

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

July 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

William Helen

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

The annual Parish Assembly was held on Wednesday 19th April at East Stratton Village Hall and my report covers many of the matters discussed at the meeting.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Abby Sullivan, HCC Countryside Access Ranger (Community Engagement). The presentation explained the role of the Community Engagement Officers in assisting volunteer groups and showed how to report issues with footpaths and bridleways via the Hampshire County Council website.

As you may have seen in recent editions of The Dever, a small group of residents led by James Alpe are forming a volunteer group to assist with footpath clearance in the Parish. They will have the support of the Parish Council and I hope that more residents may feel able to assist them on occasion.

I would like to thank Abby, on behalf of the Parish Council and residents, for attending the meeting and for an interesting and informative presentation.

Around the Parish:

East Stratton & Woodmancott

Fly Tipping This is an increasing problem in the community. If you witness fly tipping, take the registration numbers of vehicles involved and report these to the Police but do not risk stopping or engaging with offenders. It is also important to use reputable contractors who chip hedge and tree cuttings and dispose of these properly.

Inconsiderate parking Access issues are being created for the bus and emergency vehicles due to parked vehicles preventing passage in East Stratton. Residents have been written to requesting considerate parking to allow access throughout the village. This, however has not resulted in the desired result so white lines are now having to be considered.

The Lawns Access across The Lawns has been blocked by the new landowner and following many residents contacting us the Parish Council, with the support of residents' statements, has made an application to change the Definitive Map to include the bridleway across The Lawns.

Hedge & Open Space at the village hall Overgrowth from the hedge was causing problems and as this would continue to occur the hedge has been removed and replaced with a fence and willow hurdles. Consideration is also being given to lifting and shaping the two trees on the Open Space beside the hall.

Micheldever

Northbrook Hall A grant is being made by the Parish Council for new stage curtains as performances at the hall are enjoyed by all the community.

Lord Rank Playing Field The ditches have been cleared around the field and the spoil removed. The play area fence and picnic bench have been replaced, through an insurance claim, following last year's fire. The football pitch is due to be used by local clubs for matches on a regular basis (Worthy's) with some community children benefitting.

Noticeboard a new noticeboard has been installed at the shop as well as an additional one at the top of Mill Place.

20mph Trial The option implemented was not the Parish Council's preferred option but was, in the end, the only one that HCC were prepared to provide, and whilst the area it encompasses is very large it was still felt to be better than to have nothing.

Affordable Housing, Barron Close A presentation was made, by Leanne Smith of Winchester Housing Trust, at last year's Parish Assembly. There have been delays due to a shortage of staff at the housing trust but the scheme will now be taken forward. Despite initial suggestions that bungalows would be desirable, only one person actually came forward requiring a bungalow and the draft plans have therefore now been changed to include only one bungalow.

Micheldever Station

Asphalt Plant Planning permission was granted last year in a combined application between HCC and Amey. Amey are no longer the HCC contractor and the new contractor will not be fully in place until September. It is therefore unknown at the moment when, or if, the asphalt plant will be constructed.

Noticeboard A new noticeboard has been installed at Mill Place as mentioned above.

Warren Field Following the pollarding of the old trees around the edge of the field a new line of trees has been planted to allow time for them to become established before the old trees have to be removed. It is thought that the old trees are only likely to survive for another ten years or so.

A new gate has been installed at the entrance to Warren Field following the final demise of the old gate at last year's fete.

Traffic Regulation Order Signage and line painting has now been completed in accordance with the traffic orders resulting in the reduction of some free roadside parking, returning safe access for Station residents to their properties.

Mini-bus Service The Parish Council are investigating the provision of a mini-bus service to the station. No major parking problems have been noted as yet but this may change. Money has been set aside to operate a mini-bus service for a trial period of three months which is likely to cost £10,000 but would only be taken forward if there is sufficient demand and with support and organisation with regular commuters from Stratton and Micheldever.

Sutton Scotney Estate The estate has now been sold to Irish investors. The strategy of the new owners may differ from that of Zurich the previous owners. Savilles will remain the agent for the next 12 months and there may be an opportunity during this period for suggestions to be made, through the Parish Council, to the agent and landowner.

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 over-hanging 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.

Lorries Through Villages

The damage caused by lorries lost in the parish has increased significantly we believe due to Sat Nav use and poor directions to business addresses. The council has requested many businesses to better direct delivery vehicles

and ensure post codes and addresses are complete. We would encourage businesses to direct all lorry deliveries from local major roads with minimal transition through villages.

In Conclusion

The Parish Council seeks to support the community. It has assisted in the development of the village halls and will provide support to those groups and organisations who are also supporting and contributing to the community. Without members of the community attending meetings and providing feedback it is not always easy to know what residents require and what their views are. Decisions are made in what is thought to be in the best interests of the community.

I would like to express my thanks to Graham Pursey for maintaining the website, Dr Peter Lee for carrying out the playground inspections, Adrian Bates for repairing the noticeboards, the Upper Dever Benefice and church wardens, Hampshire County Councillor Jackie Porter and the three Winchester City Councillors for their continued support and regular attendance at monthly meetings, the Parish Councillors and the clerk.

Special Presentation

It was my great pleasure to close the meeting with the presentation of a scroll granting the Freedom of the Parish of Micheldever to Mrs Julia Cameron, to honour the valuable gift of a safer route to school for the present and future children of Micheldever School. A bouquet of flowers was also presented to Mrs Cameron on behalf of the school.

VACANCY

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council following the retirement of one of the longest serving councillors, Christine Compton. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for her many years of dedicated service to the Council and the community.

NETWORK RAIL

The Parish Council regularly receive reports of problems caused in the Parish by Network Rail, or their contractors. Network Rail have their own policy in place as follows:

What we expect of our employees and contractors

We expect our employees and contractors to behave properly while carrying out engineering and maintenance work. This means that we expect them to:

- *Deal with members of the public in a polite and courteous manner*
- *Keep noise to a minimum*
- *Avoid shouting and swearing – these will not be tolerated*
- *Park vehicles in proper parking areas only, so that public right of ways and residential and business properties are not blocked in any way*
- *Switch off vehicle engines when vehicles are parked*
- *Keep the volume of the radios in their vehicles down to a minimum*
- *Bag up and remove all litter, scrap and other debris from the site for proper disposal at the end of a shift*

If you feel that Network Rail employees or their contractors have not met the expected standards of behaviour there is a **24-hour helpline: 03457 11 41 41**

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 Olly 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.

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.

Cllr Olly Bramley, (Parish Services)

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2017/18

Meetings are all on Wednesdays

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.

Dates and Venues of Meetings 2017/18

5th July	The Warren Centre	6th December	East Stratton Village Hall
6th September	East Stratton Village Hall	10th January	Northbrook Hall
4th October	Northbrook Hall	7th February	The Warren Centre
1st November	The Warren Centre		

Parish Assembly 18th April 2017 at Northbrook Hall