

SHERBORNE ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report May 2016

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to the 2016 Sherborne St John Parish Council AGM and Annual Meeting.

This report provides detail on the fourth and final year of tenure of previous iteration of the Parish Council and like the previous 3 years we continue to be busy.

At this point appropriate to introduce the 'new' council.

Linda Agnew
Natasha Rougier
Rose Cooper
Carl Davies

And of course our erstwhile clerk, Penny Mayo

There are a number of topics that it is appropriate that we update you on. I'd like to provide a brief summary of each subject hoping i) to give you the highlights and ii) to then give you the opportunity to ask any further questions that you may wish to later on in the proceedings.

Neighbourhood Plan

Julian, as Chair of the Plan Committee, will give you a detailed update later but at this stage suffice it to say we are progressing. We've now reached the stage of discussing the nitty gritty procedural points with Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council. Like all dealings with the BDBC it proves to be a strange and sometimes baffling process. We've recently received comments, etc. from all statutory bodies that we are obliged to consult with e.g. BDBC, the National Trust and will soon asking the village to vote as to whether to accept the plan b way of a referendum. Hopefully we should bring the whole process to a conclusion by the end of the year /early next year.

More from Julian later.

Web Site

We have new web site that is in the final throws of completion.

It is professionally hosted by an organisation that hosts websites for numerous PC's and hopefully will be simple and easy to keep updated.

There are links to various external sites e.g. BDBC and most of the village organisations already or will do soon, have their own pages or pages.

Shop

There are 3 options as to how we might replace the village shop.

Option 1 – via the Neighbourhood Plan. The assumption was that the Parish would either be 'gifted' a shop as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process or be able to negotiate a financial settlement in lieu of a shop premise. The input from BDBC suggests that neither of these options might be possible.

Option 2 A commercial shop keeper has expressed interest in principle in establishing a shop in the Village Hall premises. However this idea is at a very early stage and as there would be serious legal and operational problems to overcome it is unlikely to progress further for some time, if at all.

Option 3 – A mobile shop. The PC has been made aware of a mobile shop that BDBC have requested the shop comply with existing trading standards, and purchase the proper trading licence. The PC are negotiating with a number of PC's within the BDBC area and the owner of the shop how we might jointly fund said trading licence. The likely expenditure would be in the order of £200 max. p.a. – more as we progress

Chute

A number of issues relating to the Chute. We've applied for and received in the order of £40k of grants this year, excluding the grants for the Neighbourhood Plan.

These grants have allowed us to effect necessary repairs to the Chute and to re-lay the floor.

The 'old' shed/hut, call it what you may, has been replaced by a made to measure storage facility. This has then allowed the use of further storage areas in the Chute to be better used.

Finally the tennis courts are just about to be repaired and the hope is that more people will then make use of them.

We have implemented review of the charge rates at the Chute – the first in approx. 4 years. The Village Hall have also rationalised their rates. I/we still think that for the facility the rates are a fair reflection of the 'value' of the building.

Speedwatch

As reported last year - we have our own Speedwatch equipment, managed by Becky Jones. The offer is still there if you have concerns around speeding along any of the routes in the village, you too can put on a yellow coat and practice 'hello', 'hello' in your best PC Plod voice.

We've proof that this device does work, Strike 1 you get a 'letter', Strike 2 a nasty letter, Strike 3, points or the driver awareness course

Social

Last year party was I think a success, setting it all outside was a much better option. This year's party, Picnic on the Green will be on the 9th July and it's Free. Folk will be invited to bring their own food and drink and so we can avoid the cost of providing the hog roast, etc.

Infrastructure

It's not getting better although there have been some cursory attempts to repair some part of Vyne Road.

At a recent PC meeting Keith Chapman, our HCC representative, outline some of the financial challenges that Hampshire CC are facing. The anticipated and planned for a 19% budget cut but what they are now being asked to implement is a 39% reduction. Simply put – less resources to address less issues – one of which will be road repairs and the like.

Defibrillator(s)

We have applied for and received a Lottery grant for the provision and installation of x 2 defibrillators, one for the Chute and one for the Village Hall.

I understand that they are in bright yellow boxes so should be obvious installed. I'm told that the emergency services will have the pin number for each box so if required, will know how to get access.

Planning

Apart from the normal applications currently there is nothing 'big' in the pipeline.

We keep hearing of the intent to submit a planning application for a small number of houses on the corner of Dark Lane but said application ebbs and flows – much like the water table on the site

Beaupaire House – the works continue

Finances

Despite all the financial comings and goings over the last year the PC funds are much as they were when we started the year.

This year saw only an average 80p increase in the Precept.

We have also seen an increase in the amount of Precept with the increase of the number of houses in the Parish – the first houses being built as part of the new Marnel Park development.

More detail in the Treasurers report.

Comings and Goings.

Judith Darmardy and John Edwards have respectively hung up their cheque book and keys. A huge thank you.

We welcome Ed Campbell as the new Caretaker of the Chute and the VH – although we are looking for a second Caretaker as a backup to Ed to cover for holidays, etc.

We welcome Shawna Campbell as the new bookings secretary for the Chute and the VH. We have seen an increase in bookings because of this 'joint' approach to bookings.

A thank you to Becky Jones who joined the PC on a temporary basis to help out – thank you.

Cllr John Leek – who has stood down after many years of welcome of support and stewardship of the Parish whilst a BDBC councillor.

We welcome Tristan Robinson as our new BDBC Ward councillor. We look forward to working closely with Tristan as we have done with John.

Also thank you to

- John Edwards (the younger !!) for all his efforts re :our infrastructure improvement plan – the bulbs, the report on the village roads and footpaths, the planting of the trees
- Ted Wilkinson - for taking on the management of our allotments and badgering Stagecoach to maintain and improve bus services in and around the village.
- Mrs Sheelagh Cooper - our litter picker
- HCC Cllr Keith Chapman.
- Julian Crawley – for his continued advice and chairmanship of the NP process.

A thank you to Penny Mayo, our Parish Clerk. Sergeant Major like she kept myself and the council 'honest' with regard to some of our more wilder flights of fancy.

Thank you to my fellow councillors over this last year.

What our immediate concerns for the future?

- Get the NP completed soon as and try and get some sense out of BDBC to help us
- Complete the Tennis Courts refurb
- Keep enjoying it

Thank you

RKM 10/05/2015