

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

July 2022

Chairman's Report

William Helen

This copy of the Dever is provided free of charge to all residents by the Parish Council.

Following the Parish Council election on 5th May, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the three new councillors. The Contact Sheet supplied with this newsletter outlines the different roles of the councillors and their contact details. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing councillors, Anne Freeland, Neil Hornby and Roger Townsend, for their time spent on the Council and their contribution to the community during this time.

The annual Parish Assembly was held on Wednesday 27th April at East Stratton Village Hall. I was unable to attend and the annual report on the activities of the Parish Council was therefore provided by Anne Freeland the Vice Chairman. I would like to thank Anne for taking on the responsibility of chairing the Parish Assembly.

I hope that you have all now seen (and perhaps enjoyed) the improved play facilities at the Lord Rank play area. This has been a significant financial project for the Parish Council and we are grateful for the grant from the Dever. Improved play equipment for younger children has been one of the most requested items from residents in recent years and we hope it is thoroughly enjoyed by this and future generations.

Vice-Chairman's Report

Anne noted that the last two years have not been easy but that Councillor Andrew Adams set up a Covid support group in 2020 which sought to assist residents and to bring together volunteers and those in need of assistance. On a happier note, residents will be coming together again to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June with a series of events across the Parish.

Village Design Statement The 2002 VDS has been fully updated by Councillors Neil Hornby and Peter O'Keefe and, following the various necessary consultations, is now in the final stages of being approved by WCC. It is an important document as, once accepted, it becomes part of the Local Plan and guides the form that any development in the Parish should take.

WCC Local Plan & SHELAA(Call for sites)

Many potential sites were submitted but the PC were advised on 28th February 2022 that no specific housing target was to be set for Micheldever in the revised Local Plan. It does, however, remain possible for WCC to change this decision before the plan is finalised.

Anne urged anyone interested in seeking to protect the Parish from inappropriate development to contact the Dever Society. The submission of some potential exception sites to the SHELAA has meant that the only site currently available for additional affordable housing is next to Barron Close/ Waterloo Cottages in Micheldever.

Carousel Park continues to produce problems for residents. The Inquiry concluded in 2019 with the report published at the end of that year. It then became possible for WCC to consider what enforcement action could be taken. The pandemic and the difficulty in recruiting external enforcement officers led to delays. Planning Contravention Notices were issued in October 2021 and the failure of recipients to respond to these led to Penalty Enforcement Notices being issued in March 2022. The Parish Council have been advised that challenges to the notices and appeals are likely to be received and will then further delay the commencement of enforcement action. The Parish Councillors and District Councillors actively seek to assist residents wherever they are able to.

Following the major issues caused by trap racing last year, residents are encouraged to continue to report all instances to the Police (via 101 or the 101 on-line service). Reports received directly impact the scale of the Police response.

Speed Indication Devices Following successful fundraising by the Northbrook Arms and a generous donation from the Dever, two new devices have now been purchased. It has been necessary to update the licence issued by HCC to allow for the deployment of the devices but these should be operational in the Parish very shortly utilising existing signage. More sites will be added, by installing sockets and using a mobile post, as funds allow.

Trees The Parish Council have a number of small trees which are available for planting, in locations to which the public have access, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. Residents should contact the Clerk with any ideas of locations where these can be planted.

Micheldever

Lord Rank Playing Field

The PC continue to work in partnership with The Worthy's Youth Football Club, an inclusive club who run teams for boys and girls from Micheldever and the neighbouring areas.

The refurbishment and extension of the play area is due to commence in May. Where possible, old equipment is being re-used but the soft play surface is being extended in front of the pavilion to create an area for younger children and there will be some new equipment in both the new and old areas. The Parish Council would like to thank the Dever again for their grant to assist with the cost of the refurbishment.

East Stratton

Four sites for the new speed device have been identified in East Stratton.

A dog bin has been requested for the footpath near the village hall.

Micheldever Station

Warren Field Following an attempt in 2020 to gain access to the field, which led to damage to the gate, new gates and fencing have been installed to limit the risk of incursions onto the field.

Pavement to the railway bridge The plans to extend the footpath to the railway bridge were not taken forward by HCC in 2013 due to the issues and costs involved. The PC has, for a number of years now, sought funding to see this work done. In 2021 HCC allocated some (rather limited) funds to the project and, following a site meeting and initial feasibility studies, a full report is due to be published very shortly. The costs involved (likely to exceed £100k) may, however, lead to further delays.

Overton Road gateway features

Following a consultation with residents living on the Overton Road side of the railway, the project is being taken forward and a start date for the work is awaited.

Thank you to:

The Rights of Way Volunteers, who work throughout the year in the Parish and the other residents who joined them in helping with the recent litter pick.

Andrew Bell and Pete Bradley for looking after the village clock.

Jill Lee who carries out a monthly inspection of the play area at the Lord Rank.

Hampshire County Councillor, City Councillors and Parish Councillors – in particular Neil Hornby who has been the Chair of Planning and led the review of the VDS but who is not standing for re-election in the up-coming election.

The Meeting Concluded With A Presentation From Stuart Mills Of Winchester Area Super Homes

Stuart explained that Winchester Area Super Homes is a project set up by WinACC (Winchester Action on Climate Change). He followed with a very interesting presentation on how the project can provide surveys and support for retro fit projects for older properties.

Stuart concluded by answering a number of questions about topics covered in his presentation.

The Vice-Chairman offered her sincere thanks to Stuart for the presentation.



Roadside Advertising

Hampshire County Council Highways Department are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of unauthorised advertisement boards being erected on the highway verges.

Charity events can be advertised in this way but the notices should be no larger than A4 size, the charity number must be shown and the sign must not obscure any other legitimate signs. Notices should not be erected earlier than two weeks before the event and should be taken down promptly on the day after the event.

Cllr Oily Bramley (Highways)

Dog Fouling

Despite this problem being mentioned on many previous occasions it remains an ongoing issue on the recreation areas in the Parish. An irresponsible minority of dog owners, in failing to clear up after their dogs, are endangering the health and well-being of our children. Additional bins have been provided and notices displayed but unless the situation improves it may be necessary to consider restricting access to the playing fields.

Hedges Along Roadsides

We are again in the active growing season for hedges and trees and it is really noticeable where residents did not cut back hedges and overhanging branches sufficiently earlier in the year, with foliage now overhanging into roads and pathways. Can we please request that hedges and trees are trimmed back before we have to draw your attention to these or report them to HCC for their attention which will result in residents receiving a bill for the work completed.

Parish Lengthsman

The Parish Lengthsman scheme is funded by HCC and each parish in the scheme has

the use of the Lengthsman for a day every twelve weeks. As much of the funding is from the Countryside Department he is often used for additional footpath clearance work but you may also see him cleaning road signs or digging grips around the Parish. For safety reasons he cannot work close to major roads but, wherever possible, he will carry out the tasks set for him by the Parish Council. Councillor Olly Bramley is the contact for the Lengthsman and can be contacted if you are aware of a task in the Parish which you think might be appropriate for him to complete on his next visit. olive.bramley@micheldeverparish.org.uk

Reporting Potholes & Other Issues

Potholes can be reported on-line to Hampshire County Council at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

It is also possible to report other highways issues, such as obscured road signs, via the HCC website and residents are encouraged to do so as the response is, to an extent, reflective of the number of reports received about an issue. On minor roads in particular, HCC may be unaware of issues for a considerable amount of time if they are not reported by the public.



William Helen, opening the new play area at Lord Rank Playing Field, and conducting the safety test on the slide!