

Parish Council Briefing

Parish Clerk, John Willcox, rounds up the PC's activity in June and August

Since the last report the Parish Council (PC) have met twice; on the 27th June and 4 July. The meeting on the 27th June was originally intended to be dedicated to Rights of Way, but as usual, events overtook us and the meeting also dealt with the Annual Returns to the auditors and the proposal to put village gates at either end of the village on the A362. The meeting on the 4th July considered two planning applications and discussed further the village gates proposals and the outcome of the Rights of Way proposals following the June meeting. There was also some discussion about the Longleat events.

Rights of Way

The meeting on 27th June was attended by a number of members of the public and also an officer of Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way and Countryside team. Alice Helliard gave a detailed and informative presentation on the current state of the Rights of Way, kissing gates and stiles in the parish and the issues and challenges that need to be faced if the PC's aim of 'Having the best maintained and signed rights of way in Wiltshire so that people know where to walk and ride (bikes and horses) and can enjoy the countryside (and have no excuse for trespassing on land where they should not be)', can be achieved. There was a lively question and answer session following the presentation. Some grant monies have been obtained and the PC will be drawing up a detailed expenditure plan following the recommendations that were made.

Planning Applications

Two planning applications were considered:

PL/2022/004572

Removal of existing two storey rear extension and replace with two storey rear extension and single storey rear extension at 18 Heathway, Corsley, Warminster, BA12 7PJ

Following discussion the PC unanimously agreed they have no objection subject to the planning authority considering the impact on the neighbouring properties with regard to; light, maintenance, privacy and drainage.

PL/2021/05441

Proposed extension at 1 Heathway, Corsley, BA12 7PA

(Two Parish Councillors had declared an interest in this application and it was agreed that they be given leave to participate in the discussion but they were not permitted to vote.)

This application is similar to the previous applications on this site but with the additions of a very large window on the first floor at the rear and velux windows in the roof. Following discussion and after a vote where there was one objection and four in favour, it was agreed that the PC have No Objection subject to the planning authority ensuring that national planning guidelines relating to light and privacy are applied, with some thought being given to whether the velux windows should be of obscure glass.

Village Gates

It had originally been proposed that village gates be situated at the parish boundaries. Unfortunately the southern verge at the western boundary is not wide enough to comply with Wiltshire Highways requirements for gaps between the road edge and the gate. Consequently there will only be one gate on the western side of the village. The PC are grateful to the Hares family for permitting the gate to be sited on their land at this point. There is no problem at the eastern parish boundary, as two gates can be sited on the two verges either side of the road by the existing 50mph signs (just past the Picket post roundabout). The PC were successful in obtaining a grant of £2,300 from Wiltshire Council towards the total cost of supplying and fitting the gates.

Platinum Jubilee

The Jubilee celebrations seem a long time ago now but it would be remiss if the PC did not record its thanks and congratulations to the Playing Field Committee for the picnic on the field and to Malcolm Holley, our very own Beacon Master, for their efforts.

Audit

The PC received, considered and agreed the Annual Internal Audit report, the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting statements for 2021/2022. These documents are available for inspection by members of the public and have been despatched to the External Auditors for their examination.

Next meetings

Bi-monthly meeting – 5th September

Bi-monthly meeting – 7th November

Meetings to be held in the Lower Room at Corsley Reading Room and will begin at 7.30pm)