

Sparsholt School

KC has attended all school governor meetings and has recently met with the deputy head. KC is observing a lesson on Tuesday and will report back to governors. The new Chair of Governors is Victoria Parker who lives in Littleton and has two children at the school. The school is completely prepared for an OFSTED visit as all schools were told to expect one before the election. Admissions for September 2015 will be finalised by mid-April.

Sparsholt Playground

Charlotte Chadwick continues to monitor the playground for health and safety issues. We both had inspection training last month from Hants Playing Fields Association. I am waiting to hear back from the HPFA with the names of some contractors who might be willing to move the goalmouth and to repair the goal area. I am still trying to track down the person at WCC who is responsible for the green in Woodman Close so that I may speak to them about repairing the goalmouth and also some of the perimeter fencing near the bus stop which is in need of repair.

The Well House/Sparsholt Shop

The new lease has been signed by the PC and I await a signed copy back from the Shop Association.

No decision has been reached yet on the future of the phone box. It will have to be bought either by the Shop Association or by the Memorial Hall. This is work in progress.

There was a Shop Volunteers meeting last week.

Highways

At the end of January the carriageway repairs on Woodman Lane from the Stockbridge Road (B3049) to Sarum Road were completed. The work which was carried out under HCC's Operation Resilience consisted of substantial and extensive repairs that have improved the road. During the work a parishioner approached me to complain that while the work outside her property, The Woodman (on Woodman Lane at junction with Woodman Close) has made good the surface around the drain covers, the process of doing so has substantially damaged an earlier repair that is now badly cracked and breaking up. Accordingly, I spoke to the contractors, but they declined to make good the damage they had done and advised that the matter should be referred to Op Resilience at HCC. On inspecting the work, I noticed that there are a stack of cones and a pile of tarmac that was removed from the road surface and left on the verge. The cones and tarmac are on the grass verge of the Stockbridge Road (B3049) at its junction with Woodman Lane and HCC should be asked to remove these items.

FootpathsHam Green

All footpaths are clear and open for use.

Memorial Hall

AGM/OGM on Tuesday 17 March. RS will give a very brief report on Wednesday.

Communications

Nothing to report

Memorial Hall Annual Report 2015

We have had a busy and challenging year. I would like to thank all those who have been involved with the Memorial Hall for their continued support and hard work. The Executive Committee Sue Fowler, Terry Dunn and Roger Young remain eager and care for the Hall above the call of duty. Fred Blakemore very kindly continues as our independent examiner of accounts.

Many others are involved and serve as elected parishioners on the General Committee, Elizabeth May, Wendy Dean, David Blundell, Debbie Caldwell, Marie Bush and Liz West who continues as our Booking Secretary. I hope I haven't forgotten anybody, but if I have forgive me.

I should also mention Jenette for her help, and Elaine, our Caretaker, who has worked diligently throughout 2014. It is with regret that I have recently been obliged to accept her resignation, finding a replacement will not be easy.

We have had working parties looking at finding solutions to our main problems, namely, Finance, the kitchen and the balance of splitting income monies when various groups are involved in an Entertainment.

The main groups are the Hall, Church FOSS, School FOSS and the Shop. A meeting Chaired by Alistair Baron has been held and agreement reached regarding shared income.

Overall income is down, Liz and Roger worked very hard to find the reasons why and mainly Weddings/Parties have decreased, the Band split up, the Photographic Soc stopped and the Brownies have generally decreased the number of nights they stay. Financially our closest allies are now the HCC (read School) and we must work with the School to ensure our continued success.

Small groups have also looked at the kitchen and a brain storming meeting was held to consider ways of making the Hall more attractive.

Weekly events are Pilates, Fencing classes and School use. The PC and WI meetings remain monthly plus Lanterns and the Lunch Club. Occasional events are the "messy church" for children and the Brownies. Other events have included AGMs, Quiz suppers, Jumble sales, Race night, the Fete, "Frolic in the field" the school summer party, Harvest supper, Conversations "Story of the Guitar" and the Xmas Fayre and Panto. All in all events are down and school usage is up.

Last year's maintenance work was completed especially electrical work, lighting, emergency lighting and the fitting for the new Defibrillator. The necessary paint work and door fittings were completed and the kitchen cupboards made sound. Work for the future includes replacing the Hessian on the boards, possibly the curtains and other recommendations from the working group.

Other issues remain, the Piano (no takers), School escape route, the Future of the Telephone Box and traffic which the HCC has been unable to solve.

We all look forward to the New year of 2015 and hope the Defibrillator is not used.

Richard Summerfield. 17/03/2015