

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

December 2020

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

William Helen

The Parish Council hope that you find this free copy of the Dever informative and a useful update on the Council's activities and support across the Parish. I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, City Councillors and Hampshire County Councillor for their support and efforts, especially in these difficult times, to maintain an active and living community, safe for us to live in.

As a community, I would urge you to continue to check on your neighbours, particularly those who are older, less mobile or needing to isolate, please try to speak a few (socially distanced) words with them each day, by phone or over the fence.

If you have concerns about the effect of the current situation upon your family or neighbours, details of the support available is shown on the Parish Council noticeboards and website: www.micheldeverparish.org.uk

Warren Centre Parking & Security

A height barrier has been installed at the entrance to the car park and the fencing from the old play area is to be utilised to create a barrier between the car park area and the field. These measures have been taken to make both areas more secure following incursions on other car parks and playing fields in the Winchester area.

Permissive Path, Micheldever Station

The Estate have allowed a permissive path through the trees to the railway bridge in Micheldever Station. The Parish Council have, for a number of years, sought funding for a formal pavement to the railway bridge but the scale and cost of this project have meant that this has not been successful to date. In view of this, and the continued risk to pedestrians, the Council is investigating upgrading the permissive path to make it more accessible. This would be subject to approval by the Estate being formally confirmed.

There are other permissive paths in the Parish which are made available by landowners but to which the public have no automatic right of access. Please use these respectfully in order that they remain available to the community. The Parish Council produce a Footpath and Bridleways booklet which is available, for a small fee, from the Clerk and shows the routes throughout the Parish.

We are also very lucky to have a Rights of Way Volunteer Group who work to keep the footpaths clear and navigable.

If you encounter fallen trees or other hazards whilst out walking please report these on the HCC site for footpaths and bridleways or to the landowner or Clerk for permissive paths.

Repairs at the War Memorial

Unusually, the Parish Council does not own the War Memorial in Micheldever but we have arranged for a contractor to carry out repairs to the wall surrounding the Memorial.

Sadly this work could not be completed before this year's Remembrance but it is hoped that all residents will ensure that the Memorial and wall are treated with respect to honour those from our community who did not return from the World Wars.

Please report anyone you see defacing or damaging the Memorial, wall or benches.

Flooding under the A303

Work has now commenced on drainage improvement works on Overton Road. The work is expected to take up to 16 weeks and the majority of it will be done using temporary traffic lights with road closures only being needed in the later stages. It has been very difficult to get this work activated as it requires two different authorities to work together on the project but let's hope that we see positive results.

Water Puddles on Roads

Problems with potholes or the condition of roads can be reported on the HCC website or passed to the Clerk who will report these on your behalf. The Parish Council have been working with the Lengthsman to clear gullies and points where water drains off the roads to avoid large puddles and flooding. It often only requires a few minutes with a shovel to clear leaves from channels, which I regularly do on the road out of Northbrook, and to allow the roads to be clear of lying water. Please advise of any areas of concern in the Parish and we will ask the Lengthsman to clear these.

LRPF Car Park

With increased use of the LRPF, particularly for youth football training, there has been an increased demand for parking and it was decided to upgrade and extend the car park. The work has been completed with a fall to the ditch to allow for improved drainage which has proved very effective and the whole area is now more user friendly.

We would like to remind residents that the parking is provided for users of the LRPF and not as a general car park for the village. We do not wish to incur the expense of installing barriers and gates and would prefer to retain the open outlook if possible.

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PLANNING

Affordable Housing

Helen Farnham, WCC Enabling Officer has provided the following update:

The planning team at WCC has introduced a new pre-application service which recommends potential development sites are discussed with planning officers as soon as they are identified and before any design work is undertaken. A planning officer has therefore now been assigned to look at the identified possible Micheldever rural exception site/s adjacent to Dever Close/ Barron Close and is due to provide feedback following a site visit and discussions with other consultee officers about the surveys already undertaken to assess suitability.

Once feedback is received a meeting will be held with the parish council planning committee to discuss options and next steps. It is hoped that following these discussions we can work towards an initial

public consultation showing what could be possible to find out if there is support for us to develop ideas further to help meet the affordable housing need of the parish.

Village Design Statement

Following the consultation exercise with residents which was very well supported, the text of the VDS has passed a further final check with WCC. It now remains to finalise the images and maps to be included and to complete the layout design. Councillor Peter O’Keefe has undertaken the task of refreshing the images and the overall design and the final result promises to be an impressive document which will be available in 2021.

Innersdown Farm Planning Application – 20/01969/FUL

A planning application has been submitted for a change of use from agricultural land to a residential park home site for over 50’s.

This application will be considered by the Parish Council at the next meeting to be held (virtually) on 2nd December.

Comments on the application have to be submitted to WCC by 2nd December and residents are encouraged to do so via the WCC website ahead of the deadline.

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Grit Bins

Grit bins around the Parish should now have been refilled. If you know of any that have been missed please note the number (inside the lid) and contact the Clerk who can ask for it to be refilled.

As many of our roads are not gritted by HCC, they have supplied these bins to help keep the roads clear of ice.

Please remember the grit is for highways use and not private use. If the grit is found to be being used for private paths and drives HCC may refuse to refill the bin.

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Fireworks, Thatched Roofs & Animals

With fireworks no longer confined to the 5th November but used at celebrations throughout the year please be conscious of any neighbouring thatched properties, take sensible precautions and warn the occupants if you intend to use fireworks. If a thatched roof does ignite the results are rapid and devastating.

Similarly, please show consideration for dogs, horses and other animals which may become distressed by the noise of fireworks and warn neighbours in advance if you are planning an event.

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DOG FOULING – AGAIN!

This issue has been raised many times before but the problem persists and is particularly dangerous where children play and take part in sports activities.

The open space areas in our parish are for recreational purposes and are not public toilets for dogs.

It is an offence punishable by a fixed penalty notice of £50 to allow your dog to foul in a public area. If the fixed penalty is ignored a £1000 fine can be imposed by the court. Ignorance of your dog’s actions is not a permissible defence so, if necessary, please consider keeping your dog on a lead until they have completed their business.

Around the country, and closer to home, pitches are being fenced off,

bye-laws enacted and CCTV installed due to the scourge of dog waste, please do not make any of these actions necessary in your community.

If you witness a dog owner not clearing up after their pet please call 01962 848350 during office hours or e-mail ehhealth@winchester.gov.uk. Further detail is available on the village website.

Hedges and Overhanging Trees

In the October issue of the Dever a longer item was included outlining the legal responsibilities of landowners in respect of hedges and trees which are encroaching or overhanging pavements and roads.

These are set out in the Highways Act 1980 and are enforceable by HCC who are the Highways Authority. In the first instance,

HCC ask Parish Councils to write to residents to remind them of their responsibilities. If residents fail to take action, HCC may serve a notice upon the landowner and have the authority, where necessary, to carry out the work themselves and recover the cost.

Please look to your property boundaries and consider if your hedge or trees are causing an obstruction to pedestrians, cyclists or motorists or are affecting the sightlines of road users or those accessing neighbouring properties.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like a copy of the longer article, please contact the Clerk.

**The Parish Council can be contacted via Jocelyn, the Clerk,
micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk
or 01794 368951**

Micheldever Parish Council Meetings 2020/21

Meetings are all on **Wednesdays** and all residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. They start at 7:30pm and are open to public participation at 8:00pm for 15 minutes.

2nd December	Virtual meeting	7th April	TBC
6th January	Virtual meeting	5th May	TBC
3rd February	Virtual meeting	2nd June	TBC
3rd March	Virtual meeting	7th July	TBC

**Meetings will take place using the link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89662669263>**