

HIGHWAYS – CLLR WOOLLES

Nothing to report.

MEMORIAL HALL – CLLR ANNESLEY

The Hall is entirely used by the school at present. No change expected until at least January.

PLAYGROUND – CLLR WAKEFIELD

- The playground is being used a lot during lockdown, although there is very little evidence of social distancing. The volunteers continue to disinfect the equipment on a regular basis.
- The most urgent problem is that the Gyrospiral needs repairing, and I am currently awaiting final costs to repair this. I am also pursuing the final costs for fencing.
- One of the problems with an unsupervised playground is that the equipment is used by older children than it is meant to be. I think we need to replace the signs, where the age has been conveniently scratched out!

COMMUNICATIONS – CLLR LITTLE

The Newsletter now goes out monthly as an email attachment. A few copies are printed and are available from the shop for those without email. The content is mainly drawn from regular news to councillors from Hampshire County Council, the occasional ones from Winchester City Council, the parish council meetings and parish councillors.

As the electronic newsletter becomes more established we are beginning to see more input being submitted by parishioners. Also, a few items are picked up and printed by the Hampshire Chronicle. The editorial team had hoped to launch a new online events calendar but with all events being put on hold this will be deferred until the new year once events can restart.

During the Lockdown we may distribute Newsletter Alerts should the need arise.

The email distribution list currently has 193 addresses. This is still well below the almost 300 households in the parish. Our last paper appeal dropped through every door at the end of September resulted in 16 new addresses being added. The Downs Benefice magazine have agreed to include an item in the next edition encouraging more parishioners to register their email on the distribution list for the Sparsholt Community Newsletter.

The Community Support Group remains semi-dormant, listening for the mobile and watching for emails, as there are very little if any requests for assistance. As the lines of communication remain in place, it can be readily reactivated should the need arise.

SECURITY – CLLR OSMOND

Nothing very new on security, a few neighbourhood watch [NW] emails about scammers and fraud phone calls, a reflection of Lockdown #2 and more people at home and WFH. Sparsholt never seems to feature that highly in NW which is good, whereas Ashley/Up Somborne seems a hot bed of farm and shed break-ins. I'm part of their What's App 'Heads Up' group which is helpful, reporting suspicious vehicles etc.

FOOTPATHS/OPEN SPACES/CLIMATE CHANGE – CLLR COOPER

Footpaths & open spaces

- Phase 1 Ham Green felling of trees affected by ash dieback completed. (Terry to provide more detail if required)
- Footpath map situation summarised by Terry in a recent memo and project now being followed up by Nicky/Sue
- No date yet from WCC on the installation of the agreed dog poo bin for Ham Green car park.
- Two fallen trees blocking footpaths in recent weeks; one on the bridle way to Dean Lane just below the exit from Ham Green which has been dealt with by P, Yeates under his contract. The second in Dark lane just past the junction onto Whatley Lane heading to Lainston House. I have been in contact with Lainston House whose property the tree is upon and they have referred the matter on to their maintenance staff for removal, but unfortunately they are all currently furloughed.

- I am still waiting for a half year report from Peter on the amount of time he has spent on our behalf and an invoice, it has been promised to me shortly.
- I believe all the clearance work by HCC on our 5 priority footpaths has now been undertaken.

Climate change

- I am still waiting for confirmation from Caroline as to whether the school wants to participate in the Greening Programme as a project.
- I will attend the forthcoming virtual meeting organised by WCC on Parish involvement in the HCC climate change programme and report back.

HAM GREEN CONSERVATION GROUP – Terry Dunn

- The HG Group are continuing to work at Ham Green, in order to maintain safe access to HG during the Winter. In September, we did return to a more organised programme of group work days, still working to Covid-safe guidelines, and are now working on the organised dates, but in small groups of 2-3 people to comply with the current guidelines.
- The Tree Condition Survey has been accepted by the PC and a phased programme of diseased Ash felling and other work has been agreed.
- Phase 1 of the Ash felling is partly complete and, a stand of 5 large dead Ash stems and a dangerous protruding limb, all close to Ham Green Cottage, are to be removed soon. Only 2 large trees on the Northern hedge line of HG (T5 & T35) will then remain to be felled, as soon as field conditions are firm enough to allow access for this work to be done.
- The dual purpose dog poo/ litter bin for the HG car park is now installed, but some new signs may be required.
- The new Village Mapboards, for the Hall car park and for HG, now have an approved grant and the order to supply will be placed soon.
- We are still awaiting a date from HH/Skanska for the installation of the new tree and rustic bench, won by Cllr Wooles.
- The Group Constitution has been redrafted and signed, ready for review & approval at the Group AGM (see next note).
- Next Group Planning Meeting and AGM was due in April but was postponed and still needs to be re-arranged when appropriate.

SHOP – CLLR REID

There is nothing specifically to raise in relation to the Village Shop apart from the fact that its current 3 year lease expires at the end of the year, so the Council needs to resolve to renew it and to agree the rent for the next 3 years.

TRANSPORT – CLLR WOOD

Nothing to report.