

Parish NEWS



Allbrook Parish News

Issue 7 / May 2020

Covid 19 – Response

Thank you to the residents who have contacted the Parish Council to aid others during this pandemic. During this crisis, the Council has been liaising with One Community in Eastleigh who have a co-ordinated approach to help those in need. We are also very grateful to those people who have helped out their neighbours with shopping, dog walking, collecting prescriptions and so on.

If you would like to get involved please contact One Community on 023 8090 2400 or email info@1community.org.uk

Highways Update

The Parish Council is in correspondence with the Hampshire County Council to consider the implementation of Highway improvements in the Parish. Officers are currently detailing the work costs for the projects agreed by the Council to be of benefit to our residents. For further details, please see the recent minutes 'February 2020' on our website.

Recreation Areas

The legal process is still proceeding for the Parish to adopt two areas of recreation from the Borough Council. Land to the rear of the bungalows in Allbrook Hill and the Allbrook Recreation Ground.

Parish Council Meetings

The Government passed new legislation to allow Parish and Town Councils to hold virtual meetings online. All 'face to face' meetings are suspended during the pandemic. The Council has been using the Zoom application.

Our first virtual meeting held on 28 April was a great success and we will be holding all of our scheduled meetings online until we are able to resume our normal meetings in the Scout Hut.

If you wish to view or participate in any of our meetings, please contact the Clerk. Please note the agenda and minutes are only posted on our website.

The next Parish Council meetings dates:

Tuesday 23 June

Tuesday 28 July

Tuesday 22 September

‘Thank you’ signs for our NHS and all Key Workers

It gives us a real lift to see all the rainbows and signs of appreciation around our parish. Apologies if yours is not included, but please do keep putting them up!



VJ Day commemoration

In 1945 a ‘street party’ was held in Lovegrove’s field to celebrate VJ day. This field is now known as Allbrook Meadow. Prior to the pandemic the PC were considering hosting an event on the meadow to recreate the celebrations. Perhaps we will be able to celebrate VC day instead – Victory over Covid19.



Local Plan – Latest

The Inspector has now written to the Borough Council with her initial response to the evidence submitted at the Public Enquiry and outlined areas of concern in regard to proposed development. In its current form the plan is not sound and cannot be adopted. She also gave advice and guidance as to how the proposed plan may be modified, be deemed sound and can be enacted. The official response from EBC is now awaited and an initial report is expected by summer. It may be expected that many months will transpire before a final outcome and of course the coronavirus situation is impacting on the time schedule.

The Inspector’s letter, along with all documents relating to the Local Plan is on the EBC Website and residents may also contact the Parish Council for further information.

Allbrook In Bloom 2020

The aim is to encourage residents to take pride in the parish and to acknowledge their efforts.

With the easing of some of the lockdown restrictions and the reopening of garden centres it is expected that Allbrook in Bloom 2020 will go ahead. The categories will be the same as last year: front gardens with, and without a lawn, planted containers or window boxes, and hanging baskets. Restrictions permitting, shortlisting will be done in early July with final judging at the end of July or early August.

Entry is free and automatic for all residents but If you wish to opt out please inform the coordinator, nancy.palmer@allbrook-pc.gov.uk



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Community Building and Allbrook Meadow

Since the appointment of the new Council in 2018, we have been asked through our meetings and general correspondence what the position is regarding a community centre and Allbrook Meadow. Through this newsletter, we have the opportunity to give you some clear factual information that will assist with our future plans.

We have identified an issue where many promises seem to have been circulated about both the meadow and a community centre (possibly by people with no authority to make these promises) prior to May 2018. The current clerk and council can only take responsibility for actions since 2018.

The first piece of advice we can give regarding any assertions made before May 2018 is they are unlikely to be unfounded and may not have any legal basis at all. Here are some common questions that have been raised and our responses:

1. The community was going to be granted either a shop or a community centre by the builder of the Dragonfly Way development.

Answer: The Borough Council received £179k as a “developer contribution” towards a community building. However, no work was done to find the remaining £600 - £800k needed or to prepare plans.

2. The Parish Council would adopt Allbrook Meadow quickly.

Answer: This was ‘assumed’ and no resolution was passed or recorded. For the PC to adopt the meadow a complicated process would have to be followed where the land would be transferred from the developer to Eastleigh Borough Council and then from EBC to the PC. The first stage of this is still being undertaken. Also regarding the second stage, when the current PC took office absolutely no groundwork had been done to allow the PC to even think about such a large undertaking. No work had been done on what budget or resources would be needed. Indeed the PC was too far behind in its own development for this transfer to be a realistic prospect.

3. Access to the meadow would be through the Dragonfly Way development.

Answer: An access point was intended, however there is no easement agreed at the time, so this has to be negotiated almost as though we’re at stage one. Obviously this will make the transfer process much more complicated.

Various promises about how the developer would leave the meadow and how it would be maintained.

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Answer: The way the developer has left the meadow as a natural habitat is sufficient to meet all of its planning agreement obligations. As stated above even the access was not made clear.

Going Forward

To avoid any further confusion, the Council will not be making any promises on any subject at PC meetings without the source being thoroughly vetted. The clerk is the ONLY individual with authority to make statements on behalf of the Parish Council. Any statement from an individual Parish Councillor should be treated as that individual’s opinion.

We have to level with residents. We are not in a position to have Allbrook Meadow transferred to the PC, particularly given the disruption caused by coronavirus. This is too long term an aspiration for it to be responsible for us to frame the community debate as one about the PC taking it over. We can though lobby EBC on your behalf with your aspirations for the meadow - so do tell us what you want to see! We do have to be clear to you though that given EBC still need to sort basics such as access it will be some time before any significant changes occur.

We also have to level with you on the community building. This PC is still at the point in its development where it

is laying groundwork. A community building is a long term commitment albeit one that every councillor is committed to. The positive news is that we have access to £179k of the £800k - £1m required. We are planning to do a feasibility study at some point in the future, to ensure that the type of building required is sustainable and any structure might have to be tailored to meet a certain budget. Currently there are no plans for the rest of the funding and no site within the PC’s ownership. As we move forward though and we tick off more of the fundamental bits of groundwork we needed to start in 2018 and most importantly, we want to engage with residents about this aspiration. Please let us know how important would a community building be to you? Where in the Parish would you like to see it?

Please feel free to get in touch with the Parish Clerk on any of the points raised above. We hope the above clarifies any concerns or issues residents have and we look forward to working with you to achieve the best outcome for the Parish.

Daniel Clarke
(Chairman)



Hampshire based Bereavement Support Charity (1181599)

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We are available 7 days a week and remain open during the coronavirus crisis

info@butterfliesbereavement.co.uk
www.butterfliesbereavement.co.uk

Would you like a paper copy of the Parish News?

Due to Covid 19 we have kept this as an online issue, but if you or a neighbour would like a paper copy please contact the Parish Clerk and we will be very happy to pop one through your door.

Spread some kindness

It was Mental Health Awareness Week last week, with the theme 'Kindness'. To hear some kindness stories or to find out more please visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk

For information on local planning applications, or to find useful links visit our website: www.allbrook-pc.gov.uk

Have your say!

Please email us at the parish council with any ideas you have, and keep in touch by attending our meetings at the Scout Hall in Boyatt Lane.

Please send us your ideas for the next issue by 30/07/20

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