

Reports for Parish Council Meeting – Monday 23rd September 2024

Jeremy Rigby

School Verge Parking

At the last meeting it had been agreed to try and preserve the condition of the verge, after the repairs that Southern Water were to carry out. Initially it was proposed to place some planters since WSCC has not yet approved any 'permanent' installations due to concerns about obstructions that might arise from on road parking during school drop off/collection. The verge was repaired just before start of term and as an interim measure some stakes and tape have been put in place. These have prevented most cars from driving up onto the verge and parents seem to have found alternative parking places away from the immediate area around the verge. It is hoped that this might persuade WSCC to permit replacing the stakes and tape with something more permanent / aesthetic such as wooden posts. If the verge can be protected then perhaps the pressure to raise over £50,000 and create a parking lay-by might abate and the project be put on hold.

Centurion Way

There has been no update on progress or otherwise so it is assumed that the project is on track to complete and open the West Dean / Singleton section in spring 2025.

Singleton Defibrillator

Beside the Village Hall

Last site check	11 September 2024
Next check due	11 October 2024
Main electrodes/pads expiry	31 January 2025
Battery replacement due	30 May 2025
Spare electrodes/pads expiry	31 May 2025

Karen Nash

Weald & Downland – Salt

On Monday 5/8/24 I met with Darron Carver, Head of Collections and Site Operations at The Weald & Downland regarding salt bags. Darron is very keen to work with us and has today confirmed that they have a mechanised spreader that should Singleton need any pavements salted (should we have any icy Winters!) they have agreed to operate around the village for us. The bags are currently in a very poor state, so Darron has asked his site manager to seek a better storage solution, probably in the form of a hopper or container. Darron is very happy to help in any way he can, not just with salt!

Poo Bins

On Tuesday 6/8/24 I met with Lisa from CDC in Charlton to look at and discuss our options regarding the poo/general waste bin. We looked at the entrance of North Lane, however after Lisa having a discussion with her supervisor about re locating the general waste bin to this junction, he has concerns about the bin being hit by vehicles, mainly the tankers when they are pumping as you can see the damage where they have been driving over the curb. Therefore, we have decided that until the tankers are no longer necessary it would not be an option to move the bin to the location. This location would also be subject to scanning for utilities in the area, if and when, an installation is considered. They are however happy for a bin to be located at the 2nd Knights Hill location (Charlton end to the new plantation field) subject to permissions. However, I do not feel that this solves the issue at North Lane, and it would require us moving a bin from Singleton! Lisa is going to send me some signs/stickers that they currently use in other areas, and although it does not mention taking waste home, it has been very successful where they have had an issue with people not picking up, even in areas where there are no dog bins/or litter bins as it tends to make people think that the area is being monitored.

Lisa has spoken to the operative who empty's the bin at the bottom of the footpath on Charlton Road and he has advised that this bin is well used.

Southern Water Activity

On Tuesday 17/9 I emailed Floyd Cooper at SW to ask what the SW activity was in the field opposite Town Lane. His response - I only became aware of this, last week myself. It's actually a lining team who are carrying out sewer lining on a significant point of groundwater infiltration in the sewer across the fields West of Singleton Village. As of yesterday, we are now set up with a weekly groundwater meeting, so this should help with our communication with parish councils as we head into the new groundwater season. I have looped in Hannah who is the Stakeholder Manager for the Lavant Valley area, hopefully Hannah will be able to keep you informed as our preparations progress. Floyd will send me dates next week when the three of us can have a zoom meeting to discuss tankers etc going forward for this Autumn/Winter

MP Andrew Griffith

Following a conversation between Richard Pailthorpe, Tony Marshall and MP Andrew Griffith, Andrew offered to arrange a meeting to discuss SW plans for this AW24. On 12/8/24 I emailed Andrew to ask to arrange a meeting with myself, Tony and Richard Pailthorpe to discuss SW. As no response I emailed again on the 17/9/24 – to be followed up.

Tony Marshall

Charlton 20mph limit

Highways have agreed to the reduced speed limit and are awaiting confirmation from the Road Safety Team and Sussex Police that they have no objections. We received an outline plan showing locations of speed limit signs and have gone back to them, pointing out that we really don't need a lot of repeater signs in the tiny village streets; I'm still awaiting a response on this. I'm also angling to have the speed limit start signs at the same locations as the village gateways - I'm awaiting a response as regards the one coming in from East Dean: they are proposing the 20mph start sign at a point that's not wide enough for the gateway.

East Dean drain and sewer sealing

I checked with Neil Georges, Chair of East Dean PC, who tells me that SW appear to be making good progress with their work there, having sealed around 1300m of drains/laterals. They are now investigating pipes that have sunk somewhere in the middle, creating standing water that encourages blockages, with a view to replacing sections of pipe.

So it all sounds good and bodes well for us: hopefully we'll see some benefit this winter coming and, when they finally get around to sealing/replacing our pipes, it should make a big improvement.

Sam Cox

Maintenance

Village maintenance day is scheduled for the 2nd November. Please could members of the Parish mark this in their diary and volunteers are importantly received - this cannot and will not happen without support please. Further communication to follow regarding this on the village WhatsApp's , at which time volunteers will be able to confirm attendance. Separately, playground repairs/maintenance in line with the proposal at the last meeting have been approved by the Parish Council and will be proceeding at the end of the month. The only remaining element that has yet to be resolved is the ground protection around the roundabout. Quotes to date have proved to be very expensive for this remedial action and are not achievable from village funds - efforts are being made to obtain support for this important feature, which otherwise may need to be decommissioned from a safety perspective.

Southern Water

Following a walk around with Southern Water/QTS, they have attended the verges and carried out a range of remedial action to verges, payments and hedgerows. Disappointingly, a tanker then subsequently damaged one of the repaired verges and we are in communication with them regarding this, with a view to better control this coming winter.

Pete Gattrell

The green next to and surrounding the playpark is a popular place for dog walkers and such become victim to not picking up after their canine friends. Having walked around the park and cleaned up after said owners i encourage the implementation of a dog poo bag dispenser visible to anyone walking their dogs around the park.

Viv has kindly looked at a couple of options of which will be linked below:

<https://jrbenterprises.com/product/dog-bag-dispensers/>

At £93.80 inc vat (not including post and fixings) using cases with 800 bags each at £25.15 is a durable option including instructions visible to anyone passing by.

<https://wybone.co.uk/product/dog-bag-dispenser/>

Similar to the first option, this dispenser is durable and obvious, starting from £89.99 also includes an option of a metal post to attach the dispenser to for an additional £50.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Leashboss-Dispenser-Dispensing-Storage-Station/dp/B08HM5FZH9/ref=mp_s_a_1_3?crid=27FNMBH7QMCN2&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.XJjy8WKz2VllwYmCl6MSdijytlW0qXyMMdM-fnkJnojCBdPZtojfSxNcl0eBvaRGR8YtTVi-0nnrXMr9yb8rGE6ds0fAji2fYudobkqJ0Atxt6JgkSxnphoHL-pj5Oy2kt1tfJvb9UBkSpxyjL3CmcHbJYRqTZI9gADz7RWNL-rVRJqPAFShpP8qfPG8XLbeelKxPCm1aerEjZZC330Kg.sKD6diF3kxxATsMxCmL44i8kOpfENK83uX3tnyZha8Y&dib_tag=se&keywords=Leashboss+Dog+Poop+Bag+Dispenser&qid=1726757803&sprefix=leashboss+dog+poop+bag+dispenser%2Caps%2C236&sr=8-3

A much more discrete and less weather resistant but cheaper option at £16.95 (designed for indoor use). Holding bags that most dog walkers already - or should - own. Would likely need a bit of DIY security measure using a couple of screws and a metal bracket ensuring those with sleight of hand don't take rolls for themselves.

Two out of three of these options will need securing to a post. The playparks fence posts could be an option for this if the woods structural integrity is good enough to hold 2-3kg. Depending on which option is chosen by the council and the public I'm happy to install these myself using spare parts I already have.

The specific location of the dispenser I feel would best live on the corner fence post closest to the Leys and facing in the same direction (Next to the picnic benches). As most walkers will come from that direction anyway. The only real problem I see is the cost of replacing bags on a regular basis under the assumption walkers take one bag per stool.

Finance Report

Total in Current Account (18/09/24) – £20,823.76

Current Reserves (held in the Current Account) – Playground Repairs £2,000 + £2,000 in 2024/25 budget.

General Maintenance £100.00 + £500.00 in 2024/25 budget.

School Parking – Grant awarded from Star Energy of £2,000 (not claimed yet)

Balance in Savings Account – £7,124.91

Funds Received - Balance of Precept - £13,304.00 and Henry Smith - £11,000.00 paid out immediately to Singleton Henry Smith Charity.

Jeremy Hunt – Report to be delivered verbally.

Henry Potter

The recent announcement by the new government of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework has been analysed by our Planning Officers and is not good reading. Plans for increased provision of new housing will mean a headache for most Planning Authorities in the south east of England. Government do not Plan for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Figures for Chichester District are suggested at more than 1,000 a year but this will be adjusted to account for the lack of development within the SDNP. One algorithm suggested is to take the total number of existing dwellings in a Planning Area and multiply this by 0.08% to give a annual housing target. Whatever next? And, there is no consideration given to additional infrastructure provision to support this extra housing.

There is also provision to allow development on ‘poor production’ farmland and classed as ‘grey’ belt land. This together with the continued use of land taken out of agricultural use to offset Nitrate and Carbon from developments elsewhere which impact on the sensitive waters of our rivers and coastal waters, I see as an increasing threat to our already fragile food security. Only recently at the August 7th Planning Committee it was agreed that the Council would enter an agreement with the landowner of farmland at Chilgrove and the SDNPA to secure the provision of credit selling Nitrates mitigation schemes. This is also happening on farmland at East Dean. The involvement of the SDNPA is that they will assume the monitoring and enforce the replacement of failed trees which are planted at a specific number per hectare. This must continue for between 85 and 125 years. Interesting?

At the Cabinet meeting on 3rd September members agreed to adopt the A27 Bypass Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document. This document was produced after a six week consultation when numerous respondents commented on proposals and is intended to continue addressing the ongoing issue of congestion on this Strategic Road. In a nutshell, the Council, through levying certain developments which impact the A27, have amassed substantial sums of money much of which has been spent on the Portfield junction realignment but there remains a shortfall of a minimum £13.56 million in order to deliver the package of works for the Bognor Road, Whyke, Stockbridge and the Fishbourne roundabouts. Total costs are “estimated” to be £43.4 million!! There is no likelihood of any funding from National Highways particularly now, as the new Government has no money!! This A27 Bypass mitigation SPD will be submitted alongside the previously submitted Revised Local Plan and will take effect on 2nd October '24.

Grant funding for Pallant House Gallery and the Festival Theatre is to continue for a further year, PHG will receive £130,000 and CFT £187,000 under the existing funding agreement. Tangmere Parish Council will receive £312,253 from Sect. 106 Community facilities monies derived from developments in their Parish and this will be spent on improvements to the Car Park surrounding the Community Centre.

Finally, an arrangement with Portsmouth City Council to provide stray dog kennelling for a further 3 years has been agreed, I never realised that, though we have dog wardens, we don't have any kennelling facilities. Dogs are kept at the Portsmouth kennels for five days after which they are rehoused with charities who try to rehome them.