

Clerk's Report Village Council Meeting November 2020

Residents' letters/emails – these have been circulated as necessary

Annual Leave –

Training – On Wednesday 13th October, we attended a virtual webinar on updates to GDPR. Rebecca and Sam will attend a virtual training course with SLCC on creating accessible word and PDF documents; getting the basics right on the 17th November 2020

Newsletters – the October newsletter was written by Jenny and distributed by 4 local youths.

Covid-19 – a touch free, wall mounted hand sanitiser unit and extra gel has been ordered and is in situ in the office hallway along with advisory posters regarding using the sanitiser and wearing a facemask

Remembrance Sunday – the Poppy wreath is in the office. June Spoor informed me that St Dunstan's are now not planning to hold a service at the War Memorial and the service in the Church will be invite only due to the limited number who can attend. However, the road closure will still go ahead at present and it is hoped that those who wish to, can still observe the 2 minutes silence at the War Memorial at 11am with social distancing in place. The road closure has been approved. All risk assessments and other related documents were emailed to MSDC as requested. High Vis vests have also been ordered which will hopefully arrive before the 8th for stewards to wear.

Wages – the pay scales for Youth Workers have been released and payments will be backdated to April.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – the AGAR has now been emailed and posted to Moore Stephens, the External Auditor – we now wait with baited breath!

Interim Audit – the interim audit took place on 27th October (with only a day's notice!). We await the report.

Public Spaces Protection Orders - PSPO's – Dog Control Consultation – I submitted a response from the Council to the consultation on 7th October; the deadline was 22nd October.

Dor's Patch – Bob informed me that Eamonn Plass was quite keen to take on looking after Dor's Patch. However 2 ladies have been in to see Sam – they are also interested in taking on the patch.

Three Crowns – a zoom meeting took place with Star Pubs on 9th September with Jenny, John Belsey and Samantha Tobin. The line was very poor and Samantha Tobin ended up calling the office. A report has been sent to all Councillors, but in essence, the brewery are currently in talks with a prospective manager, but if this falls through, they will have to consider closing the site permanently. A precis of the meeting has been circulated. I forwarded Alice's photos of the litter on the site, but I have had no response, despite also asking for an update.

Winter Management – we have been sent the request for the salt and grit bin audit. I have given this to Ceri who has completed it and I have returned it to West Sussex County Council. I have been informed that the winter gritting routes remain unchanged from last year. The current Winter Management plan is on the website but needs to be updated as there will be no snow ploughing in the village apart from the A22.

Salt-Grit Bin – the new slim-line salt-grit bin was ordered after September’s meeting and Ceri has installed it and removed the broken one on the Maypole Road/Box Lane junction.

Noticeboard – the new noticeboard arrived on 20th October – installed by Michael Willicombe. However the delivery was late, so we will get £15 + VAT refund and the top left hand corner of the backing board was bent. Hoping to get compensation for that also from the courier.

Youth Club: Youth Club remains closed

Anti-social Behaviour – I emailed Inspector Taylor who reported that Jack Heslip was again remanded in custody until 14th Dec when he will go on trial for historic thefts.

Shopping Bus: The shopping bus was suspended for the week of 27th March until further notice.

Speed Indicator Device: Ceri collected the SID on 19th October. The device has been put up in Cansiron Lane initially. Each council on the rota now has the device for 6 weeks. We are due to hand the device to West Hoathly on 30th November.

Update on Tennis court access system:– still on-going. The tennis courts have been reopened to the public, but for online booking only through MSDC only. Membership of the Ashurst Wood Tennis Club has resumed.

Tree Preservation Orders – MSDC have refused both TPO requests

Office Building maintenance – a letter was sent to Michael Willicombe who has agreed to do twice yearly inspections of the office building, both internally and externally and other works as and when we deem necessary.

Allotments: a letter has been sent to solicitor Ian Davison requesting a fees quotation.

Consultations – Please refresh yourselves with the Consultation on Pavement Parking; options for change

Rebecca Roberts
Clerk to the Village Council