

## **DURLEY PARISH COUNCIL SEPTEMBER MEETING REPORT**

Durley Parish Council held their Monthly Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 12th September, 2023 in the Ken Stainer Suite at Durley Memorial Hall.

Cllr Delmege (Chairman) chaired the Meeting. Attending were Cllr Watts, Cllr Pitter, Cllr Ellen, Cllr Rappini, along with the Clerk (Mrs Anne Collins). Also in attendance were District Councillor Kurn and District Councillor Williams. Apologies were received from County Councillor Humby, District Councillor Miller, Cllr Rutherford and Cllr Bailey.

Jamie Balfour was invited to the Meeting so that Cllr Delmege was able to make a Presentation of a Mayor of Winchester Award for community service. Jamie was unable to make the Mayor's Presentation Evening so his Certificate was presented at the start of the Meeting. Andy and Gill Mulley were also nominated and were presented with their Certificate at the Presentation Evening. Jamie was thanked for his service to Durley, especially using his lovely home for village events. Jamie thanked Durley Parish Council for their nomination.

Work is going on again in Heathen Street near to the Pumping Station. Heathen Street is being closed to carry out sleeving work we believe. Despite Southern Water stating that they would keep Durley Parish Council updated, there has been no further update or communication to Councillors, despite the Clerk writing again. District Councillor Williams offered to follow up with his contact.

Cllr Pitter said that a new bus company called Moores has been seen going through the village, he is making enquiries to see what this service is offering. Cllr Delmege and the Clerk attended a Southern Parishes Meeting and rural bus services were discussed with the HCC Passenger Transport Team representative. Some suggestions were made from Councillors representing the various parishes to achieve an adequate service through their villages. Consideration will be given to these suggestions, but basically it is all down to cost. There is a taxi service which could be available, and the Clerk will be sent details of this along with costs.

Cllr Delmege and the Clerk gave a full Report on the recent Southern Parishes Meeting. The majority of the Meeting was taken up with discussion on rural bus services (or the lack of) and highways as Nick Adams-King (HCC Highways Lead) was at the Meeting to answer questions from representatives. Updates were given on HALC, NALC, further training and other issues which affect parish councils.

County Councillor Humby sent through a written Report. DC Kurn and DC Williams gave a Report at the Meeting. The CIL Funding Application to help with car park renovation work which Durley Parish Council had put in was not successful, and this was a big disappointment after being encouraged by WCC to apply. Councillors agreed that the CIL Funding does not appear to be allocated to parishes who are affected by development all around them, and the smaller rural parishes suffer. Cllr Delmege is going to put a question to WCC Cabinet next week raising this concern. DC Kurn and DC Williams will also follow up. Renovations will still be carried out in the car park, but we will not be able to tarmac or future-proof it by putting in the infrastructure for EV charging points (which WCC is promoting) and marking out car parking spaces to make more spaces available. A local land-owner has kindly offered some of his land to incorporate into the car park so this will be used to provide additional car parking. Fund raising and looking at other Grant options could be a possibility as the Hall is a valued asset within Durley and is well used not only by Hall hirers, but also the School. Councillors were reminded about a Consultation which is now open asking for comments on the possible closure of Bishops Waltham House Care Home. As many former residents have

used this Care Home Councillors agreed that a response should be made from the Parish Council. Any resident is able to put in their views via the Consultation if they would like to. It is on the HCC website.

Volunteers from a business in the Sawmills offered to carry out some weeding work in the Hall car park – which was greatly appreciated. A letter of thanks has gone to them.

The Insurance renewal was approved for the year 2023-24 and a donation to CAB was agreed for 2023-24.

Cllr Watts gave a report on the Recreation Ground stating that everything was fine now that the grass cutting has been resolved. The grass cutting provided by OCS was not satisfactory and therefore the Contract has been terminated and a new Contractor has now commenced.

As Cllr Bailey was not at the Meeting so there was no Sawmills Report available. Clerk reported that the dead tree on the Sawmills Green will be replaced by AE Roberts later in the year.

Cllr Watts gave a Neighbourhood Watch Report and reported on the incidents over the past month – which were higher than Councillors thought.

Cllr Rappini gave a Highways Report and said that many pot holes in Durley have been repaired and Heathen Street is closed for work connected to the Pumping Station.

Financial Reports for August and September, 2023 were given by the Clerk. The External Audit Report has been received and is satisfactory.

Cllr Ellen gave a Hall Report stating that the CIL Fund Application for the Hall Car Park renovations was not successful so we will need another Meeting to progress this to enable more parking spaces to become available and also re-surface the car park. The LED lighting/ceiling Grant will hopefully be known in September. A Hall Meeting will be arranged for 15th September.

All Parish Council information can be found on the Durley Parish Council website, this includes Agendas, Minutes and Reports.

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