

Spotlight on: Cllr Rupert Purser

Welcome to our new Councillor Rupert Purser

Cllr Purser joins the council with a keen interest in supporting the local community and helping to make Bishop’s Waltham a thriving and welcoming place for everyone. As a resident of the town, he is passionate about promoting the town and is keen to address the issues facing residents within the community. Speaking about the new role, Cllr Purser said:



“Our family has lived in Bishop’s Waltham for over 50 years, and I am honoured to continue its tradition of community involvement. I look forward to supporting the people of Bishop’s Waltham.”

Community Grants

The Parish Council are pleased to confirm that, following the first round of grant applications for the 2026/27 financial year, funding totalling £4,895 was awarded to local community groups to support projects for the Cricket Club, Youth Trust, Bishop’s Waltham Infant School, Meon Valley Heartstart, Town Team, and Bishop’s Waltham Society.

The Parish Council recognises the important role that local organisations and volunteers play in making our town a vibrant and supportive community. Through the grant scheme, the council aims to help groups continue their valuable work and develop new opportunities for residents of all ages.

Local organisations interested in applying are encouraged to check the eligibility criteria and application deadlines on the Parish Council website www.bishopswaltham-pc.gov.uk or contact the Parish Office for further information.

Together, we can continue to support projects that make a real difference to our community.



Contact Us

For all enquiries relating to Parish Council matters or facilities, please use the following contact details:

Address: Parish Council Office
The Jubilee Hall
Little Shore Lane
Bishop’s Waltham
Hampshire
SO32 1ED

Telephone: 01489 892323

Email: parishclerk@bishopswaltham-pc.gov.uk

Web: www.bishopswaltham-pc.gov.uk

You can also find more contact information or send us a message via the ‘Contact Us’ page of our website.

Council and Committee Meeting Dates

June 2026

- 2nd Finance, Policy & Resources Committee
- 9th Parish Council
- 16th Halls & Grounds Committee
- 22nd Community & Environment Committee
- 23rd Planning & Highways Committee

July 2026

- 7th Finance, Policy & Resources Committee
- 14th Parish Council
- 21st Halls & Grounds Committee
- 27th Planning & Highways Committee
- 28th Community & Environment Committee

August 2026

- 11th Parish Council

All meetings are at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall unless otherwise stated and are open to the public.

Bishop’s Waltham Matters



WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Bishop’s Waltham Matters newsletter. I am thrilled to announce that I will continue in my role as Chair of Bishop’s Waltham Parish Council with Councillor Barry Nicholson supporting as Vice Chair. We will continue to focus on the issues that matter most to residents, while remaining committed to supporting community initiatives and events that bring people together.

2026 is set to be another busy year for the Parish Council with lots of exciting events planned. ‘Party in the Palace’ on **Saturday 18th July** will return in the palace ruins. Additionally, we have another exciting event ‘Picnic in the Park’ taking place on **Sunday 23rd August** at Priory Park with many different activities for all ages. Remember, entry is FREE to these events which the Parish Council organises to bring our community together. **Make sure to add these dates to your diary!**

A number of exciting projects are currently underway, with several improvements scheduled for completion this summer, including refurbishment of the bus shelter near Langton Road and the North Pond layby, giving the area a fresh new look. A replacement bus shelter is also planned for installation near Garfield Road, thanks to a grant from Hampshire County Council.

Hampshire County Council has confirmed that funding has been secured for a new footpath and cycleway linking Bishop’s Waltham and Swanmore. This project has been made possible through collaboration between Swanmore Parish Council, local landowners, Hampshire Highways and the Hampshire Countryside Access Team. Once completed, it will provide a safer route for children travelling to school and anyone wishing to walk between parishes. The footpath will help to reduce the need to use busy roads.

Plans continue to progress for the replacement of the clubhouse at Priory Park with a new multi-use community hall. This is a significant long-term investment in the future of our community, and we encourage residents to review the proposals and share their feedback as the project develops.

Councillor Tracy Conduct—Chair of Council

PICNIC IN THE PARK—A New FREE Community Event

Bishop’s Waltham Parish Council is delighted to announce an additional FREE community event this summer—Picnic in the Park—taking place on Sunday 23rd August at Priory Park from 12.00pm to 4.30pm.

This fun-filled afternoon promises something for everyone, but with a focus on engaging with all children and teenagers. There will be a wide range of games and activities taking place throughout the day. Visitors can enjoy exciting skatepark demonstrations, football skills sessions, cricket activities and much more.

Of course, no summer community event would be complete without an ice cream van, which will be on hand. So gather your friends and family, pack a picnic, bring your picnic blanket and join us for what promises to be a fantastic community day.



This newsletter is brought to you by Bishop’s Waltham Parish Council



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[Bishopswaltham Parish Council](https://www.facebook.com/BishopswalthamParishCouncil)



FOR YOUR 2026 DIARY

Party in the Palace 2026

Join us on Saturday 18th July 12.30pm-5.00pm. For our free event for local residents to enjoy live music and children's entertainment in the grounds of Bishop's Waltham Palace Ruins.

There will be a variety of food and drink vendors as well as an ice cream van. Bring blankets, or camping chairs, and enjoy the party.

Amba Tremain will be singing live on stage and Robbie the Wizard will also be putting on shows to entertain the children.

There will be something for everyone and we look forward to welcoming you all.



NEWS AND UPDATES

Puffin Crossing by Sainsbury's

Residents will be aware of ongoing discussions regarding pedestrian safety and the provision of a crossing near the Sainsbury's local supermarket and Abbey Mill development site. The Parish Council recognises continued concerns from residents regarding pedestrian access and road safety in the area, and following a Hampshire Highways traffic survey in 2024 near to the supermarket location, we were pleased to hear that the results of the survey indicated that a puffin crossing would now be appropriate for the location.

The estimated cost of the scheme is around £400,000. The Planning and Highways committee will continue working alongside Hampshire Highways to help secure the necessary funding for the project.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish

The Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 22nd April, was a great success. Everyone came together to reflect on the past year and discuss the future of Bishop's Waltham. The evening provided an opportunity to celebrate the many achievements and community initiatives that have taken place across the town, while also sharing updates on ongoing projects, local services, and upcoming events. Residents were able to hear directly from the Parish Council and engage in positive discussions about local priorities and opportunities for the future over drinks and light refreshments. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a positive event.

Oak Road Steps Replacement



The steps leading to the play area at Oak Road have recently been replaced, providing easier and safer access to the park entrance for residents and visitors. The new steps not only improve accessibility but also give the entrance a more welcoming appearance.

We hope you agree that the refreshed look is a great improvement. The upgraded access route is already proving popular with local families using the play area and we hope that residents continue to enjoy this convenient shortcut to the park.

We now have a QR code! This code directs you straight to the homepage of our website

How to scan the QR code

Android phone or Tablet

On your Android phone or tablet, open the built-in camera app.

1. Point the camera at the QR code.
2. Tap the banner that appears on your Android phone or tablet.
3. Follow the instructions on the screen to be taken directly to the website.

iPhone or iPad

On your iPhone or iPad, open the built-in camera app.

1. Point the camera at the QR code.
2. Tap the banner that appears on your iPhone or iPad to be taken directly to the website.



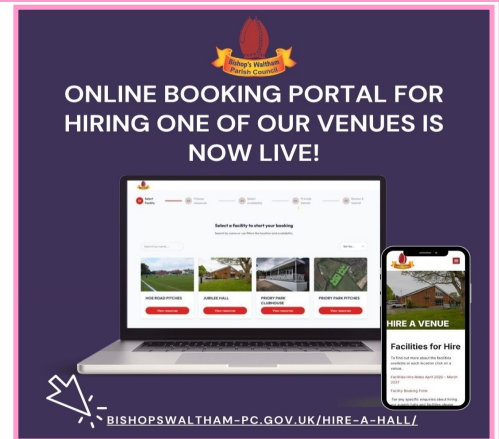
Online booking portal now live!

The Bishop's Waltham Parish Council booking portal is now live on the website, making it easier to hire one of our venues.

You can now check availability, choose your date and provisionally book in just a few simple steps.

Whether your planning an event, meeting, or celebration, you can now get started in minutes. Visit our website www.bishopswaltham-pc.gov.uk to start booking.

Don't forget—You can find updates about what Bishop's Waltham Parish Council in the monthly Parish News, Bishop's Waltham Matters Newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, noticeboards around town and our website www.bishopswaltham-pc.gov.uk



Connecting you to those who can help

Crisis Resilience Fund

Do you heat your home using heating oil? Are you struggling or worried about rising costs?

Hampshire County Council are working with Citizens Advice East Hampshire to support those who rely on heating oil and are struggling with increased costs. This support is part of the Crisis Resilience Fund.

If you, or someone you know, may benefit from support through the Crisis Resilience Fund, further information about eligibility and how to apply is available just click on the link below.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../crisis.../heating-oil-support>

No one in our community should feel alone during difficult times, and the Parish Council remains committed to supporting the wellbeing and resilience of Bishop's Waltham residents.

Are you scam aware?

It is important to keep an eye out for scams—they can and do affect anyone. If you think someone might be trying to scam you, it's important to act straight away. If you've been scammed, you need to:

- Protect yourself from further risks
- Check if you can get your money back
- Report the scam

This leaflet kindly supported by Citizens Advice outlines the warning signs and actions you can take if you have been victim of a scam. Please pass on this information to friends, neighbours and family.

If you feel threatened report this to the police immediately by calling 999.

ARE YOU SCAMS AWARE?

WHAT ARE SCAMS

Scams come in many forms, but ultimately, scams can people out of money - either directly or by accessing your personal information

WARNING SIGNS

Urgent: You're being asked to pay or respond to something urgently.	Personal: You're being asked to give personal information/account details.	Unexpected: You weren't expecting a call, email or text from the organisation or person.
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REDUCE YOUR RISK

PAUSE

Many scams rely on urgency, so take time to pause, think and verify.

VERIFY

Contact the organisation/person that contacted you independently to check it was them before you take action.

PROTECT

Don't give out personal information such as passwords or bank details.

Be vigilant for Impersonation Scams

where scammers pretend to be someone you'd trust and ask for money, or access to your personal information. For example, a grandchild requesting money urgently from abroad.

CALL 159

If you've been contacted by what appears to be your bank, don't respond, and call 159 instead. This UK-wide number will connect you directly with your bank's fraud department and verify suspicious calls.

CAN I GET MY MONEY BACK?

If you paid by cash then probably not. Other payment methods offer more protection. For example Direct Debit, Paypal, Bank Transfer, or Credit Card.

TAKE ACTION IF SCAMMED

- Call your bank straight away (use 159)
- Change your passwords and login details
- Check your computer for viruses
- Report the scam to Report Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or www.reportfraud.police.uk
- Call the Citizens Advice consumer service on 0800 223 1133