

HIGHWAYS – CLLR WOOLES

Surface Treatment was originally expected around late March or early April and was postponed because of Coronavirus.

The work has now been re-scheduled for the week commencing Monday 1 June.

The roads to be treated are:

- Church Lane – from junction with Woodman Lane to Moor Court Lane – closure for 1 day.
- Woodman Lane – from Ham Green to the Stockbridge Road – closure for 1.5 days.
- Watley Lane – from Woodman Lane to Stockbridge Road – closure for 1 day.
- Dean Lane – from Woodman Lane to Salters Lane – closure for 1 day.

My understanding is that the roads will be Closed to through traffic, but will allow local access by residents.

MEMORIAL HALL – CLLR ANNESLEY

- The main problem for the hall at the moment is loss of income. However Roger Young wrote to WCC explaining that we were down about £10,000 in private hirings and WCC paid £10,000 into the hall's bank account.
- The school is not using the hall
- We are pursuing a grant to help with the new AV system we hope to instal with in the year.

PLAYGROUND – CLLR COOPER

The playground has been closed and pad locked since the start of the lockdown. I have a key. As of today there is no clear indication as to a date when it can be re-opened.

- There have obviously been no inspections since the last report.
- We have purchased a new net for the football goal and basket ball hoop. These can be fitted when allowed.
- The upcoming audit has highlighted the fact that we do not have an up to date risk assessment for the playground, although there is on file an old list of things to check during inspections, which to my mind is incomplete. Jill has obtained a copy of the ROSPA recommendations for a playground risk assessment and I propose we use this as a template when able.

COMMUNICATIONS – CLLR LITTLE

- Continued providing assistance to the Sparsholt Community Support Group set up in light of Covid-19 Lockdown with Website, Newsletter and Zoom Meetings.
- The Parish Newsletter will not be printed this month; only limited numbers of Parish Magazines will be printed (for shop, church porch); both will be available electronically on the website with an email sent out containing links to them.
- Zoom subscription in place and meetings being arranged when required. Implemented waiting room for all PC meetings to prevent inappropriate access. Tested various controls eg turning Video off, requesting Video on, turning Audio off and on, putting people into a waiting room and allowing back into meeting as well as removing people from a meeting.

HAM GREEN CONSERVATION GROUP – TERRY DUNN

- The new Government guidelines mean that the HG Group can now be restarted, working in safely distanced pairs, hopefully later this month.
- The Work Day will be discussed with the Group members, to see [who wishes](#) to continue working at HG, in a safe way.

- The quote from Hants Arb for the Tree Condition Survey has been approved to proceed and we are awaiting confirmation of the proposed date.
- We are still awaiting a date from HH/Skanska for the installation of the new tree and rustic bench, won by Cllr Wooles.
- The Group Constitution has been redrafted and signed, ready for review & approval at the Group AGM (see next note).
- Next Group Planning Meeting and AGM was due in April but was postponed and still needs to be addressed.
- A large branch fell from an Ash tree on the edge of the HG car park last week, onto a small car. Only very minor damage was caused and the fallen branch has been cleared. Peter Yeates has inspected the tree and reports that there appear to be no further branches which are likely to fall.

FOOTPATHS – CLLR WAKEFIELD

On the assumption that Hampshire were going to cut the footpaths we asked them to, I had agreed a new contract for the year with Peter Yeates. He has been keeping an eye on the paths, aware that I was not getting out as much as I would like. He had also pointed out the defective steps by the Church. (I will also get him to look at the others - thank you John for pointing these out.).

Thanks are due to public spirited residents who have strimmed some footpaths, and I am hopeful that the owners of the land will keep them up in future.

However, we have just been told that Hampshire has cancelled their contract for cutting footpaths etc this year, and they are looking for suggestions as to how we might be able to help them. I have asked Peter if he has the availability/appetite for the work, and if so how much it will cost. The Council have said that they would like to work in partnership with us to get the best result. It is not clear from their message whether this includes reimbursing us if we incur costs, but we certainly need to understand that before we commit further. They are asking for a response by the end of May, which must mean there is no chance of anything being approved until mid-June. I would welcome any other suggestions as to who might be able to help if we need to find someone.

The work covers five footpaths which need frequent cutting: Path 1 (through the College) - potentially we could ask them to cut it if they go back, Path 5 (across the golf course - could ask them if they could do it), Path 9 (Burrow Road track through West Woods), Path 14 (Ham Green from Dean Lane to Woodman Lane - not sure how much the Volunteers might manage) and Path 15 (Lanham Lane - which wasn't done by the Council last year).

In addition, Peter has pointed out that the hedges on the footpath from the Shop to Locks Lane are unnecessarily wide - he thinks they need at least 500mm taking off the width, preferably more. I haven't yet been out to see which side of house boundaries the hedges are planted, as it would be the owner's responsibility to cut hedges intruding sideways onto a footpath, but it may be that we need to get it done by a contractor to ensure the job is done properly. It will look awful when it is initially done, but the hedges should recover. I guess we will now have to wait until after the bird nesting season, but could plan to do it in the autumn.

SPARSHOLT SHOP – CLLR REID

On the Shop front, all seems to be fine. It has remained open during the lockdown (as has the Post Office) while operating an appropriate social distancing system. It had a very good year in FY 2019, making a profit before fund-raising for the first time in 10 years.

I expect that the lockdown will have a significant impact on its figures for the current FY. Its AGM, which was to take place this month, has been postponed.

SECURITY – CLLR OSMOND

Nothing to report other than people ignoring lockdown and walking wherever they like, Stockers Down/Ham Green has been a particular hotspot for loose dogs and walkers/cyclists.

HIGHWAYS – CLLR WOYLES

Nothing to report.