

AUTUMN 2000

Simon Cross is now the Chairman of the Parish Council with Celia Meaden from Rushton as Vice Chairman. Other members of the Parish Council are Mrs. J. Axon of Stockford, Adrian Cullinane of Binnegar, Gareth Thomas, Binnegar Cottage, Barry Quinn, Wistaria Cottage, Binnegar and John McConnell of Highwood.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

At the beginning of each Parish Council meeting there is now a quarter of an hour allocated for any members of the Parish to raise issues of concern. The meeting usually begins at 7.30 for this discussion time.

THE HAWKINS TRUST

As usual with this letter you will be receiving a form concerning annual gifts by the Trust at Christmas and Easter. If you are eligible by age for either of these gifts please complete the form and return it to Sue Barrett by 15th November. This year we are again giving the option of a bottle instead of a hamper at the Christmas distribution.

LEASE OF LAND

The Parish Council will again be inviting tenders for renting land adjacent to Stokeford Inn. This land is for grazing purposes only for twelve months from 1 December 2000 to 30 November 2001. Tenders should be addressed to S. Barrett, East Whiteway Farm, Steeple Wareham BH20 5NX, the envelopes clearly marked "Grazing Tender", by 16th November 2001 and the tenders will be opened at the Parish Council Meeting on 23 November.

BUS SHELTER

In March of this year comments were received by the Parish Council on the deteriorating state of the bus shelter. Although we no longer have a bus service the shelter is often used by local children waiting for school buses. An inspection revealed that the structure of the shelter was basically sound and the main repairs needed were cosmetic. The Parish Council therefore voted to fund the refurbishment on a self help basis. The work was completed during the early summer by Barry Quinn and we hope that you agree that it now looks a lot better.

RUINS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The ruins of St. Mary's Church, a scheduled ancient monument, were discussed at a public participation session of one of the Council's Meetings in the summer. At that meeting there was some support for the idea that the ruins should be preserved for the benefit of the Parish. Under the rules regarding scheduled ancient monuments the land owner, in this case, Malcolm Barnes, is not obliged to care for the site but he has in the past provided some fencing to prevent damage from livestock. That fencing has latterly deteriorated. A meeting was held at the ruins in order to consider their condition and also that of the existing fencing. At the meeting Malcolm was asked what he would allow on his land in relation to the ruins. All agreed that the ruins needed protecting and that a proper fence was required. Malcolm has kindly offered to donate some labour and machinery whilst our Liaison Officer would make enquiries with the relevant authorities to establish what grants if any, were available for materials. A cost for the materials required to replace the fence has been obtained suggesting something over £2000. The Council feel that the protection of the ruins is a worthwhile cause and one that the Parish could undertake even as a belated Millennium project. The Council would welcome the views of the

Parish on this issue or suggestions relating to possible funding or sources of funds to protect this piece of Parish Heritage. Funds held by the Parish Council are extremely limited and without a fund raising effort of some kind the scheme has little prospect of success.

PURBECK WAY

We are attaching a leaflet illustrating a new walk developed by the Heritage Committee which is called Purbeck Way West Route. This is an extension to the popular Purbeck Way launched in 1997. We hope this will be of interest to you

C.J. BARNES, LUCKFORD WOOD

Our meeting in July was well attended with approximately 30 members of the public. They were primarily in attendance to air their views and listen to us as councillors in relation to Mr Barnes planning application. Following that meeting we received a letter from Purbeck District Council and this is an extract from that letter:

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“With regard to the caravans and camping on the land, Mr Barnes offered to cease all caravan and camping activities (this does not include rallies held by exempted organisations which the District Council has no control over and do not count as part of the 28 day allowance) on the land as from noon on 1st September this year. After discussing the matter with the council’s solicitor, this offer has been accepted as it will ensure that the disturbance caused will cease on that date, rather than dragging on for several months.

The District Council has also secured (a) Mr Barnes agreement that he will remove the illegal advertisement at the nearby crossroads, (b) that when rallies utilise the site, Purbeck District Council will receive details of the organisation and dates prior to their arrival so that they are able to establish that the group does have an exemption, (c) he will inform us of the dates within which he intends to utilise his 28 day allowance next year and (d) every effort will be made not to use the front two portions of the site for caravans or tents - this has the advantage of reducing the visual intrusion to the area and possible noise and disturbance from campers/caravans to the adjacent section.”