

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 12th January, 2021. Cllr Delmege (Chairman) chaired the Meeting. Also in attendance were Cllr Childs, Cllr Watts, Cllr Rutherford, Cllr Brenchley, Cllr Rappini, Cllr Taylor and the Clerk (Mrs Anne Collins). County/District Councillor Humby, District Councillors Mclean and Miller sent their apologies. Both County and District Councillors have been in contact with the Clerk over the month concerning various issues that have arisen. Cllr Taylor was welcomed to his first Parish Council Meeting by Cllr Delmege.

The Clerk gave an update of the funding available for the gym equipment and it was agreed that we should purchase the first 3 pieces of equipment and then hopefully be able to purchase more equipment when further funding is available. Parish Councillors realise that this is a difficult time for residents and businesses to offer sponsorship and donations at the moment.

The Clerk reported that the new School Crossing is now complete and she has applied for the CIL Funding which was allocated for this project.

The Southern Parishes Meeting was held on 11th January and the main issues discussed included the lack of support from WCC regarding illegal encampments which was put forward as a Motion by DC Lumby, the lack of communication with CCG's, a Report on the Acquind Interconnector Hearing which was held in December and updates from HALC.

County Councillor Humby sent through a written Report from Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Watts gave a Recreation Ground Report saying that football matches have had to be postponed again due to the current lockdown restrictions. Silver canisters have been found again in the car park and on the Recreation Ground. The Police have been informed as these are dangerous if found by young children. Dog fouling continues to be a problem – although there are bins available. Councillors were concerned that there have been gatherings of people at the Recreation Ground during times when social distancing measures are in place.

Cllr Rutherford gave a Sawmills Report saying that everything was in order. A large tree which came down in the storm from Millway has now been taken away, although it did cause some disruption at the time.

A Neighbourhood Watch Report was given by Cllr Watts. The main concern is the scams which are circulating about coronavirus vaccinations. A notice has gone onto the Parish Council website, facebook and the Clerk will ask for this to go into the Parish Magazine. Residents must be made aware that they will not need to pay for a vaccine. Thefts from sheds and outbuildings are on the increase.

Cllr Rappini said that there have been no other highways issues apart from some flooding issues and the tree across the road at The Sawmills. A fence was also blown over onto a footpath off the Recreation Ground to Kytes Barn. This has been temporarily closed.

Clerk gave a financial report, and a summary of the accounts to the end of December, 2020 was shown to Councillors. It is anticipated that there will be a shortfall this financial year due to the lack of Hall income – although Grants have been applied for to cover some of the loss of income.

Durley Memorial Hall has had to remain closed at the moment due to the latest lockdown. A Hall Management Meeting was held and it was agreed that the car park light which was damaged in a recent car accident will be replaced with lighting around the Hall fascia so that lighting will not get damaged in the future. The Hall car park renovations are being discussed and quotes sought, damp under the stage is being reviewed and the dishwasher has now been installed and the former Post Office room redecorated ready for when the Hall is open again. The 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Hall was not held, but it is hoped that we can celebrate with an Event once restrictions are lifted sufficiently to allow large gatherings again.

Durley Parish Plan Update. Councillors wanted to thank all those residents who have responded to the Questionnaire which was delivered to every household in Durley before Christmas. We have had a good response and are now starting to use the data collected. As there are many issues we wish to follow up it was agreed to split the work into various categories with a Councillor taking the lead:

Broadband – Cllr Brenchley leading. Cllr Brenchley gave Councillors a brief outline of the statistics regarding the broadband situation in Durley from the responses received. A Project Manager is required to help, along with a group of residents who are knowledgeable about broadband issues to help. Two quotes have been sought at the moment – one for 01489 and one for 02380 dialing codes. Once quotes have been received we need to get teams together to reach out to residents and explain the benefits of having a faster broadband and the voucher scheme which is available. If anyone would like to help Cllr Brenchley's Team then please get in touch with Cllr Brenchley or the Clerk via durleyparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Mobile Phone Signal – Cllr Childs leading. Cllr Childs has been looking at the 3 main mobile phone providers (EE, O2 and Vodafone) – all three were either rated as poor or very poor by most residents who use them. A letter will be written to the three providers asking them for suggestions to improve the signal. Cllr Childs will also investigate any areas of new development planned to see if there is provision for a better mobile signal.

Greening Campaign – Cllr Rutherford/Cllr Taylor leading. Councillors agreed that joining the Greening Campaign might not be the best way forward for Durley, but a more direct approach to residents. From the Questionnaire responses it was evident that half of Durley residents either do already litter pick near to their homes, or are willing to litter pick. Therefore we will be encouraging perhaps specific dates to carry out a village litter pick when restrictions allow. Quite a bit of rubbish is thrown from vehicles from the various fast food outlets in Hedge End so an approach will be made to them to help in some way. Flowers/bulbs along the grass verges in Durley was suggested, but due to strict highways regulations we are limited as to which areas we could use. The green areas at The Sawmills could be used as we own and maintain these areas. It was also suggested that some maintenance work could be carried out by volunteer groups within the village.

Flooding Risks – Cllr Rappini leading. A request has been put into HCC asking who is responsible for the ditches and roadside hedges as this is not clear. Once this information has been received residents will be asked to cut back hedges which are their responsibility and also clear ditches which have been not cleared for some time or have been filled in. All these small problems if sorted will help with some of the flooding concerns that residents highlighted within the Parish Plan Questionnaire.

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