

South Huish Parish Council Meeting 16th January 2024

Appendix B – Report by the Parish Clerk:

1. Beach Feet & SMASH update: We have arranged with Kingsbridge Men's Shed for five beach feet to be created, the local school will be responsible for the decoration and we then hope to set the feet to prevent deterioration prior to their installation which is anticipated by Easter 2024.
2. Locality Application for Pre-school, we still await contact information.
3. The following response has been received from the National Trust Response re dogs on leads:
With regards to the query around dogs on leads on National Trust land, we ask that dog owners keep their dogs under close control on National Trust land and welcome responsible dog owners. Where there is livestock grazing we have additional signage on the gates asking owners to keep dogs on leads. We also often supplement this signage with posters on site to try to reduce issues of sheep worrying, which is a significant issue for us and our tenants.

Some of our beaches are subject to Dog Control Orders, where at certain times of year owners have to keep dogs on leads. Even where these sites are staffed daily this is always a challenging process to enforce. We would not have the capacity to enforce a dogs on leads requirement on all NT land, as we are a small team managing over 40 miles of coastline, so we are reliant on owners common sense around cliff edges and livestock grazing, alongside on site signage.

There are many issues around dog ownership in the countryside which are difficult to resolve, but we are always keen to work with the local community and tenants to reduce stock worrying issues and address other concerns. We have recently just been awarded funding from the SWCP Association for additional signage on gates from key car parks to provide information to visitors that livestock will be conservation grazing these coastal areas and to please keep dogs under close control.

4. The 2023 Election Recharge has been confirmed as £924.13.
5. Malborough Higher Town roadworks will result in the closure of the road between 22nd to 26th January.
6. A revised version of the full Register of Electors has been published and is available, by appointment, for inspection under supervision during office hours at Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5NE
7. Report from Richard Pollard re P3 Footpaths:
For the past two years we have received additional funding on top of the P3 grant in order to employ contractors to trim the coastal path through Hope Cove plus some other paths nearby, such as Aunt Betsy's Lane. This is reasonable as it is the County's responsibility to maintain the Coastal Path and unmetalled roads. This is something that was negotiated with Ros Davies the coordinator of the Parish Path Partnership. She has been extremely good at making sure that the P3 scheme works. Unfortunately, she has now moved to another post within the County Rights of Way team. We have been told that they are currently trying to recruit a new person to join the team but have not had any information yet about a replacement.

Usually before Christmas we would receive footpath survey forms and forms dealing with finance requests. These are due in at the start of February in order to qualify for the grant. These forms have not yet been sent out so there is some concern about what finance will be available this year. Hopefully, there will not be any reduction but it is possible if they are trying to save money. If we want to keep all our paths in good order, we do need to use contractors. There is more work than can be done by volunteers. Hopefully, everything will continue as normal, but if not, we might need to request the Parish to provide some funding.

8. 20mph Speed Limit Programme 'Expression of Interest' 24/25. The eleven selected 20mph speed limit schemes in the first two tranches are underway or completed. There is now an opportunity for a third tranche to be progressed through the 24/25 financial year following a further £150,000 funding that has been secured. The first two tranches received a significant amount of interest (152 submissions) and it is proposed to utilise the same scoring matrix as used for the previous years. Communities that have already submitted their expression of interest will be reviewed again and against any expressions from new communities
9. On Wednesday 22nd November AONBs were renamed National Landscapes. It marks the start of a new chapter in the story of designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales.
Find full details of the story of the UK's National Landscapes and the work they do at www.national-landscapes.org.uk.
10. Due to the number of complaints received regarding the privately operated car park we are collating all details which will be forwarded to the local MP with a request for assistance.
11. Information re pressures on the NHS in Devon has been shared via social media. Details regarding 1-2-1 swimming lessons for SEND children who need extra help has also been shared