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Churt Parish Council Newsletter June 2021

Back to Normality?

As we creep back to normality we held our first face to face council meeting since March 2020 on Wednesday 16th June 2021. The meeting was held in the main room of the pavilion which enabled us to successfully socially distance. It was great to actually be in the presence of others. I am afraid that we can no longer legally hold virtual meetings as the temporary legislation allowing them expired on 6th May and there is no plan for the government to renew it.

The Future?

Looking to the future, the council resolved to invest in the necessary technology now to allow hybrid meetings to happen. We have recently received a government Covid Start Up grant of over £8,000.00 and considered that spending some on technical future proofing would be a good investment. This technology will allow us to conduct hybrid meetings where members of the public will be able to join us remotely if they wished and councillors too when legislation allows. We have also used the grant to fund the re carpeting of the pavilion.

New Benches

A large curved bench on Redhearn Green was removed recently due to its dilapidated state and another, the Queen Elizabeth bench in the recreation ground near the playground, is also to be removed for similar reasons. It was resolved that both would be replaced and the one on Redhearn Green would be named the Prince Phillip bench and the new one near the playground would continue to be known and renamed as the Queen Elizabeth bench.

Picnic in the Park

Planning for the Picnic in the Park scheduled for Saturday 11th September is now at an advanced stage. We are delighted that the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux will be attending the event along with his wife Sarah. All the music is booked, Churt Club will provide a bar, Meadow Cottage will sell ice cream and don't forget that CHAPS will be holding their autumn show at the village hall in conjunction with this village "party". This is something we really look forward to as it will be the first event involving the entire village for 18 months. Please all keep your fingers crossed that we are close to being freed from Covid restrictions and of course for good weather!

Freedom of the Parish

The Council recently resolved that Councillor John Petty and Mrs Olivia Cotton should be awarded the freedom of the Parish of Churt. This honour is purely symbolic but our way of saying "thank you" to these two very worthy recipients.

John Petty has been a Parish Councillor for many years, firstly with Frensham and then with Churt when it was formed as a Parish Council in its own right in 2003. He was also instrumental as a trustee of the Churt Recreation Ground Trust in overseeing and supervising the building of the current pavilion.

Olivia Cotton authored and published a number of books about Churt and she was largely responsible for the formation of Churt Amateur Dramatic Society. She has been a passionate supporter of all Churt organisations and the Churt community in general. The Lord Lieutenant, Michael More-Molyneux has kindly agreed to present the certificates at our Picnic in the Park.

Litter Pick

It had been our intention to set a date for the next organised village litter pick, but in the light of the postponement of freedom from Covid restrictions we

considered it to be prudent to wait until our next meeting on 28th July when we shall review and if restrictions then allow, set a suitable date.

Environmental News

As always, Councillor Myra Johnson has been hard at work on environmental matters and her report follows:

As part of our Churt Net Zero programme to reduce our carbon emissions and improve biodiversity some new content has been added to the Churt Environment website. It pulls together lots of information sources and video links etc on two topics:

1. **Make Space for Wildflowers** - which can be found at www.churtzero.org/wildflower-space
2. **Gardening for Wildlife** -which can be found at www.churtzero.org/gardening-for-wildlife

To make the website as local as possible we would love to add a gallery of photos of any wildflower spaces that you have created, however large or small, or any aspects of gardening for wildlife in your garden, on a verge, in a field or wherever. Please send any photos to churtenvironment@gmail.com. There is also some content on the website on **Sustainable Gardening** at www.churtzero.org/sustainable-gardening

David Crossley. Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place in the pavilion on Weds 28th July 2021 at 7.30pm