



VERWOOD VISTA

The Town Council Newsletter for *Verwood and Three Legged Cross*

Issue No. 66
MAY 2021

28 Vicarage Road, Verwood, BH31 6DR
Office Hours: 9am - 1pm Monday - Friday

MAYOR'S REPORT

On behalf of myself and Councillor Mrs Pat Morrow I would like to present this Annual Report.

This past year has been an incredibly difficult one where everyone experienced elements of not knowing what was going to happen next and simply giving it the best shot that they could. I would like to thank the office staff, Val, Jan and Micki for their ongoing hard work and adaptability, as well as each and every Member of this Council. Without us all working together and learning new ways of doing things, I do not believe we would have been as successful in dealing with matters as we have been.



With the odd teething problem, as a Council we have embraced home working and embraced zoom. By and large as a result we have managed to continue with Council Business and represent the residents of Verwood and Three Legged Cross to the best of our abilities. All residents who have needed our help have received it, we have continued with our regular meetings and been able to work on individual specific items.

During the last year we have understandably been focused on Covid 19 and as a Council we have been able to support the Verwood Coronavirus Community Support Group. This has been both financially by way of ongoing support funding, and also with members providing anything from envelope stuffing, food parcel preparation and delivery to collection of prescriptions. Our thanks go to the lead co-ordinator Shelley Rose and all the local residents who have given their time in such an impressive effort of support. This support was also provided by Morrisons, the local Verwood Churches and many other businesses and individuals in helping their neighbours and friends. To me it has been an unintended bonus of the pandemic to see how so many people have done their bit and I think this has enhanced the community spirit of Verwood and Three Legged Cross.

Cllr. Mrs Morrow was able to open the new Three Legged Cross Teen Play area at Doorstep Green and Councillor Russell managed to get the first try out of the new equipment. The Amenities Committee have also just recommended for Approval by the Full Council, the replacement of three further play parks at Kiln Way, Crane Close and Ebblake Close. This continues the intention of the Council to replace all of the playparks for the local children. Once completed we will then be looking at replacing Charlotte's Place in Three Legged Cross.

Attendance at events has understandably been restricted over the last year. However, with the power of Zoom and the other video conferencing facilities available, many members have been able to attend events, meetings and training. In some respects, some of the training has now become more accessible as the potentially significant travelling has been removed.

The one important event that we were able to put on was the Remembrance Sunday Service on 8th November 2020 and I also attended with the Town Clerk and socially distanced veterans on 11th November 2020. My thanks go to Steve Saville at Forest FM for his assistance in putting together a full recording of the service which was played over the radio and online, as well as another local resident who made a video recording over which we laid the audio. This was then placed on Facebook so that as many people as possible could experience the service and pay their respects.

One of the main achievements of this difficult year was the completion of the transfer of the lease for the Youth and Community Centre. A considerable amount of hard work has gone into this through the Working Party lead by Cllr. Toni Coombs.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ALLOWING

23rd June – Three Legged Cross
Village Hall

27th July – Verwood Town
Council Office

28th September – Verwood
Town Council Office

Many hours of cleaning, sorting, repairing, policy consideration and other areas have been carried out. A new Youth Worker in Charge was appointed during March.

In the last year we have also completed on the transfer of the toilets at Ferret Green and the land adjacent to the Scout and Guide Hut from Dorset Council. This will ensure the ongoing availability of these assets to the residents. As a Council we have also worked diligently on responding to consultations placed before us, such as the Dorset Local Plan. The website has also been revamped during the year to make it more accessible and our thanks go to those involved in this improvement.

Finally, we have also set up one working party to look at road crossings in the area and another for the upcoming Queens Jubilee.

I would like to finish by again thanking everyone for their hard work during this year and the continued support everyone is providing to each other.

Councillor Matthew Parker

Verwood Town Mayor

LITTER PICKING

The next dates for the litter pick are:

Saturday 29th May at 10.00 am
(Verwood) Meeting at Verwood
Recreation Ground

Saturday 26th June 10.00 am
(Three Legged Cross) Meeting outside
3LX First School

Saturday 31st July at 10.00 am
(Verwood) Meeting at Potterne Park
by the skate park.

All equipment is provided, for further
information please contact Simon
Gibson at cllr.gibson@hotmail.co.uk





Verwood Town Council YEAR END REPORT 2020-2021

AMENITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The year has been unsurprisingly quiet for the Amenities Committee due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In early 2020 the Council took over ownership of the play areas at Kiln Way, Ebblake Close and Crane Close. The Amenities Committee are currently looking at refurbishing these play areas with all new equipment and surfacing.

An additional seat will be added to the new burial area at the Cemetery and Memorial plaques will be available to be placed on the seat. It was decided that the Cemetery charges would remain the same for the coming year 2021/2022.

The Town Sign has been refurbished as the wording and crest had started to come away. There has been little to report from the Allotments. They were, however, given permission at the beginning of last year, to construct a Wildlife Pond. Work on this has not yet started.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance & General Purposes Committee consists of 12 members and normally meets 11 times a year. It is responsible for the finances, administration, and organization of the council and deals with correspondence from other bodies including Dorset Council. We monitor the activity and the performance of the council as well as highway matters.

This last year has been extremely challenging with the restrictions in place due to Covid preventing the committee meeting in its normal face-to-face manner at the Town Council offices. We were forced to wait for relevant legislation to be passed to allow for virtual meetings to take place over Zoom and then adapt our meetings and practices to enable our meetings to proceed in the normal professional manner that they are conducted.

Despite these challenges we have continued to deliver a busy program of support and change during the year for the local community which has included:

- A working group, reporting into the F&GP committee has done a fantastic job in progressing the project to take over the Youth & Community Centre adjacent to Emmanuel School and the lease has now been transferred to Verwood Town Council. General refurbishment and upgrade to facilities has now been completed. The first working groups with vulnerable youths have already taken place and a newly appointed Youth Worker has taken over the running of this fantastic facility. This is a hugely exciting project designed to give improved facilities for local youths and the general community.
- We set up a fund to support the fantastic work of the Verwood Community Support group who have done an incredible job over the last year in supporting vulnerable residents in the community who have been forced to shield from Coronavirus.
- We have responded to numerous consultations including standards in public life and looked at new policies with regard to media.
- We have allocated Grant Aid to numerous organizations this year, which is particularly relevant, as some have seriously struggled with their finances due to the pandemic.

The committee continue to monitor the finances of the council to ensure good governance and control of our spending on projects that support the needs of our residents as well as setting an appropriate budget for future spending. The finances of Verwood & Three Legged Cross remain in a healthy position for the future.

I would like to thank all of the members of the committee and its working groups for their hard work over the last 12 months in what has been a truly challenging year, as well as thank our tremendous team of Val, Jan and Michaela who not only support

our work but also support every resident in the Parish through the Town Council channels.

Cllr. Mark Thorpe - Chairman

PLANS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Despite all of the impediments that have made it difficult to function this last year and the conversion to virtual meetings rather than personal ones, this committee has still managed to hear 116 Applications and in line with its ethos to allow as many applications through as possible, we have only objected to 12.

We have had a number of members of the public sit in on our online meetings and have done our best to keep business moving along without unnecessary fuss or complication wherever we can. In general terms, we meet every three weeks which enables us to comply with the statutory time limits planning applications require.

As I do every year, I would like to make it clear to anyone reading this report, that we are a purely consultative committee, and whilst we can object to an application, we cannot approve it, or reject it. That is left in the hands of the local planning authority for the region, and whilst we can be as influential as possible, we have no statutory powers as such to intervene in a meaningful manner. If you want to be more familiar with how we consider applications that come before us, I suggest you read national planning policy HE2, which contains all of the items that we must consider for each application and lays the foundation for us to object if we do not feel that the policy is being adhered to.

Please also understand that, as a result, if we do not object to an application, it does not automatically mean that we approve it. All it does mean is that we have not found reasons under policy HE2 to be able to object to it.

Those of you who wish to object to an application, must do so to the planning authority, although you may copy your objection to us, so that we can see your concerns.

As always, I would like to express the appreciation of this committee for the hard work and effort put in by our Town Clerk, Val Bright, and her assistants, Jan and Michaela.

Cllr. Martyn R Hudson - Chairman

VERWOOD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Over the last year, Verwood Town Council has been working to re-open the Verwood Youth and Community Centre. Now, in line with COVID restrictions, it has opened its doors to a limited



number of young people. Sessions are available for both Seniors (14+) and Juniors (currently only year 8).

On Wednesday 5th May we had a visit from SPARC-DW Fire and Rescue, who did some work with the young people around fire safety, the dangers of arson and what it takes to be a fire fighter. The young people were also given a tour of the fire truck and had a go using the fire trucks hose!

As lockdown is lifted, there will be more opportunities for young people to get involved with the Youth Club. To find out what is available please email **Emma the Youth Worker** at: youthworker@verwood.gov.uk or call: **07763713248**.

Additionally, Verwood Youth and Community Centre is now available to hire by the residents of Verwood, community clubs/groups and commercial groups. We have already taken some bookings for this summer and autumn.

To enquire about Verwood Youth and Community Centre lettings please email: youthandcommunitycentre@verwood.gov.uk. For information on Youth Socials please see: **Facebook @verwoodycc** or **Instagram: youth_centre_verwood**.

Verwoodians on Waste are committed to encouraging shoppers to reduce their purchasing of packaging.



They suggest choosing plastic or waste free options in the first instance but if this is not possible, the recycling bins for PLASTICS only at Potter's Wheel Car Park and Cedar Vets provide a responsible means for the disposal of food wrappers, cosmetics containers, empty ink jet cartridges, empty biro's and much, much more.

DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

Dorset residents can once again get face-to-face advice on any digital queries such as setting up and using devices including phones, tablets and PCs. Digital Champions have started to return to Dorset libraries to help people who are struggling to get online.

Meanwhile the **Dorset Digital Hotline** is available on **01305 221048** from 10.00 to 12.00 weekdays for technological support.



VERWOOD COMMUNITY GROUP

The Verwood Community Group meet on the last Thursday of every month at the Heathland Heritage Centre from 2pm until 4pm. The club is open to all ladies and gents aged 60+.

Different activities and excursions are arranged so do come along for a general get together and to meet new friends!



VERWOOD POLICE REPORT

As we follow the government's roadmap gently out of lockdown and the weather improves, we as a force, have geared up and are ready to meet the demands that this summer will bring. On a local level, patrols actively continue and we are, as ever, working with the community to keep Verwood a safe and pleasant town to live and work in.

PCSO Albert PEPPER is thoroughly enjoying helping to police Verwood and the surrounding rural areas, if you see him on his bicycle or on foot, please feel free to ask any questions.

Covid-19 - With restrictions easing, the pressure on our Neighbourhood Policing Team has gradually reduced and there has been a considerable reduction in the number of breaches being reported. It has been brilliant to see some of our local businesses returning after lockdown. We must, however, continue to be vigilant and to socially distance in areas such as the recreation ground which will continue to get busy. If you are unsure on the regulations, then please visit this link online which answers Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.dorset.police.uk/covid19faq>

Recent Fires - As a team we are working closely with Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service to improve our preventative measures and reaction to heath fires and potential arson. We would like to reassure you that we are patrolling areas such as St. Stephen's by bike, foot and vehicle as much as possible.

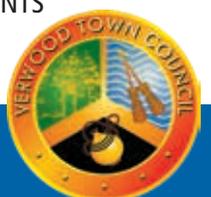
Anti- Social Behaviour - As some will be aware from recent social media posts, alcohol has recently been confiscated in the recreation ground which is a non-drinking zone. More recently, the same group of people were asked to turn their music off and they complied. Officers are patrolling the centre of town as late into the night as possible.

Scams - Please be aware of scam text messages telling you that you have missed a package delivery. If you click on the link to arrange or track delivery you can install spyware which harvests your personal information such as passwords. This 'FluBot' seems to be currently infecting Android phones in particular. The link often includes the name of a well-known delivery agent, such as DHL and Royal Mail.

Report to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

Our very best wishes and please stay safe

PS 1451 Jane MOORE, PC 1292 Andy ROBERTSON and PCSO Albert PEPPER. Also PC 2238 Tom CLEMENTS and PCSO Andy FLANAGAN, who covers Rural East Dorset



PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022
 To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the May Bank Holiday Weekend will extend over 4 days from Thursday 2 June.
 Watch this space for details of Verwood events!

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Dewlands North Ward

Cllr Mrs L J Clark
 01202 822275

Cllr Mr M Hudson
 01202 974654

Dewlands South Ward

Cllr Mrs S Bhowe
 07812 569974

Cllr Mrs T B Coombs
 01202 827376

Cllr Mr S G Flower
 01202 821231

Cllr Mrs S Grove
 01202 826449

Cllr Mr P Mann
 01202 820866

Cllr Mrs S Rose
 07855 201532

Cllr Miss K Stephens
 01202 940456

Cllr Mr M D Thorpe
 07483 213309

Stephens Castle Ward

Cllr Mr A Biggs
 01202 821186

Cllr Mrs L Dedden
 01202 824473

Cllr Mr S Gibson (Deputy Mayor)
 01202 820822

Cllr Mrs P Morrow
 01202 814733

Cllr Mr M Parker (Mayor)
 07703 342039

Cllr Miss B J Salmon
 07867 334841

Three Legged Cross

Cllr Ms J Russell
 01202 822236



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SUMMER REUNION

A new event is being launched for people living on their own.

As restrictions ease and we continue to return to normal, now is the time for people to come together and meet each other once again. An afternoon tea is being held at the Verwood Hub on Saturday 24th July at 2.30pm.

The event is organised by the team that runs the Community Christmas Lunch, which was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. The event is called **Community Christmas: Summer Reunion**. There is no charge for attending the event but places are limited so sign up early to avoid disappointment.

The event will have fun entertainment, good food plus great company and is designed for those who have been living alone or have felt isolated during the pandemic... all ages welcome.

To apply for a place, telephone Verwood Town Council offices 01202 820880 or contact our co-ordinator Pat 01202 814733 or email Simon on communitychristmasverwood@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you there!

NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION

At midday on Tuesday 23rd March 2021, the Mayor, Councillor M Parker and the Town Clerk, Mrs V Bright observed a minute of silence to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown and to remember the victims of the COVID pandemic.



VERWOOD HUB COMMUNITY & LEISURE

For up-to-date information and to book tickets please contact Verwood Hub



Email: verwoodhub@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01202 828740



HEATHLAND FIRE SAFETY

During the dry summer season Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue recommend the following steps which can be taken to avoid starting a wildfire:

- Avoid open fires in the countryside. If you must have a fire, make sure that you are in a designated safe area.
- Put out cigarettes and other smoking materials properly before you leave your vehicle.
- Do not throw cigarette ends out of your vehicle as they could start a fire and destroy surrounding countryside.
- If you see a fire in the countryside, report it immediately. Do not tackle a fire yourself, unless it can be put out with a bucket of water. Please call the fire service and leave the area as soon as possible.
- Ensure that you know your location or a landmark so you can direct the fire service.



Moors Valley Country park and forest

Moors Valley still have a reduced capacity in the car park in order to safely manage visitor numbers as they move through the roadmap of restrictions. This means that during weekends and school holidays the car park is temporarily closed once capacity is reached. It is hoped that a programme of events can start again in the future.

www.moors-valley.co.uk