

Parish Council Briefing

Parish Clerk, John Willcox, rounds up the PC's activity in January and May

Chairman's Report

Annual Parish Meeting 15th May 2023

Disappointingly, only six villagers attended, although their input was well received and appreciated.

Meetings

The Parish Council (PC) are now meeting every two months. Previously it had been quarterly, but with the increase in the number of planning applications and the time pressures on making a response it was felt appropriate to increase the number and frequency of meetings. Since the last Annual Parish Meeting the PC has met 10 times.

Planning

29 planning applications have been considered at these meetings, including one from Mendip District Council. These have ranged in complexity from the installation of electric vehicle charging points at Center Parcs to the development at Baytree.

Expenditure

The PC feel it one of our key roles to support groups in the village who bring people together and provide community services.

Grants/Donations to the total value of £7,650 were made to village organisations in respect of the last two financial years ending 31st March 2023:

- Little Cuckoos
- Playing Field
- Reading Room
- Parochial Church Council

The PC supported the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and also made contributions amounting to £2,400 towards the various road safety initiatives undertaken.

We continue to support the development of the wild flower meadow.

We funded the replacement of the old bus stop at the Heath, which was dangerous and unlevel due to root damage from the adjacent tree, with a new one which has seating, windows and lighting.

The PC has been successful in applying for and getting grants from Wiltshire Council for the replacement of kissing gates/stiles, the village gates and the road safety initiatives.

Moving forward, we would welcome other groups who are bringing the village residents together to apply for support.

Streetscene

The PC is constantly engaging with the local authority on all matters to do with the roads and lanes throughout the Parish and is an active participant in the three villages initiative which is trying to resolve the issue of overweight and speeding traffic on the A362.

Rights of Way

'The aim of the PC is to have the best maintained and signed rights of way in Wiltshire so people know where to walk and ride (bikes and horses) and can enjoy the countryside (and have no excuse for trespassing.)'

We would hope that you will have seen the improvements over the last year with horse signage, and both bridle way and footpath signs being improved and increased in number. The PC has engaging with the local authority and other interested groups (Nigel Linge and his volunteers) in trying to achieve this aim. However, residents should be aware that resolving rights of way issues can be a lengthy process.

Longleat

The PC were party to the organisation of the concerts that took place at Longleat and were instrumental in ensuring that the disruption that had taken place with the Elton John concert and before that, the Red Bull debacle, was minimised. A number of discussions took place with the organisers and the highways authority to try and ensure that inconvenience to villagers was kept to a minimum. In general this aim was achieved.

Neil Britten

Sadly, Neil Britten, a long time parish Councillor and past chairman of the PC died in January. We all wanted to formally thank Neil for his service to the village.

Bill Parks

It is appropriate to register our thanks to our County Councillor, Bill Parks for the support and assistance he has provided to the PC.

*Neil Carpenter
Chairman*

Parish Council Briefings

For those of you who have missed the Corsley PC briefings in The Bridge I apologise for having missed the relevant Bridge deadlines.

However, all residents will know that the meetings of the PC are open to the public and attendance and input are always welcome – like The Rolling Stones and Sir Elton we are much better live – and you will get all the information first hand! Since the last report the PC have met four times; on the 9th January, 6th March, the 27th March and the 19th June.

Planning

At the meeting on the **9th January** the PC considered three planning applications:

PL/2022/08445

New porch, render and dormers to the farmhouse with a new detached garage at Cley Hill farm, Cley Hill lane, Corsley

PL/2022/08905

Conversion of Barn South to office use at barn to the south of Manor Farm Offices, Deep lane, Corsley

PL/2022/09066

Brick up rear facing first floor window in the 1980's extension and replace with pitched roof dormer directly above. To render over existing Bradstone faux Bath stone facing to blend the whole of the existing extension in with the original rendered 18thC cottage at 56 Dertford, Corsley

The PC had no objections to any of these applications

As reported previously, the PC had the opportunity to suggest a name for the Baytree site, following circulation in The Bridge three suggestions had been received and following discussion it was agreed that the name Maud Davies Close be suggested to the local authority.

Maud was a sociologist, whose early years were spent at Corsley House and who, in 1905, wrote 'Life in an English Country Village' an account of life in Corsley in the early 1900s. The book did not go down well in the village at the time as it was a warts-and-all study, and the villagers tried to have the book suppressed by the PC. She was a pioneer sociologist who studied at the London School of Economics, no mean feat for a woman at that time. The book has been recently republished as she is now being recognised for the amazing work she did.

At the meeting on the 6th March, the PC considered two planning applications:

PL/2023/00735

Variation of conditions 2 of 19/09362/FUL and 20/00012/VAR – To allow for alterations to the design of the timber byre at Corsley House, Deep Lane, Corsley

PL/2023/00851

Change of use of land for up to five glamping units (partial retrospective) at Hidden Wood Glamping, Deep Lane , Corsley

Both of these applications were subsequently withdrawn and it was reported that they would be resubmitted at a later date.

At the meeting on the **27th March** the PC considered three planning applications, two of which were re-submissions of applications made previously:

PL/2023/00851

Change of use of land for up to three glamping pods and associated elements including solar panels, decking and hot tubs. (retrospective) at Hidden Wood Glamping, Deep Lane , Corsley

It was agreed that the PC would have no objection to the application subject to any approval be conditioned so that no unit is permanently occupied and that any external lighting approved takes cognizance of the relevant Dark Sky Policy.

PL/2023/00735

Variation of conditions 2 of 19/09362/FUL and 20/00012/VAR – To allow for alterations to the design of the timber byre at Corsley House, Deep Lane, Corsley

The PC agreed that they have no objection to this application providing that the Wiltshire Tree Officer is happy that the building will not adversely affect the root systems of the adjacent trees.

PL/2023/01396

Replacement of existing PVC sun lounge with new flat roofed timber framed structure on existing foundation at Woodpeckers, Lane End, Corsley, BA12 7PG

It was unanimously agreed that the PC would have no objection to this application.

At the meeting on the 19th June, the PC considered two planning applications:

PL/2023/03458

Erection of stable block and change of use to equestrian to provide an all-weather arena at Malthouse Farm, Court Lane, Corsley, BA12 7PA

(Councillor O Hares left the meeting whilst this application was discussed.)

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the PC had no objection to this application subject to it being conditioned that it was to be for the private use of Malthouse Farm only, that it was not for commercial use and that there would be no external lighting.

PL/2023/04202

Creation of temporary winter festival and enabling works consisting of:

1. Themed illuminations and provision of temporary parking between 04/11/2023 and 14/01/2024;
2. Fabrication yard and storage area between 01/09/2023 and 30/01/2024;
3. Provision of temporary worker accommodation between 01/09/2023 and 30/01/2024 at Longleat safari and Adventure Park

It was unanimously agreed that the PC had no objection to this application. However, the PC would welcome more information about the traffic management plan and confirmation that every attempt would be made to minimise any traffic issues around the village arising from these works.

Streetscene

The PC continues to try and engage with Wiltshire Council on the issue of road safety on the A362. The representatives of the Three Village Group (Corsley, Maiden Bradley and Chapmanslade) have drawn up an action plan which included pressing for a meeting with the new Head of Highways and the new councillor lead for Highways and circulating a petition from each of the villages. Readers will see elsewhere in this edition of The Bridge a report by David Ball, the PC Streetscene lead, on the meeting that took place on 23 June which offers at least a glimmer of hope that there might be some resolution of the problems faced. Villagers will also have seen the Speed Indicator Devices at either end of the village which despite some hiccups in their operation are providing some scary information and speed of vehicles going through the village. This information is being shared with Wiltshire Council and the Police and adds weight to the case for speed restrictions and enforcement of the current limits. The village gates, recently installed at either end of the village, will hopefully focus the minds of through traffic (the name signs will be added soon).

An application is to be made to the local authority for a pedestrian crossing to be installed at the designated crossing place alongside the bus shelter.

Wiltshire Council have recently changed their road maintenance contractor and the PC have met with our County Councillor and representatives of the Council to ensure that the service provided by the Parish Steward will not suffer as a result.

Rights Of Way

Orders have been placed for replacement kissing gates/stiles at specified locations around the village. The PC continues to engage with Wiltshire Council and like-minded groups locally on the improvement of the rights of way network and associated signage. This has included signage noting the large number of horse users in the village and the need for motor vehicles to drive carefully to protect horses and their riders.

On a related issue, the PC were notified by a villager of the decision made by the Longleat Estates to change the criteria under which Longleat Residents Ground passes were to be offered. This had the effect of rendering much of Corsley ineligible. The PC has contacted Longleat expressing their disappointment at the decision and asking for it to be reconsidered.

Finance

At the meeting on 9th January the PC agreed that a precept of £15,140 should be set.

*John Willcox
Parish Clerk*