

BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL
JANUARY 2024 PC MEETING

CLERKS REPORT AND UPDATE ON ACTIONS – DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Highways, Rights of Way and Transport

- Dragon's Teeth – Community Highways Officer stated *"I do not see that the dragon teeth are dangerous. I advised the Parish to install them to protect the verges as we had no funding available, and our Countryside team cannot keep coming out and reinstating the damaged verges. Cars should not be parking, chewing up the verges and leaving a muddy mess. Now the cars can park on the carriageway, leaving the verge free for the children to walk on"*
- Dorset Council does not have any budgets for 'please do not park on the verge' - now the bollards are installed parking should be on the carriageway.
- Double yellow – Community Highways Officer advised that double yellow lines would require a Traffic Regulation Order. To start the process you would need full Parish backing, as well as the backing of Cllr Jill Haynes. If everybody supports this request you would then need to put this in writing (confirming that you all support this request) with a map showing where you would like the yellow lines. Highways would then take a look and score this request and if it meets criteria would pass to the TRO team to process. Due to workloads/budget and a list of existing scored TRO's this can take a long time to go through (can take years).
- Community Highways Officer will look at the cottage on the corner with the wisteria and ask them politely if they can cut it back on the junction side.
- Parking solutions for the school – Cllr Ames is in contact with Emma Selway (Dorset Council) who is supporting an experiment. Community Highways Officer will look at the school keep clears. Unfortunately they are not maintained on Highways routine maintenance budget and the small budget that they do have for this year has already been spent.
- Extended 30 mph on Factory Lane – this does not meet the 30 mph criteria.
- The Buckland Newton Footpath Improvement Scheme has been successful in its bid to the FiPL to replace old wooden stiles with self-closing gates. FiPL has agreed that the grant can be paid in instalments, ie - for the purchase of the gates, the purchase of the materials and finally the labour, but the money has to be paid to the Parish Council's Bank account. Therefore the PC will pay for each instalment and then the money can be claimed once each has been completed.
- Replacement Trees on verge by B3143 – David Ackerley, Senior Ranger (21.11.23) has advised that replacement whips have been organized and once they are in, they we will fill the gaps up.
- Road Closure – The Cross, Buckland Newton between B3143 and Rew Lane (in both directions), a distance of approximately 520 metres. This Notice will enable Wessex Internet safe access to carry out remedial works to rectify a carriageway defect. It will come into operation on 23rd January 2024 and remain in force for five days, however it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 24th January 2024. The alternative route, which will be sign posted is as follows: B3143, Crowthorne Lane, Bookham Lane, Castle Lane and vice versa.

Parish Matters

- Village Hall – The Village Hall is currently connected via BT but Wessex Internet say they can provide Wi-Fi much cheaper (and faster) at £1 a month. The cost of the change-over can be met by a grant from Wessex/the Government, but the Village Hall will have to pay the VAT which cannot be met by the grant. The Village Hall is no longer VAT registered so cannot claim back its VAT. The Committee has asked whether there is a way that they could work with the Parish Council in order to ensure no VAT is paid by the Hall if the Committee agree to change over to Wessex. Clerk responded that there are strict VAT rules for Parish Councils; the Parish Council can only legally claim back VAT if it has purchased the goods/item (the invoice has to be made out to the Parish Council) and said item has to be used by the PC or be under the control of the PC.
- Telephone Analogue switch off – Cllr Crouch attended webinar. Southwest (BT) launch will likely be late summer 2024 (possibly Sept). All rollout has to be completed by 2025. Letters will be sent out and there will be 2 big roadshows likely in north and south of county as well as pop up events in libraries etc. Also digital voice van that will go into areas. Benefits of new service - Use same number, no additional cost to user, enhanced scam protect features – notify if think possible scam and reduces telemarketing calls, better voice quality, 3 way calling – connecting friends and family. Five key groups for concern - areas with no mobile signal, vulnerable individuals, those with health alarms, elderly customers who are aged 75 years plus,

landline only customers. Anyone who is in the above groups must let their network provider know and their roll out will be delayed. It is down to individuals to notify their network provider. In the event of a power cut most vulnerable will have battery back-up unit that will last an hr, a hybrid phone that has an 8 hr life when network goes down can be purchased, home phone connect – feel of landline phone for those that don't want broadband.

- Memorial Tree – Family asked whether tree could be planted at Christmas. Clerk explained that Parish Paddock project was being done in conjunction with FWAG, who were currently securing funding and contactors. Clerk explained that the tree could not be planted until after the works had been completed, so that a suitable position could be identified and it was damaged during the enhancement. Family then asked if the tree could be planted at the Churchyard; Clerk passed Church warden details onto family.
- Rotary Club may support reusable sandbags – Cllr Crouch investigated and was told *'The sandbags come as part of a flood defence system that is provided to individual households on a case by case basis which is assessed individually and based on those households that are at most risk of flooding'*
- Tree on the Pound – Works following tree risk assessment has been raised as a job with Dorset County tree team, who will be in touch soon with a date when the work can be completed.
- Play Area – County Town has quoted £ 220.00 + delivery charge of £ 15.00 for 2 x dumpy bags of play bark. Sturminster Newton building supplies have suggested that we would need to look at samples to make an informed decision as to the most suitable bark. – This will be an agenda item.

Financial

- Asset List has been updated and a copy sent to Insurance Company (Clear Councils) they confirmed that the Dragon's Teeth are covered under Street Furniture.
- Cllr Townsend has carried out an internal audit of the accounts – all in order.

Correspondence

- Clerk from Manston and Hammoon PC, wanted information on how we got the Virtual Pavement – Clerk has responded.

Police Report

- November – No reports made.
- December – No reports made.