

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

July 2019

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 17th April at the Warren Centre and my report covers many of the matters discussed at the meeting.

The meeting opened with a presentation from Kim Gottlieb re the proposals for The Dove Inn, Micheldever Station.

Kim noted that he has been the freehold owner of The Dove Inn for approximately 15 years but that he no longer considers it to be financially viable as a pub. A full copy of his presentation and proposals will be available on the Parish Council website www.micheldeverparish.org.uk At the conclusion of the presentation Kim invited questions from the floor.

Kim was invited to make a presentation at the meeting in order to keep residents informed of potential changes.

East Stratton

The Parish Council are investigating the possibility of an exception site for a small number of affordable homes.

Hedge and tree clearance has been undertaken on the open space next to the village hall but it has been necessary to remind neighbours of the need to maintain the fence line. The fence between the car park and the open space needs some attention but also needs to be removable for events such as the fête.

Carousel Park

The Inquiry re-opens on 1st May. The site

has become a nightmare and particularly for those living nearby. It is not acceptable for a community to have to put up with this. The Parish Council continues to pursue issues but residents need to report all incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour. It is only by reporting incidents that official action will be taken.

Micheldever

Clearance work was undertaken at the allotments last year and unused plots dug over. Some new plots were created and most plots are now occupied.

The bench at the Crease was replaced with a work of real skill and craftsmanship. The benches at the War Memorial were also replaced.

The Parish Council are involved in active discussions with The Worthies Youth Football Club over the pitches at the Lord Rank Playing Field. Residents have been asked a number of times about ideas for potential uses of the pavilion. The Parish Council are keen to keep it but would like public views on how it could be used to better serve the community.

Assets of Community Value

The Parish Council registered the Half Moon and Spread Eagle as an Asset of Community Value and a community bid has been submitted to the vendor.

Affordable Housing

The next stage of the Barron Close

development has been severely delayed. I have been very disappointed with Winchester Housing Trust and their lack of drive in taking this forward. Winchester City Council are now taking over the project and will try to bring the plans forward.

Winchester Local Plan 'call for sites'

The Estate have put forward some sites in Micheldever to the 'call for sites' which is undertaken as part of the Local Plan review process.

Northbrook Hall

Parish Council support has been given for the removal of trees behind the hall and the committee have created a usable outside space incorporating additional land given by Mrs Cameron.

Micheldever Station

Under the 'call for sites', the Estate have put forward a very large site in Micheldever Station. Please continue in your support of the Dever Society who are seeking to oppose any large scale development.

The new play area and fitness equipment, officially opened at the Parish Assembly, will hopefully serve the community for a long time to come and, by re-siting the equipment, will allow the Warren Centre to extend their car park. Parking in Micheldever Station

There are now issues on Andover Road with cars parked beyond the restricted areas.

There is no incentive for commuters to use the car park in Winchester if they can park for free in Micheldever Station. I met in London with Railtrack, South Western Railways and Steve Brine, MP, two years ago. There is now a proposal for a small car park on New Road but this has to be balanced with the danger that additional parking will just attract more commuters to Micheldever Station.

Funding is being sought to extend the pavement on Andover Road to the railway bridge but there is currently a very challenging environment for achieving new infrastructure funding.

Other Matters

Great British Spring Clean

An excellent activity and thanks to Councillor Charlotte Cobb and all the volunteers, together with Winchester City Council who provided equipment and removed the collected rubbish.

General Data Protection Regulations

The Parish Council have moved to a new website www.micheldeverparish.org.uk to meet the requirements of the new regulations and protect the privacy of residents and others. Minutes of Parish Council meetings and other information is available on the site.

Footpaths

The Sutton Scotney Estate have made deposits to Hampshire County Council which establish footpaths. If a path has been used by the public for a long period of time and evidence can be provided then an application can be made for it to be registered as a public footpath. Information boards are to be installed in the Parish by the Rights of Way Volunteers Group to indicate the routes of footpaths and provide other information.

In Conclusion

I expressed my thanks to Liz and Mike who have volunteered to provide training on the new fitness equipment, Neil Soutar for the voluntary monthly maintenance at the War Memorial, the Rights of Way Volunteers, the Upper Dever Benefice for the spiritual support to the community, Hampshire County Councillor Jackie Porter, the three Winchester City Councillors, the

Parish Councillors and the Clerk.

I then made two well deserved presentations. Chris Compton was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a voucher for a photographic session with her cattle in recognition of over 20 years service to the Parish Council and community. I was able to express my appreciation for all the support provided to me by Chris, particularly in her role as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Chris noted that she is most proud of the path to the school which she was able to agree with Mrs Cameron and of the new trees at Warren Field.

John Botham served on the Parish Council for over 15 years and will be remembered for the very professional service and great attention to detail which he provided, particularly as the Chair of the Planning Committee

Village Design Statement

The Parish Council is updating the Micheldever Parish Village Design Statement (VDS) and is seeking views from residents on the current draft. A VDS provides guidance for development and changes to buildings in a village and, in association with the Parish Council and District Council, influences the way the planning system works locally. It helps ensure that any new developments are designed and located in a way that reflects both the local characteristics and the qualities that local residents value in their village and its surroundings.

If the detailed Guidance Notes that accompany the text are incorporated into design proposals they should assist applicants to obtain planning permission, both for new housing and for alterations and improvements to existing houses. The aim of the VDS is for it to be a practical tool, capable of influencing decisions affecting future building design and development in all the villages and hamlets. It will assist Micheldever Parish Council and Winchester City Council when they are

considering planning applications. Following its adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance, Winchester City Council will know what is acceptable to the local community, both in architectural and landscape terms.

The current VDS has been in place since 2002. The Parish Council has updated the document and would welcome views from residents on the revised draft which can be viewed on the website www.micheldeverparish.org.uk Paper copies can be requested from the Clerk. Please send any comments to the Clerk in writing or via micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk by the 30th September 2019.

Cllr Neil Hornby (Planning)

Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council following the resignation of one councillor. Any resident who is interested in helping to serve the community by sitting on the Council can attend a meeting or contact Jocelyn, the Clerk, who can provide more details of what the role entails. Email micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk

Fitness Training

Two volunteers from the community have very kindly agreed to provide fitness training on the new outdoor equipment at Warren Field. This will officially start from September and there will be two classes each Monday morning. The earlier class is described as a 'Mum's class' but is open to all adults in the community, the second class, described as 'Overs' is aimed at older members of the community and those recovering from strokes and other injuries. There will be no charge to residents for these classes and, in conjunction with the Warren Centre café, we will even be offering an 'incentive' to encourage attendance and to provide a social element to the classes. If you think you could help by volunteering in the café on a Monday morning, either

during or after the classes this would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the Clerk micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk

The Dove Inn, Micheldever Station

Following a request from residents the Parish Council have completed an application to register The Dove Inn as an Asset of Community Value and this has been accepted by Winchester City Council. This allows residents to express an interest in making a community bid for the asset and, if such a bid is submitted, extends the time period before the asset can be sold.

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.

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.

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.