

Parish Council Update – April 2021

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the Parish Council have been unable to hold its usual meetings face-to-face public meetings. However, it has been able to make urgent decisions and carry out necessary business by way of emergency powers granted by the Government. This update summarises decisions made, and work carried out / in progress until normal meetings can resume.

Lockdown has also resulted in a delay in action from the relevant authorities of items which have been deemed by them as non-critical, as outlined below.

Neighbourhood Watch

- There have been several incidents of anti-social behaviour recently, particularly in the vicinity of the Sustrans path. These have resulted in a strong local PCO response. There have also been two car break-ins with money / goods stolen and a shed break-in.

Maintenance Items

- Highway Defects – Several minor road repairs have been carried out by County Highways – including Bell Lane.
- Brent Road – a new drainage issue has been reported which appears to be a failure (blockage or breakage) in the culvert running under the southern roadside. This is causing water to form in pools around the area, causing a hazard, particularly to pedestrians and cyclists. County Highways have investigated and are to carry out a CCTV survey to determine the cause and remedial action, which will be incorporated into the proposed scheme of works planned for the area. Possible water pollution has also been reported to the Local Authority.
- The re-siting of the village nameplate in Middle Road is still awaiting finalization of the new location. This has not been a priority as County Highways have indicated the repositioning work could not be carried out until later in the year.
- Flood Group – no issues to report.
- Dog Fouling – monitoring continues.
- The request for upgraded Pedestrian / cyclist / slow warning signs along Brent Road has been forwarded and is still awaiting a response from County Highways.
- A resident has reported safety concerns about the lack of a barrier at the Manor Road end of the Drain footpath (the old one was destroyed in a car accident in 2012, Highways did not consider it worth replacing at the time, following our requests). The matter will be discussed further at the next full formal meeting.
- Damage to the old railway bridge crossing from Broderip to the field beyond has been reported to Sustrans for investigation and action.

Payments Approved

- GWB Services – Grass cutting, clearance of Drain footpath - £150
- Clerk Expenses (comprising final SDC gang mowing payment for 2020, playing field hut electricity standard charge, telephone charges, postage, stationary) - £220.71

Planning Matters

Recommendations

- 22/21/00002 (Brookhayes Farm, Change of Use of first floor above existing triple garage to agricultural workers dwelling – retrospective) – Recommend Permission as a residential annex with agricultural worker conditions.
- 22/21/00003 (2 Manor Gardens, Demolition of existing front (south) porch and rear (North) extension, with the erection of a new front (South) porch and rear (North) extension on part of the pre-existing footprint) – Recommend Permission.
- 22/21/00005 (South View, Middle Road, Erection of single-story side (East) and rear (North) extensions and conversion of loft into first floor accommodation, with dormer windows) – No Objection

Recommendations Pending (applications received recently)

- 54/20/00019 (The Old Station House, Station Road, Proposed replacement of existing stables.)
- 22/21/00004 (The Pollards, Middle Road, Demolition of existing outbuildings and the erection of 2no. holiday lets and a stable block.
- 22/20/00004 (Ditch Furlong Lane, Glamping site) – amendments to original proposals have been made, including reducing the number of units from 10 to 5.
- 22/20/00008 (Henshirl Paddocks, 6th pitch) – this is a retrospective application following a planning enforcement report last year.

Other

- A response has been provided to the pre-application consultation stage for a self-build proposal on the south-eastern part of the village.
- 54/18/00008 – Land North Of, Cossington Lane, Woolavington, 125 dwellings (Gladman Homes) - appeal against the Local Authorities non determination received with decision by hearing - a further representation has been submitted emphasising the impact of the proposals on Cossington. The date for the decision hearing has yet to be announced.
- Several planning violations around Brent Road / Cossington Lane have been reported. It is understood they have been investigated by Local Authority Planning Enforcement and requests for retrospective planning permission have been made but no valid responses have yet been received (apart from 22/20/00008 above, recently received).

Playing Field

- Further approaches have been made asking to run water supply services across the Playing Field to sites to the west. The requesters have again been advised of the current general policy of no new wayleave arrangements and that we neither welcome nor encourage any new requests.
- A water leak from one of the playing field huts has been repaired.
- The Parish Council's application for funding of new equipment under the Viridor Credits scheme is progressing well following first stage approval (the second stage is in progress). The funding will go towards renewing and replacing some of the old equipment in the children's play area, as well as hopefully some new additions.