

Portfolio Update

July 2019

Parish Council & Community Website

Following seven months of intensive work undertaken by Cllr Mick Brown & Parish Clerk Jane Tier, with technical support by Chris Hardwick, the new Parish council & Community Website was officially launched on July 1st. There are three principal sections providing information about Our Community, the Parish Council and one for Visitors. There are also sections covering local news and events, supported by a Parish Diary and a Download Library, which has copies of all relevant documents.

The Website is well developed, but it is accepted that there is still some work to be done and it will need to be constantly updated and refreshed to keep it relevant and vibrant.

The Website team have identified new areas that will require investigation moving forward, with a view to adding new sections and/or information to further strengthen the aim of serving the Community.

Barry's Fields

Since the Parish Council took responsibility for the pavilion and grounds, in March 2018, the subcommittee has produced and facilitated the completion of the developed refurbishment and maintenance program. This has included Cllrs Brown, Taylor Moody and Newton undertaking internal decorating, repair work and laying cable for a Wi-Fi connection. Outside contractors have been employed to lay new flooring, upgrade the heating system, upgrade electrical facilities, repair and upgrade the plumbing and treat the outside wood cladding.

In order to improve facilities at the Pavilion plans have been drawn up for an extension, which will provide outside accessible toilets, a dispensing counter and much needed storage. The subcommittee is currently engaged in securing funding for the project, including support from the Football Association.

Cllr Brown

Footpaths: I have to report that as you might be aware, I have cut back the growth on FP 39 through Saxon leas, enabling people to walk with ease down to the road. I might still have more work up by the Stone Close area – I will look at that. I think that entrances to kissing gates are getting overgrown and need attention.

Path 41 up the back of the Village Hall has been highlighted for some time now as needing to be cut back – I believe the purchase of a hedge trimmer would help, or alternatively Richard needs to arrange work to be done.

With the wet weather, other FP's have grown quickly, and we possibly need to check these, particularly the ones in the centre of the village. Organise a meeting of the group?

Area Board: The next Area Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11th July at Coombe Bissett, which I will attend. I believe our Speed Indicator Device grant application will be heard at that meeting.

Police: It was NHW week between the 17th to 23rd June. There is nothing to report about this. The Neighbourhood Watch AGM will take place on Sat 13th July at Wiltshire Police HQ at Devizes, 10.30 -12.30.

Generally from the police reports received, it would seem that Winterslow is fortunate in having few criminal incidents occurring at the moment.

Car Park: This has been reopened for several weeks now, and was used for the Winterslow Fete. It is intended to put down new surfaces at the entrance and exit during the summer holidays. The grass is growing well, although the drive through area still needs time to recover.

Parish Steward: Was unable to attend the Parish this month as he was called away to help with preparation for the Armed Forces event in Salisbury, but will come into the Parish for a short time if able to.

Highways and Rights of Way: I have nothing to report at this time.

Community Activity

I have been invited to the Tuesday Club Garden Party as representative of the PC, now to hopefully take place on July 9th, weather permitting. I will be attending.

Cllr Robinson

School liaison

The 15th June 2019 saw the annual Winterslow School Fete, which was run by the FAWS Friends of Winterslow School. The weather was very kind, after an initial rain shower; at the start of the annual procession from the Village Hall to the recreation ground the themed day being the 50th anniversary of the moon landing was a great success. A good attendance was seen with a number of villagers, school attendees and public enjoying the day.

Community out reach continues with over 35 parents and local residents attending the swimming pool safety training run by Simon Port through Winterbury Training who offered three separate individual 2 hour sessions so allow them access to the school pool. These free 2-hour sessions over swimming pool safety, basic rescue techniques, basic first aid and resuscitation. Let's hope for a warm and sunny summer!

The school continued to have a strong attendance with upwards of 185+ pupils coming from the village, surrounding villages and further afield area such as Salisbury, West Tytherley etc. The school has a PAN of 210 (Max school capacity) with a reception intake if up to 30 pupils. Congratulations to Mrs Bone and the team for making the school a great place to be.

Cllr Port

Village Pond

I undertook to take over the refurbishment of the village pond at the bottom of Weston Lane junction with the Common.

The pond was created from a natural pond, to what is there today, some 20 or so years ago due to the hard work of Alderman Ken Ludlow (Deceased). Over this time the pond was not looked after and the lilies, in particular, were allowed to get overgrown, along with the little flowerbed to the side, so a plan of action was put in place.

Our vision for the pond and surrounding area is to create an area of sanctuary, peace (despite the road) and a secure area for picnics, relaxation and a chill out zone. Ultimately railings will be along the wall to make the area a little safer together with a gate. The pond currently has a very heavy metal grill over it for health and safety reasons but a new plastic grid system can be placed just under the level of the water, which can be easily removed for cleaning and maintenance purposes. These two ideas are currently being investigated with regard to cost.

Having placed a request in the Parish Magazine I was able to get together David Newton, fellow Parish Councillor, Mike D'Apice from Lopcombe Corner, who volunteers for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (fantastic), myself and Ivan Moody, Chairman of the Parish Councillor. Between us, mainly David and Mike the pond was emptied of what can only be

called a 'lump' of lily and weeds which needed to be sawed to create smaller 'lumps' in order to move them. It was a great effort and instantly there was an improvement. So much so fish appeared! My grateful thanks go to Richard and Caroline of The Old Manse who allowed us to put the spoils on their compost heap.

Following a short break another request went into the magazine and several fellow residents came along to clear the flowerbed from which, it was discovered, lumps of concrete were placed so these were then relocated into the pond to create a bit of habitat. The longer term plan is to plant bulbs and then a few shrubs and perennials which hopefully will only need pruning etc. and some marginal plants for the pond. Also the bench will be moved and a picnic bench put in where the bin is. So if you want to help, please keep an eye out for an article the magazine and come along if you can. It will be great to see you.

Cllr Gee

Highways

For some time Winterslow, in common with other villages, has had a problem with vehicle drivers exceeding the speed limits on our roads. The Parish Council has received letters from Parishioners asking for something to be done. One group were so concerned that they offered to fund a device to alert drivers of the problem.

I was tasked with researching and then recommending a Speed Indicator Device, (SID). I spoke to other Parish Councils for their experience of them.

Then I arranged a survey of the Village roads with a trained SID operator/ service engineer. He works for Test Valley Council, and other Parish Councils.

We drove around the Village and he was able to advise on suitable locations for the device. These were then noted and marked.

Having taken this information to the PC, It was proposed and voted that WPC would purchase a device at a cost of approximately £2000. This should arrive in July. When it arrives the servicing engineer will install and test it. At recommended three weekly intervals it will be relocated to the next site.

Our neighbours in Firsdawn have shown an interest in sharing this device with us. This would be on a 2/3rds 1/3rd basis, both on costs and time. We are proposing that we have the device for 6 weeks, and then Firsdawn have it for 3 weeks.

We will move it around the Village to where it is most effective. Speeding in our Village is a problem. To do nothing is not an option.

Cllr Sheppard