Clerk’s report (January 2024)

Public path diversion order: **footpaths GDY 57 and GKE 38 at The Redlands and Felania**, was made on 19th December 2023. The notice was advertised in The Gloucester Citizen on Thursday 11th January 2024 and notices put up on site on the same day where they shall remain for 28 days. Representations or objections should be made in writing to the Principal Public Rights of Way Officer by 8th February 2024. This diversion has previously been discussed by KPC and was supported.

A reply has been received from GCCllr. Colin Chick, Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure regarding **reciprocal use of recycling centres**. In response to our request for a reciprocal funding agreement between GCC and HCC:

*“The prevention of Gloucestershire residents accessing these facilities is disappointing, but Herefordshire has no obligation to provide these services beyond their administrative boundary. The County Council can certainly see how Kempley residents may benefit from using these recycling facilities but there is little value of an offer for Herefordshire residents using Gloucestershire’s recycling facilities given their location. If we can help Kempley Parish Council to liaise with the appropriate person in Herefordshire for further discussion, we are more than happy to identify the appropriate person for you to approach.”*

Identifying who to contact at HCC has not been a problem, getting a positive outcome remains elusive.

The Parish Council received a **Christmas Card** from Forest of Dean constituency MP Mark Harper.

The **batteries within the defibrillators** sited in the bus shelter on the Village Green and on the wall of The Old Forge, Fishpool have both now been replaced as these were over five years old. The Village Hall defibrillator is scheduled for a new battery in April 2024.

A committee comprising Cllr. Brocklehurst, Cllr. Howson and the clerk met with representatives of **GCC Highways** on 30th November 2023. The notes from this meeting can be found on the KPC website.

The clerk and Cllr. Howson, Finance Lead Councillor, met on 30th November 2023 and completed an **Internal Financial Check**. An action has arisen to ensure that, in accordance with Financial Regulations, both cheque signatories must also initial the relevant invoice and cheque counterfoils. Otherwise everything was in order.

Having been up and running for 6 months, a Stakeholder Report has been produced for the **Daffodil Line bus service**. This includes details on the success of the service and its financial viability going forward. This report has been uploaded to the Parish Council’s website and can be found on the ‘Services’ tab.

A request was sent via the Parish Council’s email distribution list and social media requesting a volunteer to act as **correspondent for the Elizabeth Pyndar’s Trust**. There was one expression of interest that was forwarded for consideration.

Information has been received from Frances Palmer​, Community Builder, about the **Forest Food Forum** to be held on Saturday 20th April 2024:

*I am currently connecting with all Parish Councils across the Forest of Dean District to invite you to the Forest Food Forum. A venue is yet to be confirmed but I am asking each Parish Council to register an expression of interest by return email so that I can forward further information in due course. In the meantime, if you do require more details I will be happy to meet with you to discuss the event in more detail.*

*I have also collated an extensive list of growing/gardening groups, allotments and producers across the District. If you are aware of any of these in your Parish, please can you give me details so that I can ensure I have captured them and that they are also invited to the event.*

A news release received via GAPTC urged reporting of suspected **incidents of poaching** and any sounds of firearms being discharged at night to the police. Forestry England has reported an increase in the number of reported incidents since the clocks went back in October.

Gloucestershire Constabulary has a dedicated team of rural and wildlife crime officers working across the whole force area, and they are keen to work with the local communities to tackle this criminality. Inspector Nick Cook has urged members of the public to come forward to tell police of any incidents so that officers can take the appropriate action.

A Forestry England spokesperson said: *"We are working closely with the police sharing information and intelligence regarding poaching and other illegal activities and helping support anti-poaching patrols.*

*"We encourage the public to report any concerns of suspicious or illegal activity to the police using their 101 number for non-emergencies, or 999 if they suspect an illegal act is in progress."*

If you think a wildlife crime is being committed then you can also contact police by reporting a crime online website: https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/.

You can report wildlife crime anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111 or online <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Karen Rushworth, Risk and Resilience Specialist at Publica (GCC) has been contacted regarding any support available for **resilience planning**. Currently there is nothing specific available but advised of the Gloucestershire LRF website pages on community resilience: <https://www.glosprepared.co.uk/preparing-your-community/>

Gloucestershire LRF is a multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and others who co-ordinate effective and efficient integrated emergency management arrangements within the County of Gloucestershire.

**Dymock Parish Council** has produced a **Neighbourhood Development Plan**. KPC is a Statutory Consultee under Regulation 14 of the Town and Country Planning Act. The consultation period runs from Friday 5th January 2024 until Friday 16th February 2024 (6 weeks). More information can be found at www.dymock-ndp.org.

**Information received from GAPTC:**

Fees Breakdown for 20242/25

• NALC increase of 3% to: £7.94p (increase of 0.23 pence per elector)

• GAPTC matched 3% Increase to: £27.86 (increase of 0.83 pence per elector)

Total: Combined Fee of £35.80 (per elector)

Discount on the GAPTC Subscription Rate applies, as follows:

• If LCAS Held: 5%

• Councils with qualified Clerks: 10%

The fee structure for training fees has been streamlined, setting all training fees at £45. This adjustment comes after a thorough review, marking the first increase in over five years, acknowledging that we haven't reviewed our fees annually, and our commitment to accessibility for all member councils, regardless of size. All online sessions are two-hour, trainer-led courses, maintaining consistent overheads. By standardizing our rates, we aim to not only ensure the sustainability of our services but also enhance the flexibility and scope of offerings. The additional revenue generated will be directly reinvested into expanding and improving our member services. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we strive to provide valuable and accessible training for all. Note that the new rates only apply from 1 April 2024.

**Actions tracker:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Action from meeting held on 20th November 2023** | **Date Set** | **Status** |
| Cllr. Howson to discuss Home Office Safer Streets Fund with the Village Hall Committee. | 20/11/23 |  |
| clerk to check if there are any Planning issues for sensor lighting in Village Hall parking areas | 20/11/23 |  |
| discuss lighting implications with Andrew Middlecote, GCC Highways Manager | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to cancel the extra ordinary meeting scheduled for 22nd November 2023 | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to write to FoDDC requesting information on enforcement action if P1292/23/FUL application is refused. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to send GCCllr. Gill Moseley a copy of the minutes of the meeting when P1292/23/FUL was discussed. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to resend email introducing JBA Associates and describing their role. **(See resilience planning – above)** | 20/11/23 | **Done**  |
| clerk to resend information on the Reintroduction of Pine Martins Project to Cllr. Lewis. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to add new Christmas Tree lights to the Asset Register. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to order three ‘No overnight camping or camper vans’ signs. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| final budget approval to be added to the agenda for resolution at the January meeting. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to inform previous Snow Plough operator that the plough will be collected. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to update GCC Winter Operations Manager of the new arrangements. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to obtain information from GCC Winter Operations Manager, including which roads are priority to keep open. | 20/11/23 | **Emailed**  |
| clerk to email parishioner copying in Cllr. Wood, confirming that obtaining a new sign is the Parish Council’s preference and this is currently being pursued. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to email the Chairman’s briefing paper to GCCllr. Gill Moseley. | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| Cllr Goodwin will discuss agricultural traffic movements with relevant farmers. | 20/11/23 |  |
| discuss agricultural traffic movements with Andrew Middlecote, GCC Highways Manager | 20/11/23 | **Done** |
| **Actions from previous meetings:** | **Date Set** | **Status** |
| Cllr. Goodwin will assess whether the old Christmas Tree lights are repairable and if so, get them PAT tested. | 18/09/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to write to Colin Chick, GCC Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure to request GCC cover the cost of residents using HCC recycling centres. | 18/09/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to identify availability of campervan specific ‘No Overnight Parking’ signage. | 18/09/23 | **Done** |
| Clerk to write again about the C1289 Much Marcle road requesting that resurfacing is reconsidered. | 18/09/23 | **Road to be resurfaced** |
| clerk to send formal letter of thanks to a parishioner for clearing vegetation around fire hydrants and kissing gates and for providing useful information to the GCC Public Rights of Way Team. | 18/09/23 | **Done** |
| Cllr. Brocklehurst to walk GKE 12/14/15 to identify potential sites prior to approaching landowners. | 18/09/23 |  |
| Cllr. Goodwin to explore possible demonstration opportunities for a robotic brush cutter | 18/09/23 | **Done** |
| clerk to obtain tenders for the Village Green maintenance contract for next year. | 10/07/23 | **Done** |
| Chair/clerk to produce a template and populate it for the verges included in the 2008 Licence to Cultivate. | 10/07/23 |  |
| Chair to discuss with volunteers and landowner designs for the new notice board. | 10/07/23 |  |
| clerk to write a letter of thanks to the landowner confirming the new arrangements. | 10/07/23 |  |
| Set up an online Kempley ‘Home Page’ with links to different websites. | 15/05/23 |  |
| Clerk to contact Forestry Commission and fact find about boom access | 20/03/23 |  |
| Update the Kempley Emergency Plan. | 20/03/23 |  |
| Use Parish Online software to record the location of existing and new carbon reduction initiatives identified through planning applications | 21/03/22 |  |