

DURLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic Durley Parish Council are not able to hold face to face Meetings, but have been meeting virtually. We have been carrying out business as usual where possible and supporting residents who require help.

Durley Parish Council held their Monthly Parish Council Meetings on Tuesday 8th December, 2020. Cllr Delmege (Chairman) chaired the Meeting. Also in attendance were Cllr Childs, Cllr Watts, Cllr Rutherford, Cllr Brenchley, Cllr Rappini and the Clerk (Mrs Anne Collins), along with County Councillor/District Councillor Humby. District Councillors Mclean and Miller sent their apologies, although they have been in contact with the Clerk over the month. Kirstie Baines and Nick Apps were present at the Meeting and gave a School Report. 1 parishioner also wanted to put his concerns to the Parish Councillors regarding the recent leaflet he had received about a proposed planning development at Quob Stables.

After receiving 5 expressions of interest in being Co-opted onto Durley Parish Council a vote was taken and Chris Taylor was duly Co-opted. Councillors wanted to thank all the other candidates who had shown an interest. Clerk will write and congratulate Chris and also thank the unsuccessful candidates.

A County Councillor Grant of £500 has been successful and will go towards a peice of gym equipment at Durley Recreation Ground. Cllr Rappini and another sponsor offered to pay for another peice of equipment. It is hoped that more donations and sponsors will come forward as we would like to be able to provide 6 peices of equipment if possible. If you are able to provide any funding to help then please get in touch with the Clerk.

The new School Crossing is almost complete as SSE have now completed the electrical connection for the flashing lights which will go on and off with a timer when the School needs them. This has taken a lot of time and effort and hopefully it will be well used by parents at drop-off and pick-up times to leave the road clear for drivers.

The Revised Durley Parish Plan Questionnaires are being returned, although we would like more to be returned as soon as possible. Various actions from the Questionnaire will be allocated to particular Councillors to take the lead.

Cllr Delmege and the Clerk attended a Climate Change Meeting with WCC Officers and they gave a brief outline to Parish Councillors. It is hoped that we can take forward some of the ideas with those residents who have shown an interest in Climate Change in their Parish Plan response.

County Councillor Humby gave a County Council Report stating that the Budget for HCC has potentially a very large deficit after the recent pandemic. Reserves and other funding will be used, but there will still be a shortfall. CC Humby spoke about the Waste Recyling Centres and in the spring/summer a trial will be carried out so that residents can walk and cycle to the Centres. CC Humby also gave a District Council Report and updated Councillors on the new Green Waste bins which have replaced the old green bags.

A resident joined the Meeting to speak about the proposed development at Quob Stables. They were concerned about the “affordable” housing as it would not be affordable for youngsters, concern was raised about how the infrastructure would cope, the increase in traffic, a local community shop and gym would not be viable and concern was raised about the village identify being lost. The Clerk has already received a number of phone calls and e-mails sharing these concerns. A copy of the proposed plans were sent to the Parish Council

and have been circulated to Councillors prior to the Meeting. Councillors agreed that any development in Durley would be parish-led and not developer-led. It is important that residents do return their Questionnaires so that Councillors have their views when the New Winchester Local Plan is being consulted on. Councillors agreed that a letter should be written to every household advising them on the Parish Council's stance regarding developer-led planning proposals.

Kirstie Baines gave a School Report and said that there has been a very good attendance from pupils during the Covid-19 emergency. PCSO Reeves has visited the School to advise parents not to park on the pavement and in the bus lay-by etc. The activities of the School have been continuing, but with no visitors. Kirstie has been working part-time in Durley and part-time at another School, but will be back full-time next week. CC Humby said that Kirstie was held in high esteem with the Senior Management Team at HCC.

Cllr Watts gave a Recreation Report and said that football matches have resumed again and that all was fine at the Ground, apart from dog fouling which appears to be on the increase again.

Cllr Rutherford gave a Sawmills Report stating that the play equipment was fine. The buffer areas has been re-inspected and appropriate action has been taken where required.

A Neighbourhood Watch Report was given by Cllr Watts. There are many scams circulating at the moment and parcels which have been delivered have been disappearing from doorsteps.

Cllr Rappini gave a highways report. The Clerk said that flooding in Durley recently was a huge problem for some residents, especially in Stapleford Lane. This has been referred to HCC Highways again. Councillors agreed that some ditches are not cleared by respective landowners and this problem should be addressed. Some residents perhaps are not aware that they have a responsibility to clear their ditch outside of their property, or even fill it in.

A Financial Report was given by the Clerk for December. The External Audit Report for 2019-20 has been received and is satisfactory.

The Hall is now closed until the New Year as only a limited number of bookings could return and it was not financially viable to put up the heating again. Thanks were given to Greg for re-varnishing the Hall floor whilst it was closed, free of charge. This was greatly appreciated by the Management Committee. Neil Ellen has put up lights around the fascia of the Hall for the Durley Lights Event.

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