

CLERK'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 9th APRIL 2021

Amenities

Update on current and future scheduled work to be completed within the parish:-

- Parish Steward visited this week and was tasked with clearing drains in Elizabeth Close, removing weeds and debris from our Borough Cross, Barford Lane, Cranbury Close is week and reattaching a street sign.
- The new road nameplates are now in place following Alison McGowan's work on the project.
- Bollards ordered by WC and installation anticipated for June/July 2021 (supply delayed by Covid & Brexit).
- Iron Bridge to be repainted by WC contractor – from 19th April. The work is scheduled to take 6 weeks in a worst case scenario and will be done on temporary traffic lights. I was contacted by the bridge engineer to ask if the missing railing could be located and, having checked with the neighbours to the bridge, it was confirmed that they had all the missing parts in safekeeping. These have now been returned to Wiltshire Council which should save time and money in the repairs.
- Sparkle Days by Wiltshire Council – Alison McGowan has managed to arrange for Wiltshire Council contractors Idverde to spend 2 days next week around the village clearing and tidying areas such as Snail Creep and the area around the Beacon. They will also be asked to return later in the summer to paint bollards etc and restore some of the street furniture. The paint will need to be supplied by the Parish Council.
- Public Toilets – Work to clear the drain and check the flushing of the urinal in the men's toilets has been carried out. This should have resolved the issues identified by Cllr Randall in his email of last month.

Bowling Club: This matter is still ongoing. The Chair of the BWSCA is hopeful that a compromise can be reached in the next few weeks. I am awaiting the Head Lease which should be received by the parish council shortly.

Finance

Work continues on setting up the RBS finance system. I am awaiting Rialtas to load the end of year figures. The costs centres and nominal codes have been finalised. Please let me know if you wish to see them before the figures are loaded onto it.

Future Meetings:

In view of there being no further progress from HM Govt on holding virtual meetings beyond 6th May, there is an item on the April Agenda to change the Standing Orders to enable written representations to be made to the Council in advance of a meeting. The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Govt has put its support behind the legal challenge being made by Hertfordshire County Council but the outcome won't be known until late in April.

Operation Forth Bridge

Following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh today, the Chair and I agreed that the Council's website will display a photo and expression of condolence. This is now live. I've also suggested that there be a minute's silence ahead of the meeting on Monday and that the Chair makes a formal expression of condolence.

Attached with the papers is an email from the Wiltshire Lieutenancy advising of the plans ahead of the funeral. I have advised the churches and the operator of the village website that:

- There be no condolence book be available due to Covid and that a link to the Wiltshire Council condolence page (which will be linked to the Buckingham Palace site) be added so that residents can post their condolences online.
- Flowers be laid around the Beacon if residents wish to lay flowers.

Current Key Tasks

Preparation of the Business Continuity Plan will start once the scope and expected contents have been agreed.

I am in the process of drafting the necessary papers to enable to the Council to meet face to face from its requested Annual Meeting date of 24th May. Depending on the capacity of the Bonvalot Room, it may be necessary to hold the meeting in the Main Hall to allow for social distancing and appropriate safety measures to be complied with. Guidance from the Memorial Centre will be sought on their revised hiring arrangements and a DPC specific risk assessment will need to be produced.

Preparation for the new Council has started and work to review all of the policies will continue over the next month. Training/Briefing packs for all councillors are being prepared and once the IT is outsourced, all councillors will be provided with .gov.uk email address.

Work will also have to start on the AGAR Annual Accounts for the year end ahead of year end internal audit on 17th June which again will be carried out remotely.

The Council's payroll will be outsourced next week to the approved company next week.

Alison McGowan is on leave until 20th April.

Bev Cornish 9th April 2021