Clerks Report

DECEMBER 2020 / EARLY JANUARY 2021

1. FOOTBALL REVIEW

All community grass roots sports are not permitted during the third lockdown, announced on 4th January 2021 and ratified by parliament on 6th January 2021.

2. PARISH COUNCIL REFUSE DISPOSAL

The new contract with Binit commenced 15th January 2021 (date of first collection) for an initial contract period of 6 months. The bin was delivered on 6th January 2021 and will run concurrently with the last quarter of the existing contract with EDDC.

3. ROUTINE MAINTENANCE REPORT

Pothole repairs were carried out in the Westwood, Ashclyst, and Columbjohn areas. Repairs are done using approved cold pothole repair materials; this is the worst season for water and freeze/thaw damage to road surfaces. Chapter 8 re-training that expired during lockdown will take place on 27th January 2021 (permitted to take place during lockdown under Covid secure measures). Potholes failing the risk assessment for safety of our operatives have been referred to DCC Highways for repair under TM.

The toilets in the Pavilions have been painted.

Broken and damaged fence posts on the fence between the Allotments and the BMX area have been replaced. The Council now has an account with Mole Valley Farmers for tools, equipment, and timber; the account gives a small discount on purchases.

Action: For Council to ratify the opening of the account (credit limit £1,000; authorised users Clerk and both maintenance staff only, with password) and to resolve that Mole Valley be added to the list of Council preferred suppliers (reasons: availability and range of good quality products, discount, location.

Footpaths

The annual P3 surveys need to be returned next month, and with over 17km of footpaths please could everyone volunteer to walk some.

Road planings have been laid in gateways that are badly poached from winter rain.

Christmas tree recycling

EDDC used the Pavilions car park for the annual tree recycling. This was to offer better protection for public and operatives whilst vehicles and machinery are in use. It took place on Thursday 7th January, later than advertised due to staff shortages. The chippings were used locally as ground cover in wet areas at the food bank and in footpath farm gateways.

4. Flooding report

The prolonged period of heavy rain and storms in the lead-up to Christmas saw the fords flood twice, with more frequent flooding at Burrow and Columbjohn. The Chairman, Council staff and community flood wardens managed road closures and warning signage as needed before and during the festive period.

A call from a member of public at Westwood on 18th December 2020 required a visit from Matt and Natasha to clear a blocked culvert, the overspill from which was threatening to flood property.

5. Lockdown January 2021

A staff meeting was held on 5th January to plan the Councils operational response to the third lockdown. A summary was circulated to Chair, Vice Chair and Staffing Chair later the same day for agreement.

List of legislation referred to when writing this report and the operational response plan:

www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/closing-certain-businesses-and-venues-in-england

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19

i. Risk Assessments: the following RA's and policies/procedures were reviewed on 06.01.2021 to ensure compliance with updated legislation: Council workplace RA; Coronavirus staff policy; lone worker; homeworking RA; Covid-19 prevention advice; daily cleaning checklist; daily management checklist, contractor / maintenance warning poster.

ii. The Pavilions has been closed to all except those groups that meet permitted exceptions (i.e. education). The home school group has elected not to meet face-to-face during the current lockdown.

iii. The outdoor gym and tennis courts were closed in accordance with legislation on 05.01.2021; the play area can remain open. BMX is an extreme sport so is not advised although it does not seem to be specifically mentioned in legislation.

iv. The public toilets remain open, with an additional midday clean.

BROADCLYST FOOD BANK
How to get support:

For Emergency food parcel vouchers call 01395 517446 or email benefits@eastdevon.gov.uk You can also call Citizens Advice Devon on 03444 111444.
To contact the Broadclyst Food Bank, call 01392 360269 or email support@broadclyst.org

1. The referrals are now done by East Devon District Council or Citizens Advice. These organisations are well-placed to ensure clients are in receipt of all benefits for which they qualify, as well as giving advice on budgeting, arranging better utilities rates, and signposting for other help as necessary. The Broadclyst Food Bank continues to carry a stock of emergency food parcels and has fulfilled e-vouchers over Christmas and in January that have been issued to residents by EDDC or CAB.

2. To continue to minimise food waste and supplement the dietary intake of families on low income, the fresh food collections continue from: Co-Op 7 mornings a week; Tesco Tiverton and Cullompton Friday and Saturday nights; Tesco at Exe Vale on a Wednesday night; Waitrose Sidmouth occasional bonus collections. These collections continued right throughout the festive period, as did deliveries of fresh produce and frozen bread/pastries. Thanks are due to our volunteers for their dedication right throughout the festive period and into the third lockdown.

   Recipients report that it helps their reduced budgets go further and is setting a new direction for the Broadclyst Food Bank; this is important for households who don't quite qualify for food parcels yet have a very small weekly budget for food. We see a poverty gap occurring more and more as reduced hours / furlough continues; there is a gap between being poor enough to qualify to receive hardship payments / emergency food bank parcels, but not actually having enough money left to feed a family with whilst keeping a roof over the head and bills paid. Reflecting on the last 2 months, we are seeing less demand for emergency food parcels as benefits have caught up and are now rolling out, but an increased need for the top-up of bread and fresh produce that makes all the difference between hungry kids and not.

   Recommendation: to explore expanding this side of the operation to a) primarily feed people but also b) to minimise good quality food going for animal feed.

3. Food bank working and distribution practices have been reviewed to ensure continued compliance with social distancing and other preventative measures (i.e. PPE, cleaning schedule).

4. Christmas: each household received a hamper containing enough food for Christmas dinner and each child received presents that were donated by the community and Exeter Baby Bank. Christmas food was boosted by generous donations of organic class 2 produce of potatoes, parsnips, carrots, beetroot, broccoli, cauliflower, leeks, and savoy cabbage, thanks to local farmers.
   On Christmas Eve, each child was given a sausage and chip supper FOC courtesy of "The Chippy" in Willand, coordinated by the same member of public who set up the Amazon gift list. Huge thanks to him for going that extra mile to make Christmas far better than it might have been otherwise. We topped up the children's meals using a private donation to buy adults a supper too, so that families could eat together on Christmas Eve. Our logistics team was so efficient we were sure we spotted Rudolph taking lessons from us as we delivered them!

This concludes my report to Council. Angie Hurren, Broadclyst Parish Clerk, 6th January 2021

Broadclyst Christmas 2020 Donations

Over 350 presents from the community via the Amazon wish list; 36 advent calendars; 36 selection boxes; a further 100+ presents from Exeter Baby Bank!

Thanks to all who made it happen!

Food Bank Hampers

Christmas 2020

Meat and hamper contents from Tiverton Tesco; organic fresh veg from Riverford, Martinsfield and Mosshayne; packing and distribution by staff, family and Duke Of Edinburgh community volunteers.

Thanks to all who made it possible!