

## New Chair and Vice-Chair

At the Council's Annual Meeting on 9 May, Cllr Alan Taylor was nominated for and accepted the position of Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr Caroline Pearson was also nominated for and accepted the position of Vice-Chair. The Council wish to thank Cllr Sue Francis for her work as Chair over the last four years and Cllr Malcolm Millichap for his work as Vice-Chair (and previously Chair) for many years. Both remain councillors and continue to work with the Council for the benefit of the parish.

## Berkswich Parish Council

### Chair - Cllr Alan Taylor

01785 664473  
Village Gardens

### Vice-Chair - Cllr Caroline Pearson

01785 661113  
Village Gardens

### Cllr Vicky Campbell

01785 600411  
Village Gardens

### Cllr Sue Francis

01785 665490  
Main Road

### Cllr Bob Gilson

01785 660010  
Porlock Avenue

### Cllr Beverley Hughes

Old Croft Road  
01785 663358

### Cllr Tim Luker

07960 043412  
The Rise

### Cllr Ann Millichap

01785 664036  
Village Gardens

### Cllr Malcolm Millichap

01785 664036  
Village Gardens

### Cllr Michael Norris

01785 662263  
Honeysuckle Rise

### Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Sue Fullwood

[berkswichclerk@gmail.com](mailto:berkswichclerk@gmail.com)

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[berkswichpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:berkswichpcnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Staffordshire County Councillor

Cllr John Francis  
01785 665490

### Stafford Borough Councillor

Cllr Peter Edgeller  
07803 276431



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# Berkswich Parish Council NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023



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Welcome to our newsletter for Summer 2023. Since the Spring edition we have had big changes within the Council because of the local elections. We have been busy settling in new councillors, we had our annual internal audit and have been continuing to comment on planning applications and issues affecting the Parish. Unfortunately we had to cancel our planned picnic for the Coronation because of rain, we hope no-one was too disappointed. We would like to have our phone box on Main Road refurbished—if anyone knows a handy person who could help please let our Clerk know.

## New Parish Councillors

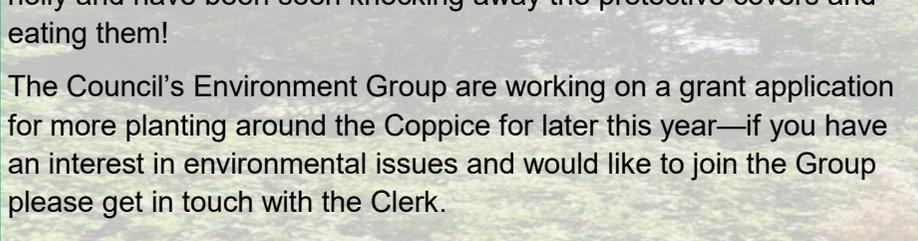
Local elections were held in May 2023 and there were 8 nominated candidates for the 10 seats for the Berkswich Parish, therefore all the nominated candidates were confirmed as councillors including two new councillors, Cllr Beverley Hughes and Cllr Michael Norris. The two remaining seats were filled by co-option at the Council's annual meeting on 9 May by Cllr Bob Gilson and Cllr Vicky Campbell.

Three previous councillors, Cllr Graham Kilford, Cllr Ben Rowell and Cllr Margaret Crossland, did not stand for re-election - we wish them well for the future and thank them for all their contributions to the Council over the last four years and beyond.

## Walton Coppice Update

In February 2023 the Parish Council were successful in obtaining a grant to plant and reinforce the boundary hedge around Walton Coppice. A variety of hawthorn, holly, hazel, dog rose and honeysuckle were planted around the Coppice to increase biodiversity. It seems that deer have taken a liking to some of the plants, particularly the holly and have been seen knocking away the protective covers and eating them!

The Council's Environment Group are working on a grant application for more planting around the Coppice for later this year—if you have an interest in environmental issues and would like to join the Group please get in touch with the Clerk.



## Berkswich Church Fete



Berkswich Parish Council had a stall at the Berkswich Church Parish Fete on Sunday 17 June 2023. Cllr Caroline Pearson, Cllr Tim Luker and Cllr Beverley Hughes were there to answer any questions and to give children the opportunity to decorate crowns with jewels and stickers to take home with them. A

lovely afternoon was had by all and the councillors even managed to get the gazebo down before the rain started!



## School Lane Trees

Work on the trees along School Lane was undertaken in April 2023. An unfortunate misunderstanding meant that the arboricultural company did not liaise with the electricity network about the trees close to the power lines, so the road will need to be closed again for one or two days in Autumn to allow the originally planned work to be completed. Apologies for any inconvenience caused, this was out of our hands.



## Meeting Dates

Our Parish Council meetings always start with a public session where members of the public can ask questions and raise issues with us. Members of the public can then leave the meeting if they wish to, or they can stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

Agreed meeting dates for 2023/24 are:

- 4 July 2023
- 5 September 2023
- 3 October 2023
- 7 November 2023
- 2 January 2024
- 6 February 2024
- 5 March 2024
- 2 April 2024

Meeting dates for 2024/25 will be agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 7 May 2024. Meetings start at 7.30 pm at Walton Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

## Allotments

Further to the article in our last newsletter regarding allotments, five people within our parish and two people from Baswich expressed an interest in having an allotment. This was discussed at the April Parish Council meeting and it was suggested that the Council could work with anyone who has a large, unmanageable space that they wouldn't mind someone else using as an allotment. If you have a large garden or other open space and would consider this please get in touch with our Clerk at [berkswichclerk@gmail.com](mailto:berkswichclerk@gmail.com).

## Clean Air

We know how tempting it is to leave your engine running to keep the air conditioning on when stationary in hot weather, but please consider the health of the people around you and the environment, and

**TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF**

## Wild Flowers

The Parish Council's Environment Group would like to establish a bed for wild flowers within the Parish. If you have any suggestions or comments on this subject please contact our Clerk (contact details on the back page).