

Parish Council Briefing

Parish Clerk, John Willcox, rounds up the PC's activity in April

The Parish Council (PC) met on the 4th April 2022. All the Parish Councillors were present. The meeting was outside the normal schedule for PC meetings and was held to deal with the deferred business arising from the previous meeting on 7th March 2022 and a number of planning applications that had been received in the interim. The meeting was attended by our County Councillor, Mr Bill Parks, and a number of members of the public.

Events at Longleat

The PC had become aware that a series of events had been planned at Longleat on a number of dates between 23rd June and 2nd July. The PC are anxious that the considerable disruption caused when the Elton John Concert was held in 2016 is avoided as much as possible. (Those of you with longer memories will remember the debacle that was the Red Bull event in 2006!) To this end, a representative of the company who are producing the shows for the promoter Senbla, and a representative of ETC, their traffic management company were asked to attend the meeting.

The meeting was told that there were ongoing discussions being held with relevant parties; the Emergency Services, Highways, Police – Both Wiltshire and Somerset and Avon Constabularies, Center Parcs and that currently the traffic management plan was at Version 7. A brief summary of the activities and the time line was given along with assurances that input from the local community would be welcome and that the public would be kept fully apprised of the decisions that were being taken. It was confirmed that all householders who are going to be affected by the events will be advised via a leafletting exercise. This will give updates including confirmed dates of the concerts, details of the traffic management plans, a residents hotline number and a relevant e-mail address.

(Villagers may have become aware that, in acknowledgement of the effect the events could have on residents, the promoters of the shows, Senbla Ltd have circulated a letter to residents offering a pair of complimentary tickets to one of the concert evenings.)

As the PC learns more, details will be posted on the village Facebook site.

Planning Applications

2022/0333/FUL Erection of three Whole Life Dwellings incorporating full disabled access. Land at Lane End Hill, Rodden Frome

(Note: This application was received from Mendip District Council. Corsley PC were originally omitted from the consultation by Mendip DC but the proposed development is very close to the parish boundary and following communications between the PC and Mendip the PC were asked to comment.)

This application was considered in some detail at the PC's previous meeting on 7th March. The consideration included taking account of the written responses to the Parish Council and comments from the members of the public who were present. It was agreed at that meeting that a decision be deferred pending a site visit taking place. The site meeting took place on 4th April.

The PC objected on the grounds that:

- It is an unnecessary development of a greenfield site
- It is outside the settlement boundary, effectively enlarging the village in an unplanned fashion
- There would be access and egress issues at a busy and potentially dangerous junction onto the A362. There is no safe pedestrian access to the site
- It would create a precedent in Corsley.

The PC also commented that, if Mendip DC approve the application, then it should be conditioned:

- that the visibility splay onto the A362 should be improved such that the traffic approaching from the west would be much more visible
- that the approach to the houses should be of an appropriate surface, not the gravel that is proposed.

PL/2022/00665 Demolition of the existing lemur walk-through enclosure and associated fencing, existing toilet block and associated hard surfacing, existing small animal (tortoise) exhibition building and associated hard surfacing. Provision of 18 no. safari-tent style sleeping lodges on land at the northern end of the Safari Park including associated gravelled access tracks and parking areas. Re-alignment of existing animal enclosure fencing to increase the area of the giraffe enclosure. Succession planting in various locations across the northern end of the Safari Park in accordance with Longleat Estate's tree management plan. New soft landscaping to improve the setting of the lodges. At Longleat Safari Park, Horningsham

The Parish Council objected to the application on highways and amenity grounds.

Whilst the application states that access will be gained via the main entrance to Longleat then via the Safari Park entrance there is no clear egress arrangement. In practice, visitors and services to the existing holiday accommodation are already using the shorter routes of the local lanes as access which is causing problems especially when the gates/ barrier into the site are closed.

Should Wiltshire Council decide to support the application the Parish Council would request that, as a minimum, a gate/barrier system that can be controlled 24/7 by Longleat Security is installed to limit disturbances to immediate residents.

PL/2022/01934 Construction of 2no. 2-bed bungalows, 5no. 2-bed houses and 1no. 3-bed house with associated car parking and landscaping (resubmission of PL/2021/07575) At empty site on the A362, next to the development at Baytree Close, Corsley

This application was a resubmission of a proposal that the PC had previously been consulted on. The Parish Council welcomed the fact that issues raised previously had been addressed in the revised application and unconditionally supported the development proposal that has been put forward. The Parish Council reiterated again that they are keen that those with a local connection are prioritised in the lettings and sale processes involving the properties and were pleased to hear that this aspect had been recently reinforced.

It is important that those who think they will be/are interested in either renting or the shared ownership properties (three x two beds) on this development should register with Homes4Wiltshire who are Wiltshire Councils agents in this area. Help is available to 'navigate' through this if applicants experience any difficulty.

PI/2022/02113 Enlargement of existing access. Internal reconfiguration (primarily of modern side extension) including addition of downstairs WC/boot room, enlargement of existing external doors and windows to kitchen and first floor bathroom. Installation of stair to second floor to convert attic space into additional bedroom. At 35 Temple, Corsley

PL/2022/02123 Demolition of existing temporary sheds. Construction of home office. At 35 Temple, Corsley

Note: There was a linked listed building application for both of these applications.

There was no objections to these applications subject to the planning officer resolving any privacy issues with the neighbours arising from the construction of the home office.

Grants/Donations

Villagers will know that it has been the practice to make donations/grants to village organisations /initiatives. Five applications were received this year and the PC agreed:

- £1000 to Little Cuckoos as a contribution towards the maintenance and repair of the existing building.
- £1400 to the Corsley War Memorial Playing Field (CWMPF) as a contribution towards their insurance costs on the condition that the CWMPF grass cutting equipment could be used to assist the PCC if that was felt appropriate.
- £1000 to the Reading Rooms as a contribution towards their running costs.
- To match fund, up to £900, towards the restoration of the St Margaret's clock face.
- The application from the PCC was deferred, pending discussion between the PCC and the Chair of the Parish Council on ways in which the PC could assist the PCC.

Streetscene

David Ball, the PC rep for streetscene reported that the meeting of our MP with officers and members of Wiltshire Council, and representatives of Chapmanslade and Maiden Bradley parish councils and the Maiden Bradley Weight Watchers Group to discuss the concerns about HGV traffic through the villages had now been arranged for 6th May 2022.

The PC were disappointed to hear that, following the speed limit review conducted by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire were not going to authorise/fund a formal speedwatch through the village. It was agreed that the PC initiate its own speedwatch exercise, unfunded by WC and relying on equipment sourced by councillor John Phillips. It was also agreed that the PC appeal the decision by Wiltshire.

It was reported that an order had been placed for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) and that discussions were taking place with Wiltshire Highways as to siting. Applications had also been made to Wiltshire for assistance for the siting of village gates and bridleway horse signage on the A362.

Platinum Jubilee

Villagers will be aware that the Playing Field Committee are hosting a 'picnic on the playing field on Sunday 5th June and welcome all offers of assistance and ideas as to how the event can be celebrated. It is also planned to have a beacon on Cley Hill, masterminded by our very own Beacon Master, Malcolm Holley. Further details will be published closer to the event.

Next meeting

Annual Parish Council meeting

Monday 9th May 2022.

(Note: The Annual Parish Council Meeting is the meeting at which the Parish Council, elects the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council and allocates responsibility for specific areas of the councils business to individual councillors. It should not be confused with, although it always is, the Annual Parish Meeting which is when the Parish Council reports to the parish on what it has been doing on their behalf.)

Bi-monthly meeting – 4th July 2022

Bi-monthly meeting – 5th September 2022

Bi –monthly meeting – 7th November 2022