

At the Annual Parish Meeting of **COLEHILL PARISH** held via at Colehill Village Hall on **11 APRIL 2023**, at **7.00pm**.

PRESENT

Cllr Nigel Bridle (Chair)

Cllrs Clare Davison, Michael Gibbs, Leslie Gibson, Mark Keniston, K D Johnson, Ken Murgatroyd and Emma Urquhart

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Andy Todd (Non-business) Ann Edwards (Non-business) – It was RESOLVED to accept the reasons for apologies of both members.

IN ATTENDANCE

359.23 WELCOME

Cllr Bridle welcomed the Members and guests present

360.23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd April 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

361.23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr Bridle's report was as follows:

Hello everyone and thank you for coming. As we reflect on the past year, we could not ignore the passing of the late Queen Elizabeth, although this was a time of mourning for many of us it was also a moment of change.

The Council has made several changes and improvements over the last year Oliver's Park which we acquired from Dorset Council in 2020. We have had new football goalposts a new fence and the removal of encroaching vegetation. We also plan to install three new disabled friendly benches and a pathway from the car park to the playground. Also, installing new playground equipment focusing on younger children.

We like to support various local groups, including the village hall. The library, friends of Cannon Hill, Dial-a-Ride and the Girl Guides.

We continue to maintain large areas of woodland in the parish, such as Triangle Woods, Coombes' Woods, and Churchmore Copse. We regularly inspect these for diseases and damage trees that need attention.

Last year we gave away free trees to our residents, and we also planted many hundreds more in Coombes' wood. We planted a permanent Christmas tree at St Michael's, which was used last year for the first time, and we are installing bird and bat boxes and bug hotels.

We temporary close the dirt bike trial in Coombes' wood due to safety concerns during Covid. We've recently commissioned an independent safety inspection which highlighted several areas of risk. We hope to form a user

group consisting entirely of members of the public to support the ongoing development and maintenance of the bike trials once they reopen.

Although the Parish Council is not responsible for the roads, pavements, or verges, we have taken measures to improve our road safety. We purchased a solar panelled speed indicator device, which regularly positioned on Wimborne Rd, Middlehill Road and Leigh Road. We have observed a 10% reduction in the average traffic speed when this device is in place. Dorset Council has agreed in principle to construct a pedestrian crossing at Middle Hill Road.

We supported the launch of the Beryl bikes across Colehill through Wimborne and Ferndown, making it easier for residents to access local town centres. We also are continuing to fund the number 88 community bus.

We have hosted public events such as the Platinum Jubilee where we provided party packs for about 500 local people holding local street parties and held our popular Christmas party in the Village Hall aimed at our younger children.

We are currently planning a Royal themed program of events for the Coronation including a quiz night at our Village Hall on May 5, and a children's entertainment day at the Reef on May 8

Speaking of the Reef towards the end of last year, the Council was approached by the trustees of the Reef to take over running of the building and the youth club, as the existing Trustees wanted to retire. The Council agreed to become the sole member of the charity from March 31st effectively owning the Reef charity. We have provided five of our Councillors to function as new charity Trustees and Directors. The Reef is a modern building with excellent facilities providing exciting opportunities to improve the range of youth activities and provide additional services and facilities for the wider community

Lastly, the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth the longest reigning monarch in British history we have celebrated this by the installation of a new bench near St Michael's Church, and more benches will be installed this year, in honour of King Charles' Coronation.

Thank You

362.23 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH RESIDENTS – OPEN FORUM

The Chair of the outgoing board of trustees thanked the Councillors in attendance for taking on the Reef on and their work in making the changeover happen. The Council thanked the outgoing Chair for their work with the Reef over the years.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7:15 pm.

CHAIR