

Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 38 - July 2020

Introduction by Steve Murcer, Chairman, HBPC

In a few short days in March everyday life changed dramatically and times since then have been challenging for us all staying at home, self-isolating, not seeing friends and family, worries about our own health and job security to name but a few, as I write this note the Covid 19 alert level has been reduced from 4 to 3 and very slowly life is getting back to normal thanks in no small part to the collective sacrifice we have all made and gradually we are turning the tide on this virus. Milestones like these lend themselves to reflection and to thank people for going the extra mile and I would like to recognise the tremendous hard work that Tara and Darren Fielding at the Red Barn Village Shop have done to keep our Village Shop stocked and open particularly at times when supplies were scarce. The shop has been a life line for many and is key in a small rural community like ours. It is vital that we continue to support our village shop, it's the heart of our community. I would also like to thank those volunteers who have been delivering over 400 items of shopping and prescriptions to those self-isolating and shielding. About 100 people volunteered to help in the crisis, a magnificent response. Fortunately, most were not required.

I know many of you have looked out for and helped your neighbours and friends and I'm sure those acts of kindness mean so much and don't go unnoticed, conscious that some may need more tangible help the parish council has been supporting our local Blandford Foodbank and are able to refer people to them to receive food parcels.

As a community we have much to learn from the events of the last three months and as a parish council we are capturing those learnings and will formulate our own contingency plans for the future. Every day we see small steps taking us back to normality and long may that continue, stay safe and well.

FOOD BANK/STUR COVID 19 ACTION GROUP – Val Rubie, parish councillor

The Parish Council is now formally registered as a referrer to the Blandford food bank. This means we can refer anyone in the village who needs this help. In return we have agreed to donate a large bag of potatoes every month. We also offered voluntary help, but currently extra help is not required. Obviously at the moment they are not opening as such but are operating a non-contact service which means they deliver direct to the recipient. The Blandford Food bank gives food to people in crisis. This includes cereals, milk, soup, pasta, meat, fish and vegetables (all tinned) endeavouring to provide balanced and nutritional meals for an approximate 7 days. There is a degree of choice e.g. vegetarian/vegan/celiac etc. Food is donated by Churches, schools and the public and there is also a box for food donations at the Red Barn shop. If you need a referral, please contact the Parish Council. The response from the Food Bank is very efficient and quick. In addition, we have been in touch with the Sturminster Newton Covid 19 Action Group who are willing to include villagers in their scheme. While they also offer food parcels, there is other help they are able to give such as cash vouchers, boxes of cleaning materials, fridges, washing machines, or help with car repairs. Again, please contact the Parish Council if you feel this could be helpful to you.

HB Primary School - David Maughan, parish councillor and school governor

It was upsetting, but inevitable when the school received Government and Local Authority advice that it should close its doors on 23rd of March to all but the children of Key workers. This remained the case until the first of June. In the interim, the staff were providing online teaching as well as learning packs, guidance and assessment. All of these activities had to be created and assembled from a distance as the Staff were largely not present in the school.

In May planning for the reopening of school for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children was started. There was a plethora of advice and guidance which was targeted at schools on a daily basis. This all had to be assimilated and turned into practical measures that the school would be able to implement, in order to keep children, staff and our community safe. I have to applaud the Head Teacher and her team for their tireless work in order to prepare the school for reopening. This not only involved the physical look of the school but required additional PPE, processes and procedures to be compiled and communicated. All the efforts relied on the school being able to demonstrate they were ready, and the parents to feel confident to send their children. Indeed, it was encouraging to be told by one parent that: "My child will definitely be attending. I have absolute faith in the staff at Hazelbury and the measures you plan to put in place to help keep everybody safe."

Following training of staff in the use of PPE from one of our governors, the school opened on the 1st of June to Reception, followed by Year 1 and 6 on subsequent days. I stood in the playground in that first week and was moved to see the delight on the faces of the children as they saw their teachers and friends again – who says that children don't like school! My only regret was, and is, that we couldn't invite children from all year groups back to school. With the current distancing rules and some staff having to shield themselves for various reasons, it is just not possible to have more children in the school.

As I write, we are coming to the third week of reopened and I still see delight on the children's faces. Other year groups continue to receive on line activities etc as before, but we do recognise that this is difficult and isolating for all concerned.

We earnestly hope that in the period between now and the start of the Autumn term we will see a significant relaxation of all the rules. This will allow us to plan for a return to normality and catch up for all who have had their education affected.

Finally, with a total of 40 currently attending (Reception, Y1 & 6 and Key workers' children), out of 95 registered at the school, I take this opportunity on behalf of parents and the community to thank the Head Teacher and staff for their significant efforts to continue the education of our children throughout the pandemic and I look forward to more joyous times ahead.

DOG FOULING AND WASTE BINS – Phil Dimmock, parish councillor

The majority of dog owners in Hazelbury Bryan are responsible and do the right thing when walking their dogs and clearing up any mess, they 'bag and bin' To assist the HB parish council has installed eight 'dog bins' throughout the various hamlets so that dog walkers have a choice to bin their bag nearby or take it home.

Dog bins cost £110 each to install, along with regular emptying costs thereafter. In addition, siting is an important issue as private land owners may not want a dog bin on their property or nearby. All the existing bins are regularly used (not to capacity) so appear well sited, but there still remains a small minority of dog owners/walkers (cont)

(cont) who don't 'bag and bin'. They either bag the faeces and then dump the bag somewhere or simply just walk away, making their dog mess potentially everybody else's problem! Maybe this minority think their dog poop is harmless to health, will degrade and disintegrate, so it's ok to leave on the ground! It's far from harmless. Almost all dogs (especially when puppies) will at some time have Roundworm in their digestive system, the dog's faeces will carry the Roundworm eggs and, whilst initially not infectious, after a couple of weeks or so the eggs become infectious larvae/parasites. These parasites not only contaminate the soil but they cause Toxocariasis in humans, with a greater risk to children as they are more in contact with the ground through play. Maybe this minority think their dog poo is ok for the environment. Not only is it an unsightly mess and a health hazard but it is also an environmental pollutant. When left on the ground dog waste eventually breaks down and washes away into the water supply, polluting rivers and streams. If trodden upon it can be carried anywhere, possibly into our homes. Farm animals have become infected with Neosporosis as a direct result of dog faeces being left on fields, footpaths and farm land, and ultimately being mixed in with silage etc. resulting in culling and loss of their young. Maybe this minority think it's not illegal to leave their dog faeces on the road or pavements, after all it's only what dogs do naturally and they've got to go somewhere! It is definitely illegal. The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 along with subsequent updates makes it a criminal offence for any person in charge of a dog, at the time the dog defecates, who fails to remove the faeces. (Note – this person could be someone other than the owner, such as the walker). On the spot fines of up to £80 can be issued and failure to pay can be dealt with in the local Magistrates Court with fines up to £1000. Dorset Council provide a Dog Warden Service (Google it) which is easily accessed where you can report a dog fouling problem which they can investigate and subsequently issue fines/proceedings. HB is a beautiful village in a wonderful environment. There is no need to leave mess laying around. The HB parish council already spend almost 15% of its discretionary budget (your taxes) emptying the eight existing bins supporting responsible dog owners/walkers. So, to that majority who 'bag and bin', a big thank you. To the minority - Clean up your act! Stop embarrassing your dog! From here on 'bag and bin' and let's all continue staying safe and not spreading disease.

THE KEEP – Ken Huggins, parish councillor

Work has continued to increase the numbers of wildflowers on The Keep field by the allotments, and is beginning to show good results. The main problem has been the dominance of coarse grasses, which out compete other plants. There is now far more variety in the composition of the grasses, and this has allowed other plants to gain a foothold. This spring saw a beautiful explosion of Meadow Buttercup, Pignut and Common Sorrel flowers. Although the grasses are now getting quite tall, if you have a poke around you will find flowering patches of Birdsfoot Trefoil and Knapweed, along with other wildflower species. This was much appreciated by the Gatekeeper butterflies which covered the field recently.

The work this year has included having two of the Dartmoor ponies (Blackberry and Scar Face) from the Alners Gorse butterfly reserve placed on the Keep for a couple of weeks in early spring. Between them they efficiently carried out conservation grazing of the grasses, which provided space and light for the wildflowers to grow. The ponies also provided a liberal supply of manure! This had to be removed to prevent the soil becoming too fertile, as that would favour the grasses over the wildflowers. If conditions allow this autumn it is planned to cut the grass again to provide a crop of hay and help with reducing the soil fertility.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID 19 – Malcolm Wilson. Parish clerk

Emergency legislation has been passed to enable councils to meet remotely using video conference technology such as Zoom, provided the public have access to meetings. Our first one was in June and worked well, and the next meeting is scheduled for 14th July at 8pm. The agenda will be on the web site and notice boards with the meeting ID and password if you want to join. The Annual Parish Meeting has been cancelled for this year. Physical meetings will resume when allowed by Government.

Parish Councillors 2019			
Name	Role	e-mail	Phone
Steve Murcer	Chairman	stevemurcer@talk21.com	817919
David Maughan	Vice Chairman	d_ajmaughan@btinternet.com	817805
Phil Dimmock	Councillor	info@aviationsecurity.co.uk	01344 638666
Ken Huggins	Councillor	kenhuggins@hotmail.co.uk	818223
Sarah Meeks	Councillor	sarah.meeks78@gmail.com	817437
Martin Richards	Councillor	tractorbits@gmail.com	817372
Val Rubie	Councillor	valrubie@btinternet.com	818293
Parish Clerk			
Malcolm Wilson	parishclerk@hazelburybryan.net www.hazelburybryan.com 4 The Orchard, Ibberton, DT11 0EL		817786
Dorset Council Representative			
Pauline Batstone	cllr.p.batstone@btinternet.com		472583