**Parish Pump**

**Local Causes benefit from parish council grants**

Great Horwood Parish Council received 8 applications from local groups for grants this year. Cheques were due to be presented at the PC meeting on 11th December, however the snow prevented most recipients from attending. The following Great Horwood organisations were successful: Combined CE School, Football Club, Scouts and Guides, Silver Band and Winslow and District Community Bus. Congratulations to all.





Left - John Huskinson accepts a cheque on behalf of Great Horwood CE Combined School.

Right, Paul Kerridge accepts a cheque on behalf of Great Horwood Scouts and Guides

**PARKING**

**PLEASE KEEP GREAT HORWOOD A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL.**

Yes, a broken record is jarring! However, the Parish Council asks that residents using the public pavement for parking allow plenty of room for its primary user – **the pedestrian**. I will re-re-re-mention that white lines on village roads are there for a reason and parking on them is inconsiderate to other road users. Common sense and consideration are needed to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

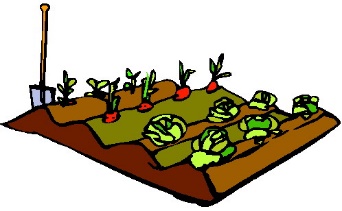
**Please remember to park thoughtfully in the village. Thank you.**

**SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE**

**A second Sentinel Speed Watch kit is being purchased and will be hosted by Great Horwood**

The kit is funded by the Winslow and District Local Area Forum for use by local villages. With your help we will be able to monitor traffic more frequently in order to address local concerns about speeding through the village. Winslow Road remains the most problematic and will be prioritised. The Parish Council is very pleased to see the Thames Valley Police traffic monitoring team paying random visits. Our thanks also go to Mick Wood for his sterling work with the MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Speed monitor). Mick and Gill move it to various locations through the village and recharge it frequently. Mick also downloads traffic speed statistics for the PC and you might like to know that the average speed of traffic (I have simplified the data) has reduced from 42 mph to 41 mph on Winslow Road. This is a start.

Please help by volunteering for the Speed Watch team. **We STILL need lots of volunteers**, especially if you are available during the morning and evening rush hour or at weekends. If you can help, please call Jane Holland on 01296 715704 or email [jane.holland.313@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.holland.313@btinternet.com). It only takes an occasional hour and the kit is simple to assemble and use.

**Allotments**

Allotments in Church Lane and Willow Road are now fully tenanted.

**Road closures**

A reminder that Buckingham Road, Winslow will be closed by the Thomas Freemantle School for a day or two sometime during the period 1st Jan and 9th March (0930 and 1530) for drainage, surface dressing and road marking works. If entrance and exit to the school is affected, we have requested a cease work of 15.00 in order to avoid problems.

**POT HOLES**

**Bucks County Council have sent the following press release about potholes.**

**It’s pothole season**

This winter’s weather has been tough on Buckinghamshire’s roads – while the heavy snowfall in December was the most remarkable weather event, the worst conditions for roads are actually when the ground temperature fluctuates constantly between just above and just below zero.

Pothole formation is accelerated by this ‘freeze-thaw’ effect, whereby moisture gets into small cracks in the the road surface and expands when it freezes, then thaws out when the temperature rises. This process repeats until the road surface begins to break up and potholes are formed.

County Councillor Mark Shaw, Cabinet Member for Transportation, urges road users in Buckinghamshire to report potholes when they see them:

“Transport for Buckinghamshire will investigate every pothole reported to them, and react on a risk based prioritisation process – put simply, that means the worst ones will be attended to first, as a matter of urgency. But we’re not mind readers, and the road network is far too vast for us to possibly know where all the potholes are, so we need members of the public to report them to us either using the online form, which only takes a few minutes, or by calling if it’s dangerous or an emergency. I would ask that everyone be patient while we deal with the fallout of a bad winter – potholes are as inevitable as weather, roads are made of a porous material so that they don’t flood constantly in rain and so when water within the structure freezes, defects will form.”

On average, when there are no severe weather issues, TfB repairs over 4,000 potholes every month.

**Pothole FAQ:**

         **You fixed one pothole, why didn’t you fix the one next to it while you were here?**   
Potholes are prioritised according to risk – if they are on very well used roads, they are more of a priority. Size and depth are also factors. Resources have to be used responsibly, and cannot be used up fixing a more minor road surface defect when there are more urgent defects needing attention just up the road.

         **Why can I only report one pothole online at a time?**   
Our online reporting system works on an interactive map, so that each individual defect can be risk assessed and dealt with on a case by case basis. The map allows for accurate pinpointing, which saves time when it comes to inspections. There are drop-down menus to allow you to input as much detail, such as size and position, as possible.

         **Why do you make temporary repairs that don’t last?**Temporary repairs, where the pothole is filled in with hot material and made smooth, are often carried out as a safety measure when a permanent repair cannot be carried out at that moment, likely due to the location of the defect. That is to say, where a larger area of road needs to be cut away to make a full repair, likely requiring a road or lane closure, a temporary or ‘make safe’ repair is an effective way of keeping the road safe in the meantime.

         **How do I report a pothole?**

You can report potholes, as well as any other road issue, using the Report It forms on the county council website. In an emergency, for instance a severe road defect, a flooded road, or a tree in the road, you can always call Transport for Buckinghamshire on 01296 382416 or 486630 (out of hours). The online reporting tool is at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYnVja3NjYy5nb3YudWsvc2VydmljZXMvdHJhbnNwb3J0LWFuZC1yb2Fkcy9yZXBvcnQtYS1wcm9ibGVtL3JlcG9ydC1hLXBvdGhvbGUv&r=10898510805&d=5513595&p=1&t=h&h=ba6a6b4e1e4f21577882a20e5eefe8f3)

Potholes can also be reported to the Parish Clerk

Mandy Cliffe

Parish Clerk Great Horwood

[clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk) 01296 715829