



Holybrook Parish Council

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000

Clerk's Written Report:

Monday 4th September 2023

Beansheaf Centre/Parish Office

Maintenance:

Minor repair works and general maintenance clean-up works completed in August including new panel in Linear Hall to hide electrical cables, rawlplug holes filled and painted, paint touch-ups in areas of high wear, spotlight bulbs replaced with LEDs (lobby) toilet seat fixed etc.

15/08/2023 – Food waste collection bin service now available at the Beansheaf Centre. The 240ltr bin will be emptied once per week.

Other:

The Caretaking/Cleaning company is under new management as the new Operations Manager has attended the Beansheaf Centre with a view to producing a proper Service Level Agreement. However, it has been confirmed that the cleaners will not: 1) clean the windows 2) polish and buff the floors 3) clean carpets. These will have to be purchased as additional services.

Parish:

The main concern raised by residents has been the lack of emptying of dog bins through Holybrook Parish. As members are aware, all but 10 dog bins in the Parish are owned and maintained by West Berkshire Council. Due to the significant issues with the dog bin emptying members agreed via e-mail that Holybrook Parish Council is to move its contract from WBC to a new contractor (with no cost impact). The new contract commenced on 7th August and, bar one bin missed on the first day, there have been no hitches in the new contract (thank you to Cllr Croal who, in particular, has been keeping an eye on the bins). **Members are asked to continue to monitor the bin situation to ensure that no further issues are experienced.**

The Wardens have been instructed to cut back foliage in Cow Lane (from A4 to Linear Park), behind the bus shelter at Albury Gardens, Mackay Close footpath and the walkway between Hawkesbury Drive and Mill Lane, and weeds under the noticeboard at Mill Lane. (Thank you to Councillor Lenaghan who has reported many of these issues).

13/07/2023 – Cllr Moore reported fly-tipped items in the woodland between Burbidge Close and Calcot Linear Park.

02/08/2023 – Complaint received from a resident in Narromine Drive regards the lack of visible policing in Holybrook reporting incidents of criminal damage caused by 'a group of teenagers'. Other reported incidents include 'drunk driving, drugs and speeding'. Further complaint included the general upkeep of Fords Farm with trees and bushes blocking footpaths and overgrown grass that, when it is cut, it is strewn over the footpaths. The resident has been provided with the appropriate authorities contact details.

13/08/2023 – Report received of WBC contractors using a narrow part of the Cambrian Way footpath to access dog bin 639P). This was onward reported to WBC's Countryside Department who took immediate action.

15/08/2023 – Information provided from WBC that Dorking Way will be closed for resurfacing (outside of the Bellway Development) between 14th – 19th August was advertised on social media.

21/08/2023 – Complaint received about a resident using weedkiller in the Linear Park, adjacent to their property. This was forwarded to WBC's Countryside Department who immediately dealt with this.

25/08/2023 – Information provided from WBC that Dorking Way will be closed from September to December for emergency gas works has been posted on social media.

29/08/2023 – Advised by a resident that the Dorking Way road resurfacing which took place in August was poorly organised and road closures and signage was not properly applied. The complaint has been forwarded WBC's.

Because the Wardens were focussed on the Underwood Road cutbacks, the Parish litter bins were not emptied and litter not picked on the playgrounds. The Wardens have been reminded that his work must be complete on every visit. An additional litter pick of the Holymead playground was ordered (5 black sacks of rubbish was cleared).

Playgrounds:

The Underwood Road playground overgrown foliage has not been rectified by our contractor so the Warden has undertaken this work.

Despite approving the quote for the bargeboards the work has not been completed. A new quote is being sought as the bark cannot be topped up until these repairs are completed.

RoSPA reports received. There are minor works required for both playgrounds. Some have been completed such as bolts and caps replacement and removal of broken signs and quotes are being sought for other works such as the renovation of the swings at Underwood Road playground.

Other:

19/07/2023 – The Clerk attended a Clerk's Forum which is attended by West Berkshire Clerk's and is a useful meeting to assist with information sharing. A WhatsApp Group has also been formed for quick help/assistance.

The Clerk will be attending ScribeFest on 21st September 2023 (whole day on-line) which is a free conference. Topics include: Reclaiming VAT on Buildings and Land, Neighbourhood Planning, creation of Great Britain's National Walking Network, Reaching Net Zero and Fraud Prevention Measures for Local Councils.

28/08/2023 – Information received that there is an abandoned tent on the Pincents Hill site which contains drug paraphernalia. This has been onward reported to Tilehurst Parish Council but also WBC's Planning Department as it is likely that it will be the landowner's responsibility to get this cleared.

Messages of Thanks:

'Can you please pass on my thanks to all the Holybrook councillors for the changes they have made which have made my life, and many others, so much better.

We often go for a stroll to Linear Park and now that the Radar key gates are installed I can take my electric scooter in and not have to ask my husband to manhandle my wheelchair around the gates.

Living by the bus turnaround at the top of Mill Lane I am also thankful for the path that has been added and the slopes connecting the pavements. I can see from the house that this is a well used walkway used by many with mobility vehicles, prams and people out for a walk.