

# **Haughton Parish Council News and Events**

In this Newsletter we have 3 key items – news about Defibrillator Training, problems of Dog Fouling, and news of a Parish Meeting to discuss BKV and the Christmas Lights.

## **Defibrillator Training**

The last session of defibrillator training had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances – the trainer could not make it. We have rearranged the free training to be on:

**Wednesday 20th February at 14:00 in The Bell, Haughton**

For further information please contact the clerk on:

01785 840845 or [clerk@haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk](mailto:clerk@haughtonpc-staffs.org.uk)

IT WOULD BE HELPFUL BUT NOT ESSENTIAL IF YOU COULD LET THE PARISH CLERK KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND

## **Dog Fouling**

### **PLEASE CO-OPERATE**

Despite having signs at the entrances to the playing field banning dogs, we have had reports of people allowing dogs to run loose and defecate on both the playing field and football pitch. The pitch is used regularly by two junior football teams and any mess has to be cleaned up prior to play taking place. Dog excrement is extremely harmful to children if it gets into their eyes or into any scratches. We are taking this very seriously and have informed Stafford Borough Council Dog Warden, who is now investigating the problem and will use CCTV if necessary. The fine for breaching the rules can be up to £1000.

Dog-gloves are available from dispensing units around the village and from the Post Office and General Store, and there are several bins for the disposal of waste, which should help in enabling all dog-walkers to comply with the law.

## **Do you want to be a Parish Councillor?**

In May 2019 it will be the Parish Council Elections when all the councillors stand down and a new parish council is elected. We often hear comments like, “We could do that job better than the existing council”, so now is your opportunity to stand. What is entailed? Well, the reason we are asking for your interest now is that it allows potential councillors to come along and observe the council meetings to see what is involved. We meet at 7.00pm in the village hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in the month except for August and December. Next Meetings are 25<sup>th</sup> Feb., 25<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

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**Parish Meeting to be held on**  
**Wednesday 27th February at 20:00**  
**in the Village Hall**

**a) BKV 2019**

It is that time of year when we need to consider whether we should enter the Best Kept Village Competition again. We are very keen to involve all the village, so if you are interested in being involved in any way please come along to the village hall to discuss this. Our past successes benefit us all with a pleasant, tidy and well-maintained village to live in. We are particularly keen for new people from a wide age-range to contribute to the running of our entry and to help in finding the best way forward in organising it.

The event has been run under the governance of the Parish Council for many years, but with the tightening of regulations around parish councils this is becoming increasingly time-consuming, although not impossible. The 2018 event was run by a working party, made up of a number of councillors and parishioners, again with the council having responsibility for holding the funds. Another option would be for the Best Kept Village group to be an independent society responsible for raising and spending its own funds.

The Parish Council would like to give people the opportunity to discuss these options, together with any others that people may have in mind.

**b) Christmas Lights 2019**

Once again a very large number of people visited Haughton over the Christmas period to view the decorated houses of the village, bringing pleasure to their children and giving so generously that a record £11350 was raised for local charities. Although the majority of visitors respect properties and park sensibly, there have been incidences of driveways being blocked, traffic delays and property encroachment, causing concern to affected residents.

Although the Parish Council is not involved in the Christmas Lights we would like to offer the opportunity to all parishioners to air their views, make comments, ask questions and offer solutions to any problems which arose during the recent festive season.