

DURLEY PARISH COUNCIL MARCH MEETING REPORT

Durley Parish Council held their Monthly Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 12th March, 2024 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, Cllr Rutherford, Cllr Bailey along with the Clerk (Mrs Anne Collins). Also in attendance was District Councillor Williams. Apologies were received from CC Humby and DC Miller.

Councillors are getting very frustrated at the lack of a response from Southern Water regarding the Heathen Street Pumping Station works and the continued flooding issues. The Clerk and District Councillor Williams have written to Southern Water on several occasions, along with copying in our MP Flick Drummond, but there has still not been a response. Sewerage was found in a gas pipe which meant that gas repairs could not be rectified and residents were left without heating. CC Humby was very helpful and followed this up with Southern Water and the issue was resolved and the gas pipe has now been repaired. However, the flooding from the Pumping Station still continues and larger tankers have yet again been coming and going, despite an assurance that smaller tankers will be used. Durley Parish Council, along with County and District Councillors are continuing to request Southern Water attend another Public Meeting.

The Clerk attended the recent Southern Parishes Group Meeting. CC Rob Humby (Leader of HCC) and CC Roz Chadd (Deputy Leader of HCC) were present and informed the 18 Parish Council representatives attending about the need to cut the HCC Budget. HCC has a statutory responsibility to carry out some services, but other services do need to be cut or managed in a different way to retain our current services.

Durley Parish Council are in the process of updating our Emergency Plan. Residents will be sent a Form which needs to be completed and returned so that we are aware of who would need help in an emergency situation and those residents who may be able to help if required in an emergency situation. It is hoped that these Forms will be delivered at the end of May and during June.

Cllr Delmege and the Clerk reported on the recent Winchester District Association of Parish Councils Meeting when CC Patricia Stallard spoke about the HCC Budget Consultation and why it was needed.

CC Humby sent through a written Report and highlighted that residents should respond to the HCC Budget Consultation and the NHS Consultation for the downgrading of Winchester Hospital.

DC Williams gave a Report from the District Council. He updated Councillors on the process for reporting drivers who park on the zig zag lines outside of Durley Primary School. He also spoke about the recent planning approval in Salt Lane for a mobile phone mast – as this might help with the signal in Durley. There was an update on the renovation to the toilets in Bishops Waltham car park and the pavement will be widened in the High Street.

Cllr Anita Watts was awarded a Mayor of Winchester Award, but was not able to attend the Ceremony. The Award will be presented to Anita at a future event in Durley.

Reports were received for the Recreation Ground and Sawmills. Both areas are very wet at the moment, but will hopefully dry out once the weather improves.

Cllr Watts gave a Neighbourhood Watch Report and said that there has been one report this month of an antisocial behaviour in Durley Street. There is a Beat Surgery being held on Thursday 28th March in the Hall car park, but this has only been advertised on the Police website which is difficult to find. Car thefts are being carried out and scams are rising. There is to be a 24/7 police response team based in BW Police Station along with 10 Officers.

Cllr Rappini gave a Highways report. There has been a lot of flooding during this month and many pot holes are appearing which have been reported to HCC Highways. Cameras have been put down the drains in Parsonage Lane to see why this area is flooding so badly.

The Clerk gave a Financial Report for March, 2024.

Cllr Ellen gave Hall Report saying that the Hall will be closed for 2 weeks in April for the Hall ceiling to be replaced along with the installation of the LED lighting. The Clerk reported that we have also been successful in receiving a Grant for 2 battery storage units to use with the solar panels on the Hall roof. We are hoping that the work for this will be carried out at the same time as the Hall ceiling work. A Lottery Grant has been applied for towards the cost of the Hall car park renovations, but as this will not cover the whole cost, another Grant will also be put in to help with the funding. Alternatively some fund raising might be required to enable the work to be carried out.

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

Anne Collins
Clerk to Durley Parish Council
durleyparishcouncil@gmail.com