

Clerk's Report  
Monday 10 March 2014

Annual Meeting with the Parishes

The next meeting between members of Chichester District Council and representatives of Parish Councils will be on **Thursday 1 May 2014**. All Parishes are invited to send up to two representatives to the meeting.

Further details, including the topics to be will be notified in due course.

*CDC would also be very interested to know your Council's response to the following questions:*

- 1. What (if anything) do you find useful about these meetings?*
- 2. Is their twice-yearly frequency: too often, too infrequent or about right?*
- 3. Is there anything about these meetings that you would like to see changed?*
- 4. Are there any topics you would like discussed at this next meeting?*

Memorial Seat Request

I have received an email request to place a memorial seat/bench by the Pond. The seat/bench would be provided by the persons making the request, there would be no cost to the Parish Council.

Report from Clerk's Training

We had a very honest account from the Chairman of a Parish Council who has worked very hard to build up an extraordinary working relationship with WSCC. I have extracted below some of his report to the parish last year which I hope highlights the level of activities the Parish are now undertaking with the support of WSCC.

*We have now set up an email register for parishioners for future communications; this way we will be able to get information out to you all quickly and save on having to get everything printed.*

*The Emergency Plan and Winter Plan have been updated and improved. I mention it because we are one of the few Parishes in the region to have a comprehensive plan which is noted by local government. We have now organised snowploughs for the village and the surrounding lanes which, along with the gritter purchased 2 years ago by the PC and operated by the PC, sprang into action with the last significant snowfall we had earlier this year. Our thanks go to Mr S and Mr H for their support. The PC was also able to procure from MSDC and WSCC snow shovels free of charge for the volunteers to use during this snow fall and I am sure many of you saw the benefits of the volunteers working on these occasions and our thanks again go to them. I would also like to thank everyone that came out and offered tea, coffee and most importantly cake to the volunteers as we passed their houses. True village spirit ..... you can't buy that.*

*Speaking of the volunteers, what a huge success story in our village this is, and one that we all should all be proud of. It has proved that we, as a council, have started to open good lines of communication within the parish and that people are prepared to help out in times of need. It has not gone unnoticed at MSDC and WSCC, who have already shown that they are supporting us in this move forward. A and I have now been on a WSCC run course called the Volunteer Development Team and have received the Generic Task Leader Training, enabling us to supervise work carried out around our Parish. The self-help scheme has meant we have been able to get on and get things done without the long wait.*

*WSCC are funding several of our projects, including providing new trees, 2 sets of new hand rails and 10,000 bulbs. The volunteers will be carrying out the work, so that we can all take pride in the appearance of our village. I think at this point I should publicly thank WSCC for all their help in assisting us in moving this project forward. They are as keen as we are in keeping our Parish clean and safe and we hope that this relationship moves forward with continued success. I would also like to thank the café for opening during the snow clearance and offering free drinks and snacks to all the helpers.*

*We have over 50 volunteers now, but there is always room for more if you wish to sign up.*

*We are fortunate to live in a village with one of the lowest reported crime rates in West Sussex, but despite this and after a spate of burglaries from garden sheds, we lobbied for a greater Police presence in the area and I am pleased to say that West Sussex Police responded by increasing their patrols around rural locations and this appears to be working. I would still, however, ask everyone to remain vigilant as self-help is often the most effective form of protection we can have as a community.*

*The café continues to go from strength to strength and is proving to be the centre point for village life. I think it has gone far beyond all expectations in providing a warm, safe and friendly environment for all those who use it.*