliffe Community Centre on Durham Lane.

Councillors will report on the work of the Council during the past year; you will have the opportunity to put questions to the Councillors and to air your views on any topic which concerns you. This year we also have a **guest speaker, Barry Coppinger, Cleveland's Police and Crime Commissioner.**



Egglecliffe Village and Eliff's Mill allotment awards for 2012 will be presented at the meeting



The meeting will be followed by the Chairman's Social Evening and you are cordially invited to join us for light refreshments and a chance to chat informally with your Councillors and Mr Coppinger

GOOD NEWS ON COUNCIL TAX!

At a time when the other authorities are increasing the demands which make up your Council Tax bill, Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Council are pleased to announce that the part of your tax which you pay for their services will be less.

For some years your local council has been charging tax to fund a programme of improvements to play areas (St Margaret's, Amberley Way, Leven Close and Kingsmead). Most of this work has now been done and there is sufficient money in the bank to complete the jobs.

The level of expenditure has now been reduced to cover the ongoing work of this council – including the maintenance of those play areas, the village green, the war memorials, running a summer play scheme, etc. Apart from a new grant to help with the cost of replacing Council Tax Benefit, Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Council (unlike the Borough Council and the police and fire services) receives no government money.

Further detail of how all this is worked out will be given at the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting or can be obtained on request from the Clerk. The bottom line is that households in Egglecliffe Civil Parish **will pay 22.75% less in the year ending 31st March 2014** than in the previous year for services from Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Council.

A Band D property will pay £17.43 out of a total bill of £1571.65.



DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE QUEEN'S CORONATION

Your Council, in collaboration with St. John's Church and Egglecliffe Area Residents Association, is planning to hold a celebration of the Jubilee
on

This will take place on the village Green and in the Parish Hall and will probably be similar to the event held last year. Final arrangements will be announced later in the spring and will be well publicised on the council web site and notice boards.

THANK YOU TO THE TASK FORCE TEAM AT HMP KIRKLEVINGTON GRANGE

Once again the council is indebted to the task force team for their community work. The team did a sterling job recently of refurbishing the council owned benches on Egglecliffe Green and at Memorial Park on Victoria Road, know locally as 'Tittybottle Park'.

The council understands from the Task Force Supervisor, Steve Wilson, that the volunteers choose to be involved in various types of projects ranging from painting to paving and planting to pruning; essentially caring, helping and giving back to the local community. Many will learn new skills on this 'journey' some may already have basic skills and others may be experts in a particular discipline; but part of this process is to prepare them for eventual release back into law abiding members of the community.

All members of the team deserve praise for their hard work on the dismantling and re-fixing of the benches on site; and members of the internal gardens team for preparing/varnishing/painting/assembling.

'Jim the Joiner' a member of staff from the prison Works Department also deserves a mention for his work in preparing the wooden sections of the benches.

Are you a keen gardener in need of more growing space?

Then an allotment may be the answer!



At the time of going to press, there are two vacant plots at our Eliff's Mill allotment site on the A67 and we have reached the end of the waiting list of people who live within the parish. If you are interested in taking on a plot at this site, now is the time to contact the Clerk.



Congratulations.....

to the chairman of our neighbouring parish, Miss Marjorie Galloway, who was made MBE in the New Year honours list. She has been chairman of the council for many years, but has also been involved for a very long time with Preston Primary School and is well-known throughout the area for her dedication to Preston-on-Tees.

WHEELED SPORT

Residents will recall that the parish council has tried for some time to find a suitable place for our youngsters to practice and develop their skills on bmx, skateboards, scooters etc. We had set aside money to install some equipment if a site could be found. Our preferred site of Junction Farm Pocket Park was ruled out by Stockton Council because the building work at Junction Farm school would necessitate using some of the land and there would be a conflict between children using small equipment and large building wagons.

Other sites were looked at, some were consulted on but all were rejected by the residents nearby or the landowners. In the meantime we supported Stockton Council's bid for funding for a large scale facility at Preston Park. We were delighted to hear that the Preston Park bid was successful and will be built in time for next summer. We have also been pleased to welcome into the area Axiom Sports who have an indoor facility at Durham Lane Industrial Estate. This is run by a local Christian group but no church membership is required for users. Although only open for a limited time each week it does offer somewhere safe to go and practice.

LIFE'S GREAT MILESTONES



HM The Queen sends cards to people on their 100th, 105th and subsequent birthdays; also (if she is told in advance) their 60th, 65th, 70th and subsequent wedding anniversaries. Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Council would like to do the same for people living in their area. If you have a friend or relative here approaching one of these milestones, please let the Clerk know.

AMBERLEY WAY PLAY AREA

There have been ongoing disappointments over this play area. Long delays in getting the play sculpture completed were caused because the wood specified by the artist was unobtainable. Bad weather meant that the work took a lot longer than expected. Eventually RoSPA was able to get on site and carry out the necessary safety inspections. Their inspector identified a small number of items which needed attention and SBC was instructed to carry out the necessary work. This has now been done but winter weather stopped the grass growing back so the fencing could still not be removed. Meanwhile the drainage on the remainder of the play area was shown to be unable to cope when the ground was compacted by the number of children playing on it and the equipment needed to install the new play items.

The land is owned by Stockton Borough Council so the Parish Council asked for the drainage to be improved and offered a contribution towards the cost. SBC officers suggested that the ward councillors should contribute from their ward budget. Unfortunately one councillor decided not to agree to that allocation and there was considerable delay while the Stockton Council processes were followed. Finally the funding was allocated and the work is now in the list of things to be done by Stockton Council.

Residents might also have read comments on the safety and quality of the play area made by the same councillor. The Parish Council is very concerned at these comments, especially as there is a claim that a report from an expert confirms these matters. We have asked to see the report so that we can send it to our insurers, Stockton council's play area inspector and RoSPA, all of whom have carried out safety inspections.

The safety of our children is very important to us.

YARM SCHOOL SPORTS PITCHES

Residents will no doubt be aware that the planning application for Yarm School's playing fields to be located in the green wedge within the Tees Heritage Park on the Egglecliffe side of the river was turned down by Stockton Council's planning committee. The arguments of residents that the Heritage Park and Green Wedge in this area was irreplaceable and not compatible with sports pitches for a school were accepted. We know that the application was linked to one for housing off Green Lane in Yarm, which included the school's present playing pitches. Stockton Council has employed engineering consultants to examine traffic in the Yarm & Egglecliffe area and their findings show that 700+ houses on Green Lane would cause unacceptable traffic problems which could not be mitigated by changing the roads. As a result the applicant has now withdrawn the school playing pitches from his application. This gives us hope that the school application will go no further. However, there is still time for them to lodge an appeal so we are not complacent. Thanks to the campaigning individuals and groups who worked publicly and behind the scenes to stop this.

THIRTY YEARS AS PARISH COUNCILLORS!



In May this year it will be thirty years since two very unassuming and pleasant gentlemen, Geoff Turner and John Fletcher, were elected as Parish Councillors on the then Egglecliffe Parish Council. That is quite an achievement by anyone's standards and they have seen many other members come and go.

They are a mine of information of issues past and can be relied upon to come up with the answers that no-one else knows.

Despite the efforts of some outsiders, your Council has always been proud of the fact that it is non political. Geoff and John have played a large part in achieving that.

Many thanks to them for their service.

DRAINS!!!!

Your Parish Council was asked by a resident about alerting people to their responsibilities with respect to drains crossing their land. Stockton Council's legal department gave the following information: It is not the Parish Council or SBC's responsibility to advise landowners of their obligations or responsibilities for drains. Each landowner is responsible for ascertaining their ownership obligations and responsibilities. The riparian owners are all responsible for maintenance and if they have issues with water on their land as result of a drain or watercourse on someone else's land they must take it up with them direct.

Problem! Who Do I Call?

In an emergency: The 999 service should only be used to report an urgent incident which is happening now or one which has just occurred needing an emergency response	Police- 999 or 112 also Fire, Ambulance or Coastguard
If you wish to report a crime or other non-urgent incident, contact your nearest Police Station	Stockton-607114 M'Bro HQ-326326
Vandalism, threats, harassment, graffiti, street drinking etc.	ASB Team-607943
Railway vandalism	British Transport Police-0800 405040
Medical queries	NHS Direct-0845 4647
Gas emergency	0800 111999
Victim Support	01642 297000
Childline	0800 1111
Flood alerts and warnings	Floodline 0845 9881188

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Residents are welcome at Council meetings, these are held in Egglecliffe School on Uray Nook Road, commencing at 7pm.

You are welcome to observe from 7pm-8pm and at 8pm you are welcome to speak.

So, if you have something you want to discuss with **YOUR COUNCILLORS** please come along.

Forthcoming meeting dates:

APRIL	18th
MAY	2nd & 16th
JUNE	6th & 20th
JULY	4th & 18th

Please note that these dates are provisional and subject to change to allow for holidays, quorum problems etc.

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman:	Cllr Maureen Rigg	782009
Vice-Chairman:	Cllr Alex Lamond	652293
	Cllr Harry Alderton	648651
	Cllr John Atkinson	652493
	Cllr Geoff Colling	648470
	Cllr John Fletcher	786456
	Cllr Alan Lewis	784910
	Cllr George Perrie	652498
	Cllr Rose Reynolds	781978
	Cllr Mike Richards	648354
	Cllr Geoff Turner	652081
	Cllr John Walker	651286
	Cllr Alan Wilbert	652207
	Clerk to the Council	785951
	Email: egglescliffepc@btconnect.com	

COMMENT SHEET

You are invited to complete and return this section with any comments, suggestions or complaints about anything happening in the Parish (or even anything not happening!)

COMMENT:

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Please print your details to enable us to respond:

NAME: ADDRESS:.....

EMAIL ADDRESS:.....

Please return to: Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Council, The Old Offices, Uray Nook, Eaglescliffe TS16 0LA
Or email your comments to: egglescliffepc@btconnect.com