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Churt Parish Council Newsletter May 2021

Annual Meeting - 5th May 2021

Since the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic we have been conducting virtual Parish Council meetings as allowed by emergency legislation. As this legislation expired on 6th May and was not being renewed, we brought our annual meeting forward by 2 weeks to allow it be conducted via Zoom. Future meetings will now be held face to face in the pavilion, but we shall be looking at how to conduct hybrid meetings in the future so that members of the public can join us virtually via technology, something we hope to be able to do in the future.

Council clerk to be honoured

At the start of our annual meeting, it was announced that our clerk, Dawn Barrow is to receive the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey's Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of the way in which she runs Churt Parish Council and in particular during the Covid-19 pandemic. We were joined at the meeting by Deputy Lieutenant Robert Douglas CBE, Chief Executive Officer of the Surrey Association of Local Councils Anne Bott, Surrey County Councillor for Waverley Western Villages David Harmer and our Waverley ward Councillor, Julia Potts. It was a huge honour to be joined by such illustrious company and needless to say Dawn's award is a huge honour both to her, the Council and the Churt Community. The award will be presented soon by Deputy Lieutenant Robert Douglas, himself a Churt resident!

Re-election of Council officers

All officers of the Council were re-elected with no change. That means that myself, David Crossley was re-elected as chairman and Councillor Lisa Martin was re-elected as vice chair. Other positions remained the same as detailed here.

David Crossley - chair of finance committee

Lisa Martin - chair of planning

Myra Johnson - chair of environment

Dominic Raeside - chair of crime and disorder

Eunice Burch - chair of the recreation ground

Litter

It was decided that a date for our next village litter pick would be set at our meeting on 16th June by which time we should know whether all pandemic restrictions will be lifted on 21st June and therefore have a good idea as to how the pick should proceed.

Rubbish bins - Pavilion - Removal of SCOPE bin?

Some time ago we agreed with the charity SCOPE to have one of their clothing recycling bins sited by the pavilion. We considered this to be a good first environmental initiative. Unfortunately, the facility in recent months has been abused and we have suffered from nothing short of fly tipping. We have repeatedly appealed to residents not to regard the area as a rubbish dump and not to leave bags on the ground when the bin is full. Bags have consisted of clothes, computer equipment, scrap metal and general household waste! We have now decided that if the situation does not improve by 1st July we shall reluctantly tell SCOPE to remove the bin. This would be such a shame and a backward step due to the inconsiderate actions of a few.

A Minister for Litter?

We had a more general discussion about litter and that littering should not be happening at its prolific rate. It was agreed that I should write to our Member of Parliament, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt urging him to lobby central Government to mount a hard hitting national anti-litter campaign. I have written to him and received a reply stating that he has already contacted Rebecca Pow MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Defra asking for just that and for the formation of a Minister for Litter. He fully shares our concerns and like me, littering is one of his pet hates!

Environmental matters

Churt's response to the call to pledge one new action to help to restore our Earth as part of our local Earth Day 2021 initiative was undoubtedly led by our pupils at St John's School. Their imaginative drawings of '5 ways I can help our Earth' are featured at <https://www.churtzero.org/earthday-2021-response>. Scouts, Cubs and CHAPS members, as well as other Churt households, pledged a wide spectrum of actions and the list can be seen alongside the children's drawings. If you haven't already done so, it's still not too late to make a pledge of one additional 2021 action that your household can add to its current list of actions to combat climate change and help restore our planet. You will find lots of ideas at <https://www.churtzero.org/household-focus>

Picnic in the Park - A complete village event

This event due to take place on the afternoon of 11th September on the recreation ground is now planned and ready to go! The organising committee very much look forward to you all attending and for old friendships to be renewed and new ones to be made. I am sure, like us, you are all very much looking forward to it.

Pedestrian Crossing - Churt

After extensive lobbying by the Parish Council, we are delighted that Surrey County Council has placed the resurfacing of the pedestrian crossing area outside the shops as top priority during this financial year. It will not be a small job and will require fairly major works. No date has been set yet as specialist equipment will be required.

David Crossley. Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place on Weds 16th June 2021 at 7.30pm. These meetings will take place in the pavilion with full safeguards and precautions in place.