



Chair's Monthly Newsletter – December 2022

Whilst the weather was unseasonably mild last month - good news amidst rising energy costs - the country, particularly southern areas, faced unprecedented rainfall. This brought with it the misery of flooding for several residents and was further exacerbated by a burst water main on the A29, to which Portsmouth Water thankfully provided a very timely and efficient response.

Special thanks to those who assisted with the flood response including local residents and also Martin, Chair of the Sports Association, and his partner Veronique, who very kindly co-ordinated the distribution of sand bags. These are no longer provided by District or County Councils so we have purchased a stock to be 'flood ready' as heavy rainfalls seem set to become the norm. We are also exploring what more the Parish Council might do as part of its 'What If' resilience plan.

We are continuing to work with WSCC on jetting of the gullies in Reynolds Lane as a short-term measure and also in establishing what the longer term plans are to increase the drainage capacity along Reynolds Lane. Balfour Beatty did some investigative work earlier this year, although, unfortunately, it is outside the scope of Operation Watershed or we would be applying this year for further grant funding. We are hoping to use the residue of the current award towards improvements to the ditches in the field into which the pond drains and are waiting for a decision from WSCC. The possibility of a new pond island has also been progressed.

By the time you read this update, the Parish Council plans to have set its precept for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, details of which will be published both in the meeting minutes and also under Financial Information on our website. It is worth remembering that the precept is the only part of a resident's council tax bill, which will be spent almost exclusively for the benefit of the parish, save for a few, small charitable donations such as that for the Poppy Appeal. We continue to work hard to access grants and our application for an award to rejuvenate the ageing play park is now being considered by the National Lottery team alongside a request to Arun District Council for financial support through their Capital Play Parks' scheme.

The A27 Arundel bypass consultation runs until December 16th and our response will also appear on the Parish Council website in our meeting minutes, along with that for the consultation by the Boundary Commission England on planned changes to ensure that parliamentary seats have a comparable number of electors.

So, all that remains now is for me to send season's greetings and all best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

Jan Rees, Chair, on behalf of Slindon Parish Council