

Dunkeswell Annual Parish Meeting, held at The Village Hall on Monday 15th May 2023, 7.30pm

In attendance: All members of the Parish Council, clerk, County Councillor and 6 members of the community.

Apologies: Cllr Yehudi Levine

The Parish Council Chairman Cllr John Barrow, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for 2022/23, held in May 2022 were agreed as a correct record of this meeting and approved & signed.

The Parish Year 2022 - 2023

Fencing in the New Century park was replaced adjacent to the surgery, to prevent children accessing the bank and noise/playing interfering with surgery business. This appears to have successfully remedied this issue. It was agreed at the beginning of the year that further fencing would be ordered to complete the run of fencing behind the shop complex and to also extend it along to the bungalow. This will be completed at some point this year.

The Council are hoping that the issues experienced over the last 6 months with damage and fires has ceased and should there be further issues arise other options will be considered at that time.

The trees planted at the Football field are growing amazingly well with only a few losses and the Council were delighted that those that had been protected with cardboard protectors that had stunted the growth, have recovered and sprouted new growth.

Pre-school now have part of the MUGA/sportsfield as an allotment/garden and work to set this up is progressing. If anyone is willing to help please contact the pre-school, it will be appreciated.

In June 2022 we celebrated the Queens Platinum jubilee, marked with a Jubilee Platter lunch at the Village Hall and a Jubilee Service at the Church.

In September the sad news that her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away was received, books of condolence were signed and Church Services of held.

The Coming year...

- Plans to re fence the carpark side entrance and fencing are in progress with materials having been received. This will provide fencing and a new gate up to the bungalow on the carpark side.
- New roofs are planned for both shelters in the NCP and MUGA, however the council are considering not using a wooden replacement but using alternative materials such as plastic coated metal.
- Fencing in the MUGA/Sportsfield to be replaced from the wooded area down to the new building site. This will be done once the development has finished.

A few thank you's...

To thank Mike Reene for keeping our parks and other areas looking lovely,

To Ollie Starr for helping with various tasks such as park equipment cleaning, graffiti removal and repairs.

To all the Councillors (and Cllr's wives) who took on/have taken on, various tasks throughout the year.

To Kerri Winter , who hasn't stood for Council this time around, for all her input help and support over the last 8 years.

To David Key, who stood down as District Councillor at the Local Election for all his help and support over the years.

Comments in response to The Parish Year & Open Session

Football Field - Children playing in the football field have caused a nuisance with music, bad language and kicking a ball against the portacabins. It was acknowledged that not all the children who have been using the field, cause issues but the issues arise regularly and are occurring in the lighter evenings and at weekends.

This was an issue last year that was solved following a meeting with the club, the Council will write to the club and ask to meet them and try to resolve the issues.

It was also mentioned that children need a place to go and a meeting, including them, to ensure they are aware of what is acceptable might be a good way forward. Clerk to draft a letter to the club and arrange a meeting.

Bluebell Road/Powells Way - cars parked along Powells way on both sides obscuring the view when vehicles pull out from Bluebell Road. Reports of an accident. Also reports of speeding cars. Council to ask the PCSO for help & support to try and resolve this.

A Candidate in the Local Elections had told a resident that a development was planned in the field behind Waldren Road/Le Marchant Close. Council believe this is incorrect and have no knowledge of anything planned here, in addition to this, the field is owned by a local farmer and it was confirmed there are no plans to develop this field. There is/was a plan for a development on the old Football field as part of the EDDC Local Plan, which currently is on hold, so it is believed that the candidate was probably mistaken about the location.

Report from County Councillor Iain Chubb

Cllr Chubb explained the area he covers for Whimble & Blackdown. He updated the meeting with regards to the new Chief Executive for Devon County Council; Donna Manson who commenced with Devon County Council in February.

Potholes!! Please keep reporting potholes online at
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

Other issues such as faulty street lighting, blocked drains, fallen trees, trip hazards and other things can be reported at
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Windgate Hill - The bottom half the road is in the system to be done in this financial year.

Reports received from organisations

Thank you to all that attended the meeting and read out their organisation's reports...

Dunkeswell Pre-school

The team at Dunkeswell pre-school continue to provide education for 2 year olds to School age. We can go onto 20 children per session, depending on the ages of the children.

Last September we made the decision, due to staff shortages the industry, to only have three members of staff for each session. This means we can take 8 x 2yr olds and 8 x 3yr olds, 16 per session or 16 x 3 yr olds and 4 x 2 yr olds 20 per session. This alters depending on demand.

We try to accommodate working parents with 8 o'clock start and 4 o'clock finishing, however. The demand is not there to make this service pay, so have shortened the day to 3 o'clock and only open at 8am on three mornings.

Since Covid, we have struggled to find Volunteers to take on the trustee's positions and fundraising Volunteers, however we are determined as a team to try different avenues to get people interested and passionate about our pre-school, our children, our future adults. All the staff work extremely hard and are very proud of what we achieve.

We have just had Lawrence Quinn join us as a trustee, we are very grateful to him for giving up his time and business knowledge to help us through difficult economic times. Debbie (chair) Sharon (treasurer) and Gemma (secretary) will be over the moon to have some help as it is a massive job with just the three of them. Thank you, all four of you for joining in our passion to help run our community pre-school.

We do strongly believe we have a lovely setting (thanks to JC holdings for supporting this). And beautiful surroundings we constantly go out walking around the park or walking around the state looking at the environment, taking about numbers and letters we see, stopping for a chat to people in our community. We now have the allotment (thanks to the Parish Council for all the support they have given us with this project) we were amazed what we were able to grow last year, and sold on our stall, potatoes, peas, courgettes & sprouts, and the support from the community has been amazing either giving us plants, cutting plants on our stall, buying products from our stall, we can't thank you enough.

We continue to want to improve our provision, we had a date set for parents to go to the allotments to help complete some jobs, we would like to have a shelter and a portable toilet there at some point.

I hope that this has given some insight into what we do and what we would like to do. Most importantly thank you from the bottom of hearts for all the support our community continues to give us., without you all we could not run.

Best wishes from everyone at Dunkeswell Pre-School

If you are able to offer any help with setting up and maintaining the allotment for Pre school Allotment or volunteering as a fundraiser, please contact them at helendunkeswellpreschool@gmail.com

Dunkeswell Youth Club

DUNKESWELL YOUTH CLUB 2022-2023

Once again, we'd like to thank all of you for all your support since 2003, twenty years with your support has been truly appreciated. Through all your financial support you have enabled us to continue delivering a service to our young people. We have Membership forms for 78 young people and see around 30 on a regular Youth Club night.

Currently our voluntary youth leaders are Michelle, Paul, James, Emma, Ben and myself. We are fortunate to have some young volunteers supporting our work too and some parents who help supervise trips.

Since your last AGM we have been delivering a busy youth schedule ...

We brought forward our Annual BBQ, usually held the end of the summer term, so linking it with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June, we partied in the park! Alongside the bouncy castle, and games, we had a BBQ for families and friends with an excellent turn out. The rain held off, which was a relief!

In August Three Youth Leaders took twelve young people to the Wildside Experience Camping, which delivered an excellent programme including archery, which was a first for most of us.

In September thirty of us went to Forest Glade, camping and swimming.

Fifty-four of us went to Flip Out trampolining in Wellington, which is always a popular trip.

Professor Bumble came to Youth Club delivering a Circus Skills session, enjoyed by everyone.

The Christmas Party catered for eighty plus and was absolutely buzzing. Coordinating with Kerri and Julie switching on the Christmas Lights and organising Father Christmas to come up the hill on his sleigh ... the evening was topped off with a disco. Community at it's best.

Our last session of 2022 saw us finishing off party food!

Food has been quite a feature this last year. Being conscious of the cost-of-living crisis we have tried to do our bit by serving free food at Youth Club. Michelle has been cooking Pasta dishes, beans on toast, cheese on toast and the like. We feel this is much needed. Space youth services have helped with food donations once they knew what we are doing.

The excitement of the new year was our trip to Luppitt panto. Usually bi-annually, Covid forced cancelled shows, so this was our first trip there for a few years. Thirty-five of us enjoyed a great night out. Crudge Coaches have been amazing, and we are grateful for their support with our trips.

We have recently cut back on the hours for youth club, partly due to an increase in hall rental costs but also to prepare for a more manageable workload for future youth leaders. As I plan to retire

from my day job, being 66 in September, I also feel after twenty years that it is time to allow others to enjoy working with Dunkeswell's young people as I have done. With this in mind, I intend stepping down from the Committee and from being the Chair. Having applied for funding through Space youth services, for a paid youth leader, I hope this will make a transition smoother as the dynamics will change. Of course I'll still help where I'm needed as the last thing I would want is for our youth club to close.

We have applied for a grant from yourselves to cover our rent for the year and will be very grateful if you will consider supporting us in this way.

As this will probably be my last annual report to you, I'd like to personally thank the Parish Council for enabling the young people of Dunkeswell to have their club. And thank you all for the pleasure the Youth Club has given me

BLACKDOWN SUPPORT GROUP

REPORT FOR THE DUNKESWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Attended by Gillian Girling on behalf of the Trustees of the Charity

Apologies from Elizabeth McNabb, Manager

Office contact details:

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01823 681 036

Blackdown Support Group is a local registered charity, established in 1991. We have an office at the Blackdown Practice in Hemyock and work very closely with the GPs and the Practice team across the three sites at Churchinford, Hemyock and Dunkeswell, and with residents from across the Blackdown Hills.

The services we operate are as follows:

- Community transport service to health, wellbeing, and social appointments
- Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle hire
- Wheelchair loans
- Prescription and shopping delivery for the housebound
- Social groups such as low-cost lunches, coffee mornings and afternoon teas
- Volunteer social visiting service
- Shopping trips
- Bereavement support - one to one and group services
- Sitting service for carer respite
- Form filling and benefits advice/signposting
- Low-cost toenail cutting service
- Advice and Guidance – helping people to navigate and connect with other sources of support

We currently have 64 dedicated volunteers, many of whom perform multiple roles. We are always looking for new volunteers and try to provide a range of volunteering options which can be flexible and fit around other commitments. There are many benefits to volunteering including gaining new skills, making new friends and connecting with others. There are also proven benefits to mental and physical health from giving something back

to your community in this way, so do get in touch with us if you would like to find out more.

Our transport service is the most well used with volunteers completing 35-40 trips every week using their own cars, across the Blackdown Hills area. In addition to this we are able to transport less mobile passengers in our wheelchair accessible vehicle ensuring they are able to access important social and medical services. We are currently supporting 215 clients in the Parish of Dunkeswell with transport services.

Our small office team of 4 staff members co-ordinate these volunteer services as well as providing one to one advice for people who may not have friends or family able to support them locally.

As an addition to our popular coffee morning, we also successfully re-launched a Dunkeswell lunch club this year which has not been running since services ceased due the pandemic. Thanks to our fantastic volunteer Jean Howard who came forward to lead a team of cooks who prepare and serve a delicious 2 course lunch on the second Tuesday of every month at Throgmorton Hall. The lunch costs £6.50 and is an opportunity to meet and make friends as well as enjoying a meal together. Please let us know if you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping or attending. Booking is essential for lunch, we usually host up to 25 people.

Our coffee morning takes place on the 4th Wednesday every month 10.30am at Throgmorton Hall – there is no need to book, just come along, we regularly have 15-20 attendees, this is lead by myself along with a few regular helpers from the community and is a really enjoyable event.

Transport can be arranged for both the lunch or coffee morning so if getting there is an issue, just let us know.

The Blackdown Support Group started as a collaboration between our local GP Practice and volunteers from the community and our relationship with the Practice is as strong as ever. We are once again providing volunteer support for upcoming Covid vaccine clinics in the next few weeks. We also continue to operate a prescription delivery for anyone who is housebound.

Our bereavement, toenail cutting, sitting and befriending services are also popular. Please contact the office for more information.

We are in the process of reviewing our services post-Covid and would like to be able to offer mental health peer support and one to one dementia services in the future as we feel these are areas of significant need at a local and regional level.

If you would like to get involved, or if you or someone you know need help or advice, or if you would like to chat to us about a particular service, please contact the office team on 01823 681 036, email d-icb.bsgadmin@nhs.net or complete the contact form on our website <https://blackdownsupportgroup.org.uk/contact/>

The Ladybirds, Dunkeswell

I am uncertain as to whether anyone from The Ladybirds is able to attend the Annual meeting on 15th May and I therefore tender this report in our absence.

I wrote on 22nd November 2022 and thanked the members of The Parish Council for their generous grant of £100 which was very much appreciated by the committee and members.

I felt you should know what the money has helped us to do to help The Ladybirds. As with everybody, individuals, clubs and businesses we are all experiencing financial pressures. The fees for the hall we use, The Throgmorton Hall takes a great deal of the subscriptions we ask of our members as does the payment of insurance. Your grant has enabled us to keep the rise in subscriptions lower than it would have been. We know we could move to the Village Hall but the vote of our members, most of whom live at the top of the village, is that we meet at Throgmorton Hall as many of our members are now unable to drive and therefore it is much more convenient.

We have been able to host an Afternoon Tea in aid of The Blackdown Support Group to which we made a donation of £500, money raised from various fund-raising events throughout the last two years and since then have been able to host a Mini Spring Fair in aid of our new Charity, the Dunkeswell Pre-School. These events could not have happened without the support of our members and the location of the venue.

These are just a couple of things that have been happening with The Ladybirds and we hope that we will encourage new members to come along and help us. Our programme of events gives the ladies of Dunkeswell lots to look forward to, coming together and meeting up with old friends and new.

Joyce Steatham

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Secretary

For and on behalf of The Committee and Members of The Ladybirds