

Parish Council Briefing

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

The Parish Council (PC) met on the 9th May 2022. All the Parish Councillors were present. The meeting was attended by our County Councillor, Bill Parks

The first item of business was the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council. Dr Neil Carpenter was elected Chair and Mr John Phillips was elected Vice Chair.

Events at Longleat

The PC had received an update regarding the concerts planned for Longleat. Villagers will be aware that the concerts have been approved by the local authority and many have been offered free tickets to a concert of their choice, subject to availability. The PC agreed to write to the organisers regarding concerns about traffic movements, particularly that relating to the pick-up and drop-off of attendees who are not driving to the events themselves. The PC also queried the ban on pedestrian access to the events that is being imposed.

Planning applications

Three planning applications were considered:

PL/2022/02884. Proposed installation of EV Charging Points and HVK Substation within Longleat Forest Holiday car park area Center Parcs Longleat Forest Holiday Village, BA12 7PU

PL/2022/02972. Proposed Water Storage Tank building at Center Parcs Longleat Forest Holiday Village, BA12 7PU

PL/2022/03320. Single storey living room extension at Lorien, Court Lane, Corsley, BA12 7PA

The PC agreed that they would support/have no objection to these applications.

It was also reported that Planning Application number **PL/2021/10981- Malthouse**, which the PC had previously considered has been approved with conditions.

Streetscene

David Bll, the PC's Streetscene representative reported:

Meeting with Wiltshire Council (WC) re-HGV traffic

This meeting took place on Friday 6th May and was attended by representatives of the three villages affected by HGVs plus our MP Dr Murrison (Chairperson), Bill Parks, two WC senior Highways Officers and Mark McClelland (cabinet member for Highways). Individual reps from the three villages presented strong cases for the restriction of HGV traffic through their villages. The two senior WC Officers responded to these, citing need for more data and serious consideration of the possibility and implications of reducing the 18t limit on the roads through Maiden Bradley and Chapmanslade to 7.5t and imposing an 18t limit on traffic travelling east on the A362 (which would have the effect of stopping quarry lorries and the huge goods vehicles).

The timescale the officers presented would have meant at least two years for data to be gathered and recommendations to be drawn up. However Dr Murrison was an extremely good advocate on our behalf, stating that this situation needed to be solved within two years and brought forward the timescale for gathering data to before Christmas this year, with another meeting to check progress in July.

NOTE: This was covered on both the BBC TV local news and their website on Sunday 15th May.

30mph limit at Corsley Heath

A letter of appeal has been sent to WC setting forward the case for reducing the 40mph speed limit on the central section of the A362 to a 30mph limit. The CATG group were advised that Corsley were appealing against the refusal and, surprisingly, resolved to support the appeal!

SID

Villagers will have seen that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) is now in place on the forecourt of TMTI, and can be turned after three weeks or so, to capture the speeds of traffic travelling west toward Frome. The data it captures can be printed off as a report, giving number of vehicles, speeds of individual vehicles, etc.

CATG meeting

As noted earlier the CATG group fully supported our efforts to reduce the speed limit through the village. They also agreed to consider our requests for financial support for the installation of village gates and warning signage re-horse riders.

(Wiltshire Council has now disbanded the CATG group and replaced with group covering footpaths and bridleways in addition to the highways with additional budget. We hope that this can support improved access to Warminster for walkers, cyclists and horse riders without needing to use the A362.)

Verges

WC has published information on its website regarding verge cutting confirming that many verges will be cut just twice in March and September, however it does not seem to address the issue we have here in the village of very narrow lanes with overhanging vegetation narrowing them further. This is both untidy, dangerous and damaging to vehicles. As previously reported, the PC has made provision for addressing the issue directly if required.

Streetsigns

It was agreed that the issue of street signage in the village should be deferred to the next meeting.

Parking

It was reported that the parking of vehicles either on verges or along the narrow lanes around the village seems to be getting more prevalent causing safety concerns and damaging the verges. Villagers are urged to consider the dangers both to other road users and to parked vehicles by parking inappropriately.

Footpaths/bridleways

It was agreed that a separate meeting should be held to discuss the very comprehensive report prepared on footpaths and bridleways. This meeting will take place on Monday 27th June, in the Reading Rooms and will be open to members of the public who have an interest in this.

Platinum Jubilee

Villagers will have seen details of the picnic planned to be held on the Playing Field on Sunday 5th June between 1 pm and 4 pm (see separate poster/article in this edition of The Bridge). There will be a beacon on Cley Hill on Thursday 2nd June.

Audit

Whilst the PC are not obliged to submit their accounts for external audit by virtue of the fact that both income and expenditure are less than £25,000, the PC agreed that this year they would submit themselves to a basic review by the appointed external auditors. (Obviously the PC have an Internal Audit carried out every year.)

Next meetings

Footpath meeting – Monday 27th June

Bi-monthly meeting – Monday 4 July

Bi-monthly meeting – Monday 5th September

Bi-monthly meeting – Monday 7th November

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