

Sellack Parish Council Newsletter

Winter 2022/23



Hello from your Parish Council.

We are your closest tier of local government. All five of us live in Sellack Parish and carry out the role of Parish Councillor on a voluntary basis.

You are always welcome to come along to a Sellack Parish Council

meeting to find out more about what we do and have your say on local matters. You can receive updates plus notification and the agenda of all meetings by subscribing via our website and/or follow us on Facebook (details of both are on the back page).

Pictured from L-R are Parish Councillors Sarah Aitken, Mark Whittall, Nick Washington, Mark Robinson and Paul Franklin.

Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd March

We will be holding the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 22nd March, 7.15pm at Sellack Village Hall and we hope you are able to join us. Free tea and cake will be served and it will be an opportunity to hear more about our **draft maintenance plan for Backney Bridge Picnic Site and have your say**. There will also be an opportunity to hear more about what the Parish Council has been up to over the last year.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a relatively informal event for the community and is different to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, which is a formal council meeting (taking place on 9th May).

To stay up to date with the emerging agenda for this meeting, please subscribe to our updates via the website or follow us on Facebook.

Backney Bridge Picnic Site (BBPS)



Thank you to everyone who joined the parish councillors on our **volunteer working day** on Saturday 19th November to clear brambles, overhanging branches, ivy and a path to the lower bench, plus painting benches and litterpicking.

We are drafting a **BBPS maintenance plan** with the

help of our working group of councillors and residents. We will be canvassing views at the Annual Parish Meeting, via a short survey of those who have subscribed via our website and via our Facebook page.

We plan to **pollard a number of trees along the riverside**, to open up the view from the lower part of the picnic site, once we have the required permissions to carry out work affecting the riverbank of the River Wye.

If you want to **get involved** by helping at our next **BBPS volunteer day** in Spring or by joining our **BBPS working group**, please get in touch with our Clerk via one of the methods listed on the back page.

War Memorial Restoration and Plaques



Thank you to our local volunteer who recently paid for the restoration of three names on the Sellack War Memorial. Thank you too to the local residents who arranged the rededication service in November.

The Parish Council hopes to place plaques along footpaths in the parish, to commemorate all those on the Sellack War Memorial. Please contact our Clerk if you might be interested in **sponsoring the cost of a plaque**.

Drainage works

We have a small annual budget available to pay our lengthsman to carry out drainage maintenance, to keep surface water off our minor road network. In addition, we received a small grant from Herefordshire Council to carry out some drainage works and maintenance in 2022/23.

We have used this funding to clear blocked drains at Sellack Marsh, to replace a collapsed drain on the C1271 and replace a connecting pipe fractured by traffic on the U71006. Herefordshire Council has also recently cleared the blocked rainwater culvert at the Lough Pool.

We would welcome your thoughts on areas of focus for our lengthsman in 2023/24. Please do get in touch (details on the back page).

Your council tax 2023/24

The Parish Council receives a small percentage of your annual Council Tax. On average, Parish Councils receive approximately 3.5% of a households Council Tax, with the majority going to Herefordshire Council and with a portion going to Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue and West Mercia Police.

At our November meeting, we agreed to set our precept for 2023/24 to £12,000 (this is a £1,000 increase on 2022-23). The precept is the total annual sum we believe the Parish Council requires in order to fulfil all of its commitments and ambitions for the year. The precept pays for the activities in this newsletter including our lengthsman scheme to maintain our drains and footpaths, maintenance of Backney Bridge Picnic Site and the council's other assets such as the defibrillator located at Sellack Village Hall. The precept also pays for the running costs of the Parish Council including our Clerk's salary, our insurance and data protection fees and membership to Herefordshire Association of Local Councils.

We work hard to keep our precept increases to a minimum and always aim to utilise your council tax contributions effectively for the community of Sellack, ensuring value for money. You can view our accounts from last year on our website and we will be publishing our 2022-23 accounts in the spring.

Meet your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Your local PCSO is Simon Hall. Simon carries out patrols in the area and attended our Parish Council meeting in September, to provide an update. Simon recommends subscribing to **‘Neighbourhood Matters’** (www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk) for updates from the local policing team on crimes in the area and general advice and support.

Simon will also be arranging a **SmartWater event** in the area soon. SmartWater is a long-lasting, traceable and unique identifier, invisible except under an ultraviolet black light, applied to items of value to identify thieves and deter theft (details will be shared on our website).

Stay in touch

We hope you have found this update useful. Please stay in touch, get involved and have your say by:



Following us on Facebook (search for Sellack Parish Council)



Subscribing to free updates on our website at
www.sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk (our new gov.uk site)



Coming along to one of our Parish Council meetings – there is a public speaking item or just come and listen. Our next meetings are Tues 14th March and Tues 9th May (to be confirmed- see our website).



Emailing the Clerk, Claire Vaughan with any queries or comments at clerk@sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07856960664.

If you would like this newsletter in large print or audio, please contact our Clerk at
clerk@sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk or call
07856960664