***Council’s Corner – Sept 2019***

***Community News and Notes:***

* We are pleased to welcome Alan Smythson to the Council. Alan and his son and daughter-in-law have bought one of the barns in KW, and he has kindly offered to jump in straightaway to help. We now have a full set of councillors.
* Thanks to the village fete committee, a wheelchair is now available at the village shop for those who would like to use it.
* There is a defibrillator available at the school. (The gate is closed but not locked after hours, to allow access at all times.) The Head has confirmed that this is for the use of anyone who needs it and that there are easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions, should an emergency occur.

***Volunteers:***

* We are lucky to have many neighbours who in a quiet and community-spirited way diligently and consistently get on with the business of maintaining the parish – for which we all thank you very much. A few special thanks need to go out to: Roger Simons (overseeing the churchyard), Mike Healy and his grass cutting, tree pruning team, Alex and Billy Luke (emptying the bus shelter bin), David Blake and Edward Tombs (strimming and clearing leaves), Mick Lippert, Robert Woods, Julia Blake and Pauline Smith (gardens around the playground), David Pain, Jonathon Loose and Pauline (again!) for maintaining the planters, Cliff Davies, John Sargeant and David Pain (again!) for maintenance in KW, Nigel Jefferys (maintenance around and re-painting of bench at the top of WP), Philip Threadgold and his team (weed-clearing the periphery of the village green to complete prep for reseeding), David Jilbert (maintenance of war-memorial) and Jim and Malcolm Tombs (purchase and installation of KW’s new noticeboard).
* As is the way with these things, the people who do this sort of work are so self-effacing that we have almost certainly left some names out or gotten them wrong. For this we apologise ahead of time. Please let us know so we can correct things in further editions. We are keen to hear more names and hope to make these ‘thank you’s a regular feature.
* (If this has inspired you, please contact clerk@ashbury.org.uk for a list of things which need doing.)

***Shopperbus/Dial-A-Ride:***

The APC is working hard to fight for this service. We have heard from a number of residents who have told us how important it is to their quality of life, and we agree. Unfortunately, it simply may not be possible to get funding to keep the service going. However, there is a great deal of community spirit behind finding a practical solution: the one that seems most popular is putting together a rota of people who would be willing to drive their neighbours to/from the shops. At the APC and Village Green meetings so many people stepped forward to help that it may be a case of only volunteering three or four times a year. (If you are interested in adding your name to the rota, please email: clerk@ashbury.org.uk. We have a group looking into the practicalities and hope to have an update soon.

***Precept:***

As part of her research into the history of the parish and its assets, Pauline Smith has found that Ashbury has raised its precept far less, and less often, than comparable parishes. As a result it is historically low. This was discussed at the meeting on the 16th and there was a general feeling in the room that people would be willing to raise the precept proportionately if it meant supporting initiatives like the Shopperbus/Dial-A-Ride and maintaining the assets of the parish.

***The Village Green:***

* The Green is really beginning to look wonderful. The contractors have been waiting for rain before seeding, and it would be helpful if everyone stayed (and kept their dogs) on the path while the grass is growing in.
* Although regulations do not permit permanent structures, we hope that all of our hard work will, once the grass has settled in, enable people to use the Green for everything from picnics, to exercise, to dog walking, to football and other impromptu, informal sports. People should use their sensible judgement about what activities are appropriate.
* On the subject of dogs…. We met with the School Council again this week, and the children are very keen that their new play area is kept free of dog waste. Dog Owners: Please collect up after your dog – and take your waste with you! Disposing of it at home is the best (and most fair) way of doing this.

***On the Website:***

Do visit the Council’s section of the ***ashbury.org.uk*** website, which we are constantly updating, to see the full minutes of Council meetings – these deal with matters that concern ALL residents. There are also links to a variety of useful mailings from OCC, VOWH, Healthwatch, Wild Oxfordshire, etc.

***And finally:***

If you wish to contact the council on the above, or any other matter, please get in touch with us: Laura Evans (clerk@); Cliff Davies (chairman@); Anica Alvarez Nishio (communication-officer@); Peter Cowx (website-officer@); Christopher Prentice (community-liaison@), Anne Reynolds (finance-officer@), Alan Smythson (volunteer-liaison-officer@) all @ashbury.org.uk