

Clerk's Report Village Council Meeting April 2021

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

Annual Leave – Sam is taking Thursday 1st April

Training – Sam and Rebecca attended the following training course:
I & E webinar on 16th March

Accountancy Software Demo – Brian, Sam and I attended a demonstration by Scribe Accounting on 23rd March. Scribe is a web based software and has many of the functions of Rialtas, but unlike Rialtas, it has a read only function and can be accessed on any device. Sam and Rebecca will speak to another Parish who are currently using Scribe to see if it is worth changing. Scribe is more expensive, but all future training and support is included.

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

Mourning Protocol – this document, adopted on 2nd March has been emailed to Rev. Angela Martin and to Tom Clark at MSDC

Three Crowns – No further news.

Footpath by the Three Crowns – repairs to the tarmac on this footpath finally started the week commencing 22nd March.

Replacement Bin – Following on from a car fire, one of our post mounted litter bins was destroyed. A replacement will cost approximately £160.00 excl. VAT. A claim has been made to the car owners insurance company.

Footpath by the Three Crowns – the footpath is still currently closed by WSCC. They keep sending closure notices which I laminate for Ceri to put up. However, WSCC have informed me that they now have the money to repair the path in this financial year, but the contactors are very busy, so there is no date as yet as to when the repairs will take place.

Land Management Services – I had a meeting on 9th March with Land Management Services who have been appointed by MSDC to undertake a review on their behalf of their land management, including building an asset register to incorporate different styles of planting/meadows etc. The Balcombe was also present and we both agreed that it would really help if we could have a schedule of mowing and an increased frequency so that long clumps of grass were not left all over the field.

Dor's Patch – I have received an email from the 2 ladies who had agreed to take on the maintenance of Dor's Patch that they are now no longer in a position to be able to help. A call for help has been put in the Parish News and the E-News

Youth Club: After a meeting with the Youth Workers and the Youth Club management committee, it has been agreed that the youth workers will be kept employed on a zero hours contract basis until such a time that the club can re-open fully.

Shopping Bus: The shopping bus was suspended for the week of 27th March until further notice. We will have to consider the viability of this service as we have potentially lost 3 ladies and one driver.

Update on Tennis court access system: – the courts have been having treatment for moss and MSDC are cutting the trees back by the courts to hopefully create less shade for the moss to grow.

Bench for Bishops Green – We have accepted Eric’s quotation for a new bench on Bishops Green to replace the old broken one. A metal poppy that belonged to Gwen Shuttleworth will be incorporated into the design and the bench will be dedicated to Gwen with a plaque.

Anti-social behaviour – reports have been received of trespass and cutting tyres along Hammerwood Road

Allotments: I have received a further request to be put on the waiting list for allotments this week (8th March). Brian has produced a good document on fencing for the proposed allotments.

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. Richard Speller has confirmed that phase 1 – levelling the verge should happen ideally before the end of the financial year

West Sussex Highways grass cutting schedule – Highways cut our grass verges on 11th March and the next scheduled cut should be on 17th May 2021.

Dog Bins – We have had our invoice from MSDC for emptying the dog bins – this will come to £905.52 excl VAT. I have had numerous residents contacting me about bins not being emptied, so I have asked Ceri to carry out a dog bin audit, so we can ensure that what MSDC have listed and what we have match. At a weekly charge come April of £3.11 per collection, per bin, we have to make sure that the operator MSDC use are indeed emptying everything we are paying for and quite clearly at the moment, this hasn’t been happening.

The dog bins MSDC say we own are:

180 – Allens Close
181 – Hammerwood Rd/Cansiron Lane junction
182 – School Lane
375 – Ivydene Lane
393 – Lewes Road

Ceri has produced a bin audit and I have sent this to MSDC. MSDC replied and stated that the payment for the bins is split between the Village Council and MSDC, which is why we only have 5 bins showing on our invoice. MSDC pay for the bins numbered:

175 – recreation ground (Hammerwood Rd)
176 – recreation ground
177 – Hammerwood Rd/Maypole Rd
178 – John Pears Field
179 – John Pears/Wall Hill Rd

Boundary Consultation – the Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation for Mid Sussex was emailed to Councillors on 23rd March. The initial consultation will close on 31st May 2021

Rebecca Roberts
Clerk to the Village Council