

Your Parish Council

What are your priorities?



The Dragon

facebook

Find the Parish
Council on
Facebook!

It's been a very busy few months for councillors, with several changes within the Council. We said goodbye and a huge thank you to Chairman David Lloyd, who served on the Parish Council for many years, and after eight years as Parish Clerk, **Chris Bucknell decided to retire too**. We are still looking for a Parish Clerk, if you are interested please get in touch using the **email below**.

We have also welcomed two new members – Euan Grant and Marcus Billig. We still have two vacancies on the Council – if you want to find out more about what a Parish Council does please see inside. At the Annual Parish Council meeting Julia Cotton was elected as Chairman and Mike Jones as Vice-Chairman.

We have a pot of money which we would like your input on spending – using your priorities we will put together a Parish Council Plan to guide our activities over the coming months and years. What is important to you and your family? See back page for more information.

The Queens Jubilee next year provides an opportunity for our community to come together – what events would you attend? Street party, time capsule, group picnic, outdoor film? Get in touch with your ideas, join our working group or let us know about plans other local groups have.

Conrad Energy have proposed a Solar Farm extending between Dormington substation and Larport Lane; the proposed site will provide low carbon power for more than 10,000 homes each year. More details can be found here: <https://conradenergy.co.uk/projects/solar/larport-solar-farm/>

Full details of our meetings can be found here: <https://dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk/> and up to date news or local events can be found on our Facebook page.



Let us know what you think:

- email the PC Clerk or contact one of your councillors
- come along to a PC meeting
- or join a PC working group

Meet the Parish Council

Parish Councillor Rob Cannings

Although not from Dormington and Mordiford I grew up on Aylestone Hill spending quite a bit of time on the Lugg Meadows as a youngster.

After leaving school I studied Agriculture at Wye College and then initially working for UK agricultural companies covering this area. Following company mergers I ended up as part of a management buyout to create one of the major suppliers of product into the Home Garden and Amenity markets. During this time we continued to live in South Herefordshire and raise our four children.



A few years later uprooted to the USA and while in California 12 years ago shifted my career to green agricultural technology. With this knowledge our family moved back to the UK 7 years ago and have worked for number of small UK green agricultural start-ups as well as pre-Brexit advising the EU Commission.

I have been lucky to have a career which allowed us to live in Herefordshire and work partly from home. We moved to Mordiford almost 1 year ago and as part of the move I am keen to experiment and embrace new greener technologies in transport and at home.

Herefordshire is a great place to live and we need to work as a community to shape our future and ensure the provision of the services and environment we aspire to. The Parish Council is our local voice and influence with in the county. I look forward to being an active member of the Parish Council and helping to make a difference.

Litter Pick

Thanks to everyone who helped with the two Litter Picks held across the parishes in April and May. It was a wet one in Mordiford and Checkley, but we still managed to collect around 10 bags of rubbish.

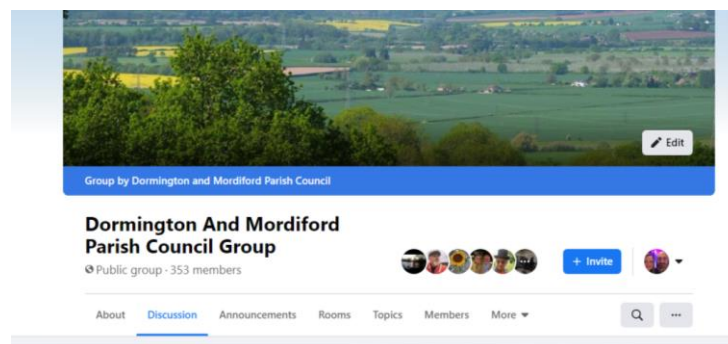
Dormington collected a large haul in April too.

The Mordiford Dragons even managed to brave the rain and collect rubbish from the village.



Facebook Group – Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council

Have you joined the other 404 members on the Facebook group? This is a private group where members can ask questions, invite discussion and receive local information.



News from Mordiford School

We are nearing the end of another very busy, albeit very different academic year. There have been challenges along the way, non-more so than the Lockdown in January when the school had to close its doors to all but key worker children and vulnerable pupils for the second time in under a year.

Despite this disruption the children have been amazingly resilient and achieved many highs. It has been lovely that during the summer term things have become a little more normal and so we have been able to hold familiar events such as Sports Day and resume trips. A particular highlight has been that our Y6 pupils enjoyed a wonderful week on residential at PGL, where they displayed great courage when facing personal challenges and had so much fun along the way.

We are pleased to report that numbers at the school are very healthy with 163 children on roll and the school is thriving. We are looking forward to meeting the new Reception children before they start in September and wish a very fond farewell to our Y6 as they prepare to make the move to high school.

On a personal note, after seven happy years at Mordiford, it is time for me to move on. I am relocating to the south of England with my family over the summer. I would like to thank the local community for all the support that I have received over the course of my Headship, I shall miss the school, its wonderful children and this beautiful area very much. We also say goodbye to Mr. Richard Foster our Deputy Head. We wish Mr. Foster every success when he begins his Headship at Lugwardine Academy in September.

Mrs. Sue Warmington has been appointed as my replacement and will take up the role of Head teacher of Mordiford CE Primary School in September. Mrs. Warmington is returning to the county after working as the Head of Primary at an International school in Bratislava. I know that she is keen to make links with the local community and I am sure she will be made to feel very welcome.

Kerry Finney, Head Teacher

Update – from the Parish Council's Footpath Officer

There is still a significant rise in footfall due to the Pandemic. Routine maintenance is now back to normal and we endeavour to keep the paths as clear as possible for all to enjoy.

We have replaced 10 rotten waymarker posts and two gate latches. I have requested a footbridge to cross the Pentaloe Brook in Bears Wood Checkley and repairs to be done to the steps on the footpath in Sufton Lane.

I am also looking to add an additional picnic bench to Checkley Barn Picnic site and an extra seating bench for Swardon Quarry.

Please can we again remind people to close any gates on the footpaths and to keep dogs under control as there are livestock and we wouldn't want to disturb them.



The West Mercia Local Policing Team provided the Parish Council with details of their Local Policing Charter. The main points are below with more detail on the PC Facebook page. Below highlights their key priorities and also provides an opportunity for us to flag our community concerns e.g. theft, fly tipping or something else. **Please contact our Clerk with your concerns and we will submit our community priorities to the team.**

West Mercia will continue to focus on three key priorities of **Safer Homes, Safer Roads and Safer People**. These priorities are driven by six key themes:

Visibility & accessibility: The team are keen to be seen and engage with the community. Being able to listen to your concerns is important and they will reiterate their commitment to attend Parish meetings.

Responding to communities: The team will respond to concerns raised by Parish Councils as well as those raised by individuals. As part of this they are asking PCs to tell them what the top three concerns they have for your area. They will then review and come up with a plan of how to tackle these plans with an agreed timeframe.

Prevention: They are committed to tackling recurrent and connected problems and will work proactively with communities and partner agencies to prevent issues taking hold.

Vulnerability: The team are trained to identify vulnerable individuals and where identified ensure that they offer the correct support and signposting to support agencies.

Relationships: Being connected to our communities is the key to being successful. They will be open and honest with the community about what can be expected of them.

Partnerships: They want to work closely with our community to provide the most cohesive and effective response to issues whenever and wherever the opportunities arise. Community schemes such as Community Speedwatch and Neighbourhood Watch have their full support and they will link in and take part where possible.

Hereford Rural North SNT | Josh KITCHEN: 07773053436
PCSO Adam WESTLAKE: 07773052580
Team email: herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

MEET THE MAGISTRATES



Applications open from 1st August until 10th September for magistrates to sit in Herefordshire
contact swmjco@justice.gov.uk for details

We're all ordinary people.
Anyone aged between 18-70
can sit as a magistrate and you
don't need any formal qualifications
as full training is provided.

Travel and subsistence is paid
and if you are employed you are
legally entitled to take time off
for the role.

**Could you offer
14 or more days a year?**

Find out more at
[GOV.UK/become-magistrate](https://gov.uk/become-magistrate)



Ministry
of Justice



JUDICIAL OFFICE

What is a Parish Council?



It's not this!

We have vacancies for two Parish Councillors, but what does a Parish Council do?

Dormington and Mordiford Group Parish Council meets 10 times a year to discuss and agree a range of topics:

- 1) Comment on all Planning Applications in the parish
- 2) Agree and organise work to the Rights of Way
- 3) Discuss ways of making our roads safer
- 4) Consider how we could improve our environmental impact
- 5) Represent the views of parishioners
- 6) We manage the allotments at Shepherds Orchard
- 7) We also manage the Burial Ground and the maintenance of the Closed Churchyard in Mordiford.

As a Parish Council we have wide ranging powers to provide services to benefit the community e.g. youth activities, tree planting, highway safety, street lighting, renewable energy projects, encourage tourism.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact:
clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk for more information.

If you don't want to serve as a Parish Councillor but would still like to be involved, you could join a working group instead. For example, we have started a working group focused on local Jubilee events. Get in touch to find out more.

Mordiford Dragon Project

We had some excellent news this month – we have now secured full funding for the Dragon Trail. Thank you to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Wye Valley AONB and the Parish Council.

We have instructed our sculpture to start making the wooden sculptures which will form part of the walking trail telling the story of the Mordiford Dragon. We hope to have a grand opening celebration in the autumn, watch this space....

The Dragoneers

Community First's oil buying group



Great value and convenience

Community First is a long established charity, in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, with aims to support strong and vibrant rural communities. In 2013, we set up a bulk buying group for heating oil for anyone in the two counties. The scheme keeps money in the local economy, builds a greater sense of community and cooperation and helps tackle fuel poverty. Over the years, with hundreds of members, we have saved many thousands of pounds across both counties.

How does it work?

At the end of each month we collate orders placed by our members and negotiate with a number of suppliers. Our savings are often between 2p and 4p a litre against the average English price and can be much more against local individual quotes. Our prices are the same for 500 as for 1500 which is good for spreading your costs.

To register your interest or ask a question please contact info@comfirst.org.uk or ring Richard on 07515 881231.

Membership costs £20 per year. We are very happy to work with established local groups too for instance by sharing good practice and energy efficiency tips. More details can be found at www.comfirst.org.uk

Ecochurch Initiative and Caring for Gods Acre

Like many other churches in the Hereford Diocese, St. Peter's, Dormington is beginning to participate in the national 'Ecochurch' initiative. The project asks churches to examine how they are caring for the planet by using an online survey looking at five areas of church and community life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of buildings
- Management of land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyles

As they work to develop their responses churches can move through Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards with the emphasis very much on the **process** and improvement. P.C.Cs are encouraged to engage with their wider parish communities so that we all try to achieve more environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

One area that we have started looking at is our churchyard. Two local botanists have recently carried out a survey, which shows considerable biodiversity, particularly in the older, lower part of the churchyard near the main road. We have a loyal and hard working group of mowers and will now adjust our mowing regime so that areas with recent graves and pathways are mown regularly, while others are mown much less frequently to allow wild flowers and insects to flourish. We have also recently switched to a supplier using renewable energy for our electricity. *Two small steps.....but a start. Watch this space!*



Steve Chandler

Checkley Church Development Update

Following the successful granting of planning permission in January 2020 for the proposed small extension to provide a kitchen and disabled toilet for St Nicholas Church Checkley, there had been a public meeting planned for 20th March 2020 which unfortunately had to be cancelled.

The meeting has now been re-arranged to **Wednesday 22nd September 2021**. We would encourage all local residents and interested parties to attend to discuss the next phase of this local village project which hopefully will become a valued community asset.

The proposal can be viewed on Hereford Council Planning Portal under reference P191199/F.

Mordiford 200 Club

The 200 club is a village Lottery, set up several years ago to raise funds for Mordiford Church. There is nothing you have to do to be in it, except purchase a number for 50p a week - payable in one sum of £26.00 for the year.

There are no other commitments and no meetings to attend (unless of course you wish to come along to any of the draws and see if your number comes out!). From 1st Aug the prizes every month will be:

1st Prize £100.00

2nd Prize £60.00

3rd Prize £30.00

4th Prize £15.00

The draw takes place on 1st of every month (See various posters for venues). The draw on New Years Day & 1st July includes a few extra prizes

The winners are published in the County section of the Hereford Times, The Beneficial. **Anyone interested in having their own number can contact Sue Day on 01432 850375; email sueday14@btinternet.com**