

Parish Information Bulletin

June 2017



parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk

Mendip Rural Forum

June 13th

Surgery 6pm, main agenda 6:30pm



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If you wish to submit an item for the Parish Council Information Bulletin, please email it to parishbulletin@mendip.gov.uk



Wessex Resolutions – Wessex Home Improvement Loans

Homeowners in Mendip who need to make repairs to their home may be eligible for assistance through funds from the local authority. The council are working in partnership with local not-for-profit organisation Wessex Resolutions CIC delivering fixed rate loans for home improvements.

Loan funds are recycled for the benefit of the community. Each time a repayment is made the money goes back into the original lending pot and is then available to help more people in need. Spreading the cost of repairs to your home can be a real benefit to people who can't afford the unexpected cost upfront but need the repair as soon as possible.

Harriet Munday, Communications Co-Ordinator for Wessex Resolutions will be speaking at the next **Mendip Rural Forum on June 13th**, please see agenda below.

To find out more about the scheme, please call 01823 461099 or visit www.wrcic.org.uk

Assets of Community Value (ACV)

Local communities are increasingly asking Parish Councils to make applications to nominate an asset as an Asset of Community Value and over the recent months the Council has received a flurry of enquiries regarding the processes and benefits of nominating local assets as an Asset of Community Value. Some of these enquiries have resulted in applications being made, some of these applications unfortunately have been returned to the applicant as not valid.

Across the country many of those applications that fail are because they have not satisfied the statutory questions and / or provided sufficient evidence to support their claims, this is often because the application is rushed and / or there is little appreciation of the amount of work required in preparing of an application.

There is a lot of information on the council's website (www.mendip.gov.uk/acv) and it is strongly recommend that potential applicants read the 'application criteria' document, which sets out how an application is considered and gives a flavour of the sort of evidence expected in support of an application.

Ian Munday will be giving a presentation at the next **Mendip Rural Forum on June 13th** (please note change of date due to national election) which will explain the process as well as discuss the myths and facts surrounding the ACV regulations and benefits of nomination of assets. Full agenda items for the forum are in an article below.



Mendip Parish Forum

The Mendip Parish Forum is for clerks, elected members and community representatives from across Mendip. The forums are held quarterly in the Council Chamber at the Mendip District Council offices.

Date of next Forums

Tuesday 13 June 2017 – *Please note the change of date due to the national election on June 8.*

September 26 2017

January 18 2018

Agenda for June 13th

Surgeries from 6pm

Fly tipping, posting, grazing & abandon vehicles – Ian Glover

Garden Waste – Julie Jackson

Police - TBC

Planning Policy – Andre Sestini

Community Council for Somerset – Matt Day

Agenda Items

Wessex Resolutions – Home Improvement Loans

Harriet Munday

SPARK Mendip

Sharon Blythe

Community Assets

Ian Munday, Property Transformation Officer

Economic Development Plan

Cllr Tom Killen, Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Your Forum – your ideas

Please send suggestions to Sally Gubb e mail address sally.gubb@mendip.gov.uk or call 01749 341411.

Vacancy for a Part Time Parish Clerk and Finance Officer Council: Kilmersdon Parish Council

Salary: Scale LC1-2, on a permanent Contract (pro rata) Part Time: 7 hours a week (some evening work required)

Kilmersdon Parish Council invites applications for the position of Parish Clerk and Financial Officer. The Council serves a population of around 800 with a part time



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clerk/financial officer and six Parish Councillors. The position will be based at the Clerk's home and they must be able to supply some office storage facilities. Computer literate with MS Office Skills and some experience with updating websites.

Responsibilities include:

- Dealing with correspondence and emails
- Maintaining paper and computer records
- Preparing accounts, dealing with invoices, payments, PAYE and banking as needed
- Preparing Agenda and taking Minutes at regular monthly meetings
- Looking at best value for contracts with a view to cost saving.
- Maintaining the Asset Register and Parish Council Website
- Keeping up to date with current planning and financial regulations and being prepared to offer advice if required.

For further information or for an informal discussion about the role, contact Parish Clerk Terry Nicholls: clerk@kilmersdonpc.co.uk All applications in writing to Kilmersdon Parish Clerk, 62 Braysdown Lane, Peasedown St John, Bath. BA2 8HS. Closing date: 16th June 2017.

Kilmersdon Parish Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Community Funding

Computers for Rural People

Low cost computers for individuals, community groups, schools and businesses that live and work in a rural area (orders may be made at any time)

The Rank Foundation's [Computers for Rural People](#) makes laptops and desktop computers available at extra-low charity prices.

For people living and/or working in a rural area a fully functioning computer can be provided for as little as £130. A [price list](#) can be downloaded from the Foundation's website.

Individuals, schools, businesses and community groups all qualify for an Internet-ready laptops and desktops with pre-installed Microsoft software.

Computers are delivered directly to applicants with a three-month warranty.

PLEASE NOTE: these are reconditioned computers that have been fully refurbished, rather than completely new PCs or laptops.

Eligibility extends to people and organisations in country towns as well as villages, hamlets and individual properties such as farmhouses.



The usual definition of a rural settlement of having a population of less than 10,000 should apply to the scheme, but we recommend checking with the Rank Foundation if you're interested in applying but unsure whether you meet the criteria.

The cost of the computer includes a £20 donation to Germinate, The Arthur Rank Centre, to help cover the cost of the scheme.

UK tax payers can increase their donation by 25% at no extra cost by completing a Gift Aid form (see right-hand column for a basic outline of Gift Aid).

Computers can be ordered by phone, email by post at the address below.

Applicants are advised to have their credit or debit cards to hand if paying by phone, together with the following information:

1. Your name;
2. Your address, including post code; and
3. A description of the computer you wish to purchase (see [price list](#)).

For further information, visit the [Germinate, Arthur Rank Centre's website](#).

Contact details for Computers for Rural People are:

John Bennett
Computers for Rural People
Tel: 02476 853066
Email: johnb@germinate.net

The Finnis Scott Foundation

Grants for individuals and UK charities working in the areas of horticulture and plant sciences, as well as art and art history (applications may be made at any time)

Although the Finnis Scott Foundation may award grants for any charitable purpose, in practice its policy is to concentrate its grant-making on:

- o Horticulture and plant sciences;
- o Fine art; and
- o Art history.

Revenue and capital grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available. Occasionally larger grants are made. There is no specific requirement for match funding. Preference is given to support smaller charities where the grant would have a significant impact.

During the year ending 31 December 2015 grants were awarded to 52 applicants totalling £347,600 (2014: £358,674). 73 applicants were considered at the Trusts regular meetings, so if an applicant reaches this stage it has a good chance of success.

Previous awards have included:



- o Eureka Children's Charity (£5,000);
- o Autism Initiated (£555);
- o CHICKS (£7,000);
- o Salisbury Museum (£5,000);
- o Future Trees (£5,000);
- o Friends of Amber Primary School (£2,000);
- o Drug and Alcohol Service (£1,200); and
- o Combat Stress (£5,000).

A full list of all awards made during the year is on the Foundation's accounts on the [Charity Commission website](#).

In the event of awards to individuals, the Foundation normally requires a grant to be made through a registered charity or higher education institution.

Applications may be submitted at any time and are considered at quarterly Trustee meetings. Applications should be received at least three weeks before the date of a meeting. The two remaining meeting dates for 2017 are:

- o Wednesday 12th July 2017 – forms to be returned to the administrator by **Friday 16th June**; and
- o Wednesday 18th October 2017 - forms to be returned to the administrator by **Friday 22nd September**.

Application forms are available to download from the [Foundation's website](#).

The following documents should also be included:

- o The organisation's governing document;
- o If available, any business plan, project plan or similar document setting out the purpose of the grant;
- o The organisation's most recent accounts and annual report;
- o The organisation's current budget and any separate project budget; and
- o Any further documents that are requested.

For further information, visit the [Finnis Scott Foundation website](#).

Contact details for the Foundation are:

Angela Moon
 The Finnis Scott Foundation
 Tel: 01604 233233
 Email: angelamoon@hewitsons.com



News from the Monitoring Officer

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee has an important role in seeking to ensure high standards of behaviour amongst Members of the District Council as well as Parishes.

Contact details for SALC and SLCC	
Somerset Association of Local Councils Edgar Hall Somerton Business Park 8 Cary Court Somerton TA11 6SB Telephone 01458 270922	Society of Local Council Clerks The Society of Local Council Clerks Main Office No.8 The Crescent Taunton TA1 4EA Telephone: 01823 253646 Fax: 01823 253681 www.slcc.co.uk

Parish Declaration of Interest Forms

Guidance for completing the Parish Declaration of Interest Forms can be found on the website following the link <http://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/2321/Parish-Councils>

A date for your diary

Cabinet, Monday, 12 June 2016

Starting on 12 Jun 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

Monday, 12 June 2017

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet. The meeting will commence at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Planning Board, Wednesday, 14 June 2017

Starting on 14 Jun 17 at 18:00 for 3 hours until 21:00

Wednesday, 14 June 2017

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG), Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Starting on 20 Jun 17 at 15:00 for 3 hours until 18:00

Tuesday 20 June 2017

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council at 3pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Licensing Board, Wednesday, 21 June 2017

Starting on 21 Jun 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Scrutiny Board, Monday, 26 June 2017

Starting on 26 Jun 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

Monday 26 June 2017

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Cabinet, Monday, 10 July 2017

Starting on 10 Jul 17 at 18:30 for 3 hours until 21:30

Monday, 10 July 2017

This meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet. The meeting will commence at 6.30 pm. An agenda will be published 7 days ahead of the meeting.

Contact details for the committee officers are as follows:

Claire Dicken

claire.dicken@mendip.gov.uk

01749 341341



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