

Clerk's Report Village Council Meeting January/February 2021

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

Annual Leave – Sam and Rebecca each took 6 days annual leave over the Christmas period. Sharon also had leave, as did Ceri. Ceri has also taken some additional hours in January.

Training – We have signed up for a free training course on pensions in February 2021: Employers in the LGPS, Starters and opt outs, as well as Leavers and Retirements, Completing Starter, Leaver and Estimate Forms

Gwen Shuttleworth – following the sad news of Gwen's sudden death, a condolence card was sent to her husband on behalf of the Council. Her funeral will take place at Holy Trinity at noon on 3rd February and will be live-streamed. A memorial will take place later in the year. Gwen will arrive at Holy Trinity from the funeral directors

Covid-19 – the office is once again closed to the public for the 3rd Lockdown until further notice

Three Crowns – I emailed Samantha Tobin on 6th January asking for an update – there is one prospective proprietor still interested. Following that correspondence, Samantha Tobin has been furloughed, and I am now dealing with Ron Barnes. After 15th February, I will be liaising with Adrian Riley. *Item 13*

Coronavirus Vaccination Transport – Community Transport Sussex (CTS) has been given a grant to provide Mid Sussex Residents with free transportation to receive their injection if they cannot get to their appointment any other way. Residents should call CTS on 01444 471919 – these are between the hours of 10am to 2pm. If any resident needs to get their jab from Crowborough, there will be a charge. Residents can also use the Forest Row Transport service – again for a charge.

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. Ceri has checked and mixed the grit/salt bins

Youth Club: Youth Club remains closed. A meeting was held on 15th December with Margaret Bussell, Karen Lindsay and Christine Loveday to discuss the re-opening of the club. It had been decided that the Village Centre was not available for use by the Youth Club and with little uptake on spaces (due to covid concerns and children not wanting to wear face masks), it was agreed not to open the club. In light of the on-going pandemic, the current circumstances of the Youth Club will need further discussion – *Item 11*

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

Speed Indicator Device: West Hoathly have confirmed what we already knew – that the batteries of the Cluster SID aren't holding charge. I have sourced the batteries and will purchase them once I have confirmation from the other Cluster Parishes that they are happy to split the cost. Update: the batteries have been ordered at a cost of £33 per parish (2 batteries).

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

Bench for Bishops Green – I have approached Eric Lamprell again for a quote – he then came to the office to discuss and we agreed on a metal frame with wooden slats and I left the overall design up to him

Anti-social behaviour – apart from the graffiti on the boarding to the development on the Lewes Road, the anti-social behaviour previously experienced in the village seems to have stopped. It has been reported that Jack Heslip has received a custodial sentence of 40 weeks.

Allotments: I emailed Joshi in December and after mistakes with the mapping of the land, the division is now in progress. Jenny is preparing a memorandum of understanding and once that has been signed off, we can go ahead and start making plans.

Wall Hill Road footpath – the owner of 1, Quarry Cottages has now cut back his hedge as agreed and this information has been relayed to Richard Speller

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.

Rebecca Roberts
Clerk to the Village Council