

Clerk's Report Village Council Meeting December 2020

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

Annual Leave –

Training – Rebecca and Sam attended a virtual training course with SLCC on creating accessible word and PDF documents; getting the basics right on the 17th November 2020 – it wasn't a very good course unfortunately mainly because they were working off a different operating system to us. We were not the only Council to struggle.

We have also signed up for a free training course on pensions in February 2021:

Employers in the LGPS, Starters and opt outs

Leavers and Retirements, Completing Starter, Leaver and Estimate Forms

Covid-19 – the office was again closed to residents for the 4 week lockdown and will re-open on 3rd December.

Remembrance Sunday – the Remembrance Service went ahead on 8th November and was really well attended by approximately 60 residents. The markers that Brian and Ceri had put on the road were well used and the event was socially distanced. Special thanks to Brian and Jenny for all their hard work and again to Brian for arranging the speaker for the Last Post and National Anthem – that was perfect! Thank you also to our stewards, including Karen Lindsay and Rob and Di Bright and to Tanya Hayman for her help with the order of wreath laying and for ordering the Council wreath.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – This was returned via email on 24th November and a copy of the certificate and notice of conclusion of audit has been put on the notice board and uploaded on the website. They made comment on the fact that we were up by £1.

Dor's Patch – 2 residents have now kindly taken on the maintenance of Dor's Patch – Jacqueline and Vanessa.

Three Crowns – Samantha Tobin has informed me that the scheme has been signed off internally so the funds should be available in the New Year. They have a very good applicant that submitted their business plan to the brewery and Samantha Tobin has now requested the investment manager give a date so they can meet the applicant again and move forward. ***Item 11***

Winter Management. 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.

Youth Club: Youth Club remains closed, but a report by the Youth Workers has been written – ***Item 9***

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 battery did not last long and was replaced – therefore it was decided to keep the device in Cansiron Lane and it was not moved elsewhere. The next time we receive the SID, it will go in Woods Hill Lane

Update on Tennis court access system:– the courts have again been closed during lockdown.

Office Building maintenance – Michael Willicombe has confirmed that the some of the brick work outside the office needs repointing. If members agree, we can look to getting some quotes.

Bench for Bishops Green – I have approached both Eric Lamprell and Howard Stoker for quotes, but have not received anything to date. I have received one from Gladson, but will wait until I hear back from the others before proceeding.

Woodland Trust – the Woodland Trust are offering trees for free for schools and communities – please see link <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/> As a Council, we don't have any suitable land we own to plant a tree, but there is an application form if any of you have land you feel could be suitable.

Allotments: no further updates

Wall Hill Road footpath – A zoom meeting was held on 10th November with Richard Speller of West Sussex Highways, District Councillor Jackie Russell, Jenny, Brian and the Clerk regarding the formation of a path at Wall Hill. Discussions included a longer term proposal to widen the road, by taking back the hedge opposite to Quarry Cottages reforming a new section of road and then trying to join the existing footpath that is up at the bus stop, along in front of the forge (this will be dependent on whatever housing goes in there) and then along in front of Quarry Cottages to join John Pears. Brian and Richard Speller are set to meet on site on 20th November. Brian has sent an update to everyone. ***Item 10***

Pothole Reporting - West Sussex Highways have changed the way they want potholes to be reported. Any concerns over potholes should now be reported to: www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel rather than using Love West Sussex. This new on-line form is currently on trial and has an interactive map displaying all reported potholes, so that users can identify which potholes have already been reported and there is also an option to subscribe and receive updates if they wish. As this is a trial, feedback from anyone who uses it would be appreciated.

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