

At the Annual Parish Meeting of **COLEHILL PARISH** held via at Colehill Village Hall on **22 APRIL 2022**, at **6.00pm**.

PRESENT

Cllr Emma Urquhart (Chair)

Cllrs Leslie Gibson, Nigel Bridle, Mark Keniston, Michael Gibbs, Andy Todd

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Michael Gibbs, Clare Davison and Janet Dover

IN ATTENDANCE

On average 15 members of the public. 11 Colehill residents and 4 'strangers' (members of the public from outside the Parish) (Attendees were both arriving late and leaving early throughout the meeting)

241.22 WELCOME

Cllr Urquhart welcomed the Members and guests present

242.22 MINUTES

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

243.22 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cllr Urquhart's report was as follows:

Good evening and welcome – This last year has involved many things namely:

Oliver's Park - Since taking ownership of Oliver's Park and the Churchmoor Copse woodland from Dorset Council in December 2020, we have made many improvements: repairing the football pitch, replacing the fences and gates around the playground, clearing some of the brambles, installing a new entrance path and planting 7 ornamental trees for The Queen's platinum jubilee, one for each decade of her reign. Over the next year we hope to make a lot of further improvements: additional benches near the Scouts/Guides hut, a new pathway from the car park, a new noticeboard near the car park, a sensory garden near the Scout & Guide hut and new playground equipment, particularly focusing on the younger age kids.

Village Hall - We've supported Colehill Village Hall with their refurbishment and re-launch, paying for installation of a new public wi-fi system and for new curtains in the main hall. Next year we anticipate paying for new entrance gates, stage curtains, repairs to ladies toilets.

Events - Last year we held 2 very successful events for young children: Jamie Jigsaw entertainer in Oliver's park during the summer holidays and a Christmas Party in the Hall, which we intend to repeat again this year. We recently organised a cake sale to raise funds for Ukraine. We're now working hard to arrange an

exciting programme of events for the Platinum jubilee weekend all here at the Village Hall:

- Jamie Jigsaw will be putting on 2 children's shows
- a Lindy Hop dance display
- a family friendly Quiz Night
- the Platinum Jubilee Party on Saturday night with musical entertainment
- a Village Hall Street Party on Sunday afternoon for those unable to arrange their own local street parties.

Environment - Undertaking tree works across all our woods including Triangle Woods & Coombes Wood, to make safe any diseased or damaged trees.

- Giving out more free trees to residents to plant in their gardens.
- Supporting St Michael's school with tree planting in Triangle Woods
- Planting wild flowers at a number of locations around the parish.
- We will shortly be re-starting our regular litter picking sessions.
- With agreement from St Michael's church, planting a permanent Christmas Tree ready for this Christmas.

Neighbourhood Plan - We started work last year on a Neighbourhood Plan, conducting a household survey to understand residents priorities. Unfortunately work has been suspended due to Covid, but we will review the position later this year and very much hope we'll be able to deliver most of the things residents have asked for, whether that's through a Neighbourhood Plan or other means.

Highways - One of the most requested topics in the household survey conducted last year was to improve road safety, particularly for children walking to school. We've therefore started discussions with Dorset Council to assess the feasibility of pedestrian crossing points being installed on Middlehill Road.

- A few weeks ago we conducted an online survey asking for your feedback. 95 people responded with 92% saying they support the idea of pedestrian crossings on Middlehill Road. The most popular 3 sites proposed are near the co-op, near the pharmacy and by Cutler's Place. This feedback will be very useful in our discussions with Dorset Council.
- The police tell us that Speed Indicator devices are effective at reducing car speeds, so we're currently looking to purchase a 2nd solar powered device that we can use in additional locations.
- This summer we'll be supporting Dorset Council with the launch of Beryl bikes across Colehill, Wimborne & Ferndown, making it easier for our residents to access our local town centres.

Other Topics

- We'll be renovating the Centenary sign opposite the Colehill Co-Op.
- Washing all of our bus shelters
- Cleaning the war memorial.
- We provided grants last year to Colehill Library, Girl Guides, Scouts, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Radio Wimborne, Dial a Ride.

- We part fund the number 88 community bus – and are currently looking to extend the service into Furzehill.
- We were proud last year to be awarded a Foundation Level Award under the Local Council Award Scheme, recognising our good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvements.

Coombes Wood and the BMX site - Our BMX site in Coombes wood remained closed after lock-down because it had become unsafe. A number of the jumps had been extended beyond the limits agreed with the riders and our insurance company. In addition a number of very large excavations had been dug undermining tree roots and new draining channels dug causing some areas to flood on a regular basis. In recent weeks we found the closure signs removed, and groups using it without permits or permission to do so. A number of the jumps had become highly dangerous, starting to collapse with rotting logs emerging, having previously been assured that no wood had been used in the construction. Given we would probably be uninsured in case of accident we had no option other than to take immediate steps to make the site safe, reducing the height of jumps and removing more than 100 rotting logs from inside the jumps.

We posted updates on our web site and on social media inviting residents to have their say on the future of the site, whether it should be rebuilt as another advanced level BMX track as it had become, or as a more moderate level track for novice and intermediate users (as we believe was intended when the site was constructed in the 1990s), or whether there are other ideas.

61 people responded to our request for feedback with a very clear majority, 69%, saying they wanted us to retain a BMX course in Coombes Wood. Most people said they were keen that we cater for a mix of abilities, beginners as well as more advanced riders and aimed at local residents. Only 2 people said they thought we should focus on expert level riders.

We would like to propose that a user group be set up, consisting entirely of the public, to take the lead in the planning, design and building of the BMX course. We will then invite the user group to elect reps to join our Coombes Wood working group where you can ask for assistance you may need from us, for example provision of men and diggers for earth movement, or provision of new signage. See the sign-up sheet...

We appreciate the very unique nature of this facility and look forward to the next phase of activity on this site.

Community Governance Review (CGR) - Dorset Council are currently conducting a Community Governance Review which among other things is looking at whether any changes are required to parish boundaries. When they asked us for our thoughts last year, we said we were keen that the two parts of Furzehill be united, as half of the hamlet is currently in Colehill and half in Holt. We suggested moving the whole of Furzehill into Colehill. Dorset have now published their draft proposals which agree Furzehill should be united, but they are proposing all of Furzehill be moved into Holt, along with Dog Dean, Dean's Grove and all of Colehill north of Burt's Hill including the Horn's Inn. Dorset's public consultation opened on 23rd

Feb and runs until 23rd May. We've not yet formulated our council response, as we wanted to hear what you think about the proposals first.

- We propose a public poll be conducted:
Do you agree that the whole of Furzehill be moved from Colehill parish to Holt parish, covering all land north of Burt's Hill, including Furzehill, Dog Dean, Deans Grove and the Horns Inn?

Recent Social Media Posts - All of our parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, who give a lot of time to support our community. They should be able to undertake their civic duties without facing harassment and intimidation on almost a daily basis. Over the last few months a small number of individuals (not all Colehill residents) have inundated us with a very large number of complaints, accusations and information requests. There have been numerous allegations of wrongdoing and financial irregularities, all of which are baseless. A number of the complaints have been formally investigated by the Dorset Monitoring Officer, responsible for overseeing the conduct of our Councillors, and these were fully dismissed. Our accounts are published on our website and independently audited on an annual basis. We have recently received a local council award for having appropriate policies and processes in place, again these are all available on our website. If anyone has any concerns on any matter then please contact our Parish Clerk, alternatively feel free to attend any of our council/committee meetings, the dates are published on our website. You'll find us to be a very friendly group, and we currently have a number of vacancies if anyone would like to consider joining, again please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

244.22 MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH RESIDENTS – OPEN FORUM

One resident had emailed in to ask for a discussion on the name of the Hall – it was pointed out that under the Charity Commission rules we're not allowed legally to have any involvement or influence in management decisions. We attend the Hall Management meetings, but only in observer capacity, we are not allowed to vote. We have not therefore had any involvement in the Hall's decision to rebrand and have never discussed this at Council.

One resident raised points on the BMX jumps and Coombes Wood and the future was discussed. A sign up sheet was available for anyone wanting to be involved in the future of the site.

Community Governance Review – The Chair (Cllr Emma Urquhart) called for a Parish poll in connection with the Dorset Community Governance Review.

It was Proposed by Emma Urquhart and Seconded by Leslie Gibson that the question on the ballot paper be:

Dorset Council's draft recommendation in line with the majority of people who

responded to the initial consultation is that the whole of Furzehill be moved from Colehill Parish to Holt Parish covering all land north of Burts Hill including Furzehill, Dog Dean, Deans Grove, Grange and the Horns Inn. Do you support this?

It was RESOLVED to use this wording on the ballot paper.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7:27pm.

CHAIR

DRAFT