

## PC Hambledonian article - Sept 2019

Welcome to the Parish Council's Sept update. The PC would like to publicly welcome Rev David Morgan as our Vicar and his wife Vikki and family. We wish them the best of good fortune and the warmest of welcomes to our lovely village. A huge thanks to the HortSoc for a marvellous show and to all who made the barn dance and BBQ such a success, lovely to have sunny weather. Roger Palmer has denied all accusations of professional help in winning the gentlemen's cake and I, for one, completely believe him.

Also thanks to Tony Higham and his volunteers for the torchlight procession - a real highlight of the year. The PC now takes the lead for it and we are looking for a volunteer to take charge next year. I would be most grateful for someone to take it on, or we stand a good chance of losing it, the PC covers insurance and risk assessments. If you think this might be something you could do, please give me or the Clerk a call or email.

Now to some business:

- A last call for any ideas for the VE 75 commemorations in April next year, I haven't heard from anyone and it would be a shame if we didn't do something.
- We now have a new contract for the Lengthsman (effectively garden/outdoor services), we have some footpaths to clear and roads signs to clear, but if you have an idea please let the clerk know. We have been grateful for a couple of helpful suggestions.
- Although we have had a dryish summer this is the right time for house and landowners to clear ditches under riparian rights and duties. I would be grateful if this work could be done before the onset of winter/autumn rains.
- We know that some gullies are blocked and the big pipe outflow is partly blocked. We have brought this to the attention of our County Cllr and HCC Highways dept. Actually the Big Pipe is doing a great job of clearing surface run-off quickly.
- The PC Clerk works on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Please time your emails etc with that in mind.
- I have mentioned that we have had difficulty with our signpost contractor. Following a range of warnings we have terminated the contract and will be re-letting work not completed under the village improvement project. The contractor is the loser here with more work done than we have paid him for, we have taken this step reluctantly, since it is a small local business, but delays have become unacceptable.
- We are very open to ideas for village improvement and welcome any suggestions, in the first instance to the Clerk please.
- The first tranche of street signs have been commissioned and will be installed at the Green Man junction and at Vicarage Lane.
- We have ordered 50 'Do not knock' signs for front doors, to stop cold callers. If you would like one please let the Clerk know.
- We are grateful to the owners of Park Farm who have offered to cover the block wall with oak cladding, this should provide a nice feature on entrance to the village.

The South Down National Park has now adopted its local plan, which means that our planning rules are now taken from there. This will affect applications with a much stricter settlement boundary, for instance. We will now move ahead with the Hambledon local plan - shown at the annual meeting, there will be a village meeting to discuss it - but the feedback from the annual parish meeting was most positive.

Following approaches from a number of villagers - and my own experience - the PC has come to the view that we need to upgrade/replace the play equipment at the village hall. This will be quite a considerable undertaking, since we do not have reserves to cover the cost and will have to pursue grants/donations, probably in the tens of thousands of pounds. We will talk to local PCs that have done this, but if you would like to join a small working group to take this forward please drop me an email or one to the Clerk (email addresses at the front of the Hambledonian).

Paul Quinn OBE  
Chair  
Hambledon Parish Council

716 words