

Chipperfield Parish Council (CPC) Update January 2022

Dear All,

It has been a chaotic year for all of us with the spectre of Covid affecting everyone in some form or another. Let us all hope for a better year to come.

The Council meetings have been as much face-to-face as we have been allowed by the government.

The office has been open in the village hall but opening hours have been affected by the Covid restrictions and the “work from home” directives. Currently we are in a “work from home” phase as directed by the government. The Clerk remains contactable by phone or email as outlined on the parish web site.

CPC have launched a Facebook page as an additional communication tool to supplement entries on the parish website, Chip News and the village noticeboards.

The planning committee continue to meet on a 3 week cycle to discuss applications that affect the village. These meetings (like main council meetings) are open to the public. Comments are raised by applicants, villagers and neighbours and these are considered by the committee. Planning applications are assessed against our Village Design Statement (available as a link on the parish website in the Planning section) and planning regulations. As a statutory consultative Committee comments raised go to Dacorum’s planning group and are considered in DBC’s deliberations.

The council has agreed and initiated a number of actions across the village. Council has awarded a number of grants that support the youth and the fabric of the village and these will be detailed and presented at our Annual Parish Meeting (APM) usually held in May to which you are all invited. The date and venue will be announced in Chip News, the CPC website, CPC’s Facebook page and the village notice boards.

New posts for the car park area around the church and the area on Windmill Hill from the end of the new burial ground through to the car park have been purchased and we are awaiting the contractor’s installation date.

New bins have been purchased to replace the old wooden rubbish/”poo” bins on the common. These should be installed at the same time as the car park posts. These bins are larger in capacity and have joint use (litter and dog waste). There will be an additional bin at the far end of the cricket pitch to hopefully reduce the growing problem of dog poo bags being hung in the trees around the common.

The Apostle’s Pond needs attention and a wildlife/ eco survey has been commissioned in quarter two of 2022 to establish the correct way to deal with the invasive weeds, protect the indigenous species and cost the plan to clear the detritus from the pond. This survey will enable the scheme to be costed and thereafter funding will be required along with Dacorum Borough Council approval to execute this plan.

There is a group within the village separate to the Parish Council, preparing the village festivities around the Queens Anniversary and we are looking to plant some additional trees under the “Queen’s Green Canopy Scheme” to leave a lasting legacy on or around the common.

There have been significant upgrades and maintenance performed on the village clock to ensure it continues to chime on time for many years to come.

There is no definitive news to report on the village Broad Band development to provide fibre to the properties throughout the village. Whilst some properties are already connected in this way there is no published timetable but is believed to be ‘in the near future’. All CPC can recommend is we all keep “checking availability” online using the Openreach checker as the number of “pings” increases the likelihood of activity. There appears to be a significant preparatory activity (from Openreach) at various points around the village so the signs are encouraging.

Our parish warden continues to patrol the village and the Common keeping on top of the litter and dog poo problems as best we can and highlighting general maintenance issues around the village. If you spot anything that needs attention please contact the Parish Clerk who will direct the task to the warden or DBC as appropriate.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy 2022.

K Cassidy Chair CPC