

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Highways – Stewart Wooles

The heavy rainfall in December and early January has on several occasions caused substantial flooding of Woodman Lane at its junction with Watley Lane near The Plough. The regular occurrence of flooding at this location is a danger to traffic and causes disruption to The Plough. It also clearly indicates that the recent work of draining the balancing pond has not resolved this issue. This issue will be raised with Cllr Philip Bailey our representative on HCC.

A number of parishioners have expressed their concern about the amount of mud on the main roads in the village. Unfortunately, given the recent heavy rainfall this is to be expected. We will raise the issue with Cllr Bailey and ask that the village roads are swept at the end of winter.

Footpaths – (portfolio responsibility vacant)

Countryside Access Team notified of priority cutting paths.

Footpath maintenance contract completed for approval.

Landowner notified of concerns of relating to reinstatement of part of footpath 7.

Playground – Nigel Reid

We have received three quotes to replace various ropes and a net on certain items of equipment. The quotes (all ex VAT) are as follows:

Vitaplay	£3,389
PIM	£4,055
Playsafe	£1,237

We are minded to accept the cheapest quote but await clarification that it covers all the required items. We would like the Council's authority to proceed on this basis.

I have been in touch with Nick Adams who provided the last annual Inspection Report over his concerns about a "desire line" through parts of the playground which might require some barriers to be installed.

He has said: "Rather than go to the expense of installing barriers at this stage, I suggest that, unless there have been such known injuries historically, that the existing layout is carefully monitored for collisions over say 12 months. Where 'desire lines' pass through equipment having a 'forced motion' e.g. swings, slides etc, these carry a Medium risk assessment and barriers are recommended in the inspection Report as a control measure."

In the light of this, and the fact that we are unaware of any accidents or injuries so far, I am proposing that we just monitor the situation for the time being, as Nick suggests.

There is still one outstanding item of work which arose from the last Inspection.

Charlotte Chadwick continues to monitor the playground on a weekly basis and is doing an excellent job.

Sparsholt Memorial Hall – Richard Summerfield

We have a number of outstanding matters which have moved very slowly over the Christmas period. We have though met with some success. The Caretaker/Cleaner has had a successful appraisal the conclusions were agreed and a recommendation for a small annual increase in pay was made.

The windows are on hold and the new sign posts are progressing slowly. A team arrived to move the Piano, but the piano won. The men could not move it safely enough, the matter is under review. I have not heard from the school re-dustbins and I am awaiting contact re-FOSS annual charge.

We will be buying the Phone Box but need some form of guarantee concerning its maintenance and long term prospects.

The Hall itself is busy. Increased children's parties. The shop 'Fayre', the Christmas Panto and Shady Grey, who have been asked for a repeat performance, all contributing. The Brownies are already booked for this year and the usual usage continues with the School, very busy with increased out of hours activities.

Finally, the family of Irene Minns, who died on the 6th Oct 2015 asked that any donations in memory of Irene should benefit The Sparsholt Memorial Hall. These donations have been received and the exact usage is now being considered.

Sparsholt School – Katy Cobbold

Not a lot to report. Christmas was exceptionally busy at the end of last year at the school with various Fundraising days as well as all the Christmas Plays and Concerts.

The school had their church inspection in November last year and the distinctiveness and effectiveness of Sparsholt primary School as a Church of England school was deemed to be 'outstanding'.

Last week a newsletter was sent out to all parents which included information on where and how people should park during pick up and drop offs time. This included encouraging people to park down in Woodman Close.

Security & Transport – Andrew Osmond

Sparsholt Shop – Nigel Reid

There is nothing significant to report.

The question as to who buys the telephone kiosk is still being considered. I have told the Memorial Hall that they will probably need legal advice on buying the kiosk as they have to enter into a legal agreement with BT. The Hall may have concerns about the cost of this advice, if they see themselves as only buying the kiosk to benefit the Shop.

In the meantime I have prepared a draft licence agreement between the Shop and the Memorial Hall which allows the Shop to use the kiosk in return for maintaining and insuring it, but nothing can be done until the Hall decides whether or not to buy the kiosk.

The next Committee meeting of the Shop Association is on 2 February.

Communication – John Little