The Chair’s Annual Report for Little Cheverell Parish Council

for the period May 2021 to April 2022

Presented at the Annual Village Meeting on April 25th 2022

The year began with Local Council Elections in May 2021. Wes Parfitt had informed the parish council that he would not be standing for re-election. This was a bit of a shock but we are hugely indebted to Wes for all the years he served as a parish councillor for Little Cheverell, latterly as the chair.

Sue Ivey, Benji Thomson and Mike Phillips were all elected unopposed.

I shall present this Parish Council Annual Report highlighting the key points from each of the meetings held during the period 2021 to 2022

May 19th 2021

Drew Spearey and Dennis Heather, were co-opted to the council.

Sue Ivey was elected chair

It was agreed to renew the floral displays throughout the village and to once again report the permanent puddle at the dipping well opposite Springside Cottage.

July 14th 2021

Mike Phillips was elected as vice chair and Louise Brebner took the minutes as she began her new administrator role with the parish council.

Dominic Muns, County Councillor, updated us regarding Black Dog Crossroads as at July 2021. Wiltshire Council have reviewed all responses and will decide on a recommendation to be passed to the Cabinet.

The end of year audit had been completed and a vote of thanks was given to Ann Venus for her part in this.

Ideas for future spending included the installation of Electronic Speed Indicators. Dominic Muns noted that these can be very expensive for a small village to maintain. Further investigation was agreed.

With the resignation of Jo Coleman as chair of the Village Hall and a trustee, the future management of the hall was of concern. The Parish Council thanked Jo for all her hard work and commitment and discussed what might be done to ensure that the hall continues to be a social hub of the village. Ideas discussed were:- The PC could become Sole Trustee, the hall could cease to be a charity, research to learn how other village halls are run.

Grounds maintenance continues to engage us, we are trying to find someone to employ to keep the Millennium and Village Hall greens neat and tidy on a regular basis. Additionally, the area behind the hall near the sheep dip needs to be cleared.

In spite of always responding to the request from the gulley tanker crew for information about drains that need attention, Little Cheverell has not been visited.

The repositioning of the signs at the railway bridge end of Low Road has now been achieved after a slight blip when the wrong sign was installed!! We hope that the new signage gives a clearer message to lorry drivers.

The parish council had no objections to two planning applications for tree works.

September 22nd 2021

Domminic Muns told us about the recruitment of 2 new ‘speed enforcement officers’ who can work alongside community speedwatch teams. He also updated us re Black Dog Crossroads. The Highways team has put forward a proposal which apparently the Cabinet accepted. It consisted of:- realigning the junction, moving hedgerows and fencing, installing rumble strips, reviewing the speed limit etc

The Village Hall will remain as a charity and the work continues to find more trustees.

Replanting of the troughs etc for Autumn was agreed. Grateful thanks to Dennis and Martin who have painted the railings at the village hall as well as the bench.

Graham, who gardens for several local residents, gave both greens an autumn haircut. The council asked Graham to take this on permanently, which he has agreed to do.

The guardianship (an official SWASFT term) of the Little Cheverell defibrillator has been taken over by Barbara Featherstone, thank you Barbara.

Kevin, the Parish Steward continues to look after us and made an extra visit to clear a drain outside a house on the B3098. If he can, he will respond to an sos!!

November 10th 2021

Little Cheverell Village Hall is emerging from the pandemic, with lots of exciting plans for social events. There are 3 more trustees and Sue Ivey is chairing the group though is not involved with organising events.

John Orchard replaced the damaged railings near the door to the village hall, this was paid for by the contractors who caused the damage. John suggested clearing away a lot of the bamboo to enable 2 or 3 cars to park. This is a good idea and will make the hall more attractive to hire. More research required.

The Parish Council was represented on Remembrance Sunday and a wreath was laid.

There was no objection to another planning application for tree works. A planning application, supported by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust was received. It consisted of making some changes to the stream behind Copsewood to create a small lake. Members of the parish council and some local residents were shown the area and the plans were explained.

Following floods outside houses on the B3098 over 30/31 October, the Gulley crew were once again contacted.

Enthusiastic villagers gathered on Pam’s drive to join in with Carols on Your Doorstep in December. Mulled wine and mincepies were enjoyed.

January 12th 2022

Will Corke provided a workforce to clear away green waste and overgrown plants and shrubs behind the village hall. The finished area looks amazing and the sheep dip is really accessible now.

Some issues were raised by local residents via the PC website:-

* Street lighting – Kirsty Elford of Wiltshire Council assured me on the telephone, that all streetlights are now LED and so switching them off would not make a significant saving.
* Dog Fouling footpaths – this was reported to John Quinn of the Dog Control and Animal Welfare Officer. He explained that unfortunately, unless the perpetrators are known it’s impossible to do anything about this
* Speed issues past the entrance drive to Hawkeswell- the resident suggested installing a mirror but this cannot be done by the County Council because of safety and accountability issues.

 Following concerns raised by Mike Phillips regarding the way the lane, over time, has become narrower, he arranged for the County Engineer, Matt Perrott to visit the village and to survey the state of the lanes. This is arranged for February 2nd.

The PC had no objections to building works at 7 Westbury Road

Defibrillator training is booked for 28th March

March 9th 2022

Matt Perrott’s visit was very interesting, he inspected School Lane, Low Road and the track up to Strawberry Hill. His report was posted on the PC website as part of the minutes for this meeting.

There are plans to update the PC Website to include more about the village and what goes on in it. Sue Ivey will meet with Louise Brebner one evening, to be arranged

The Defib training went ahead on March 28th and was well attended. Refreshments were provided by Barbara Featherstone and the evening was presented by Julia Doel, with a colleague to assist her.