

NOTES FROM THE MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting started with a minute's silence in memory of Charlie Back, who contributed to the village and the wider community in so many ways. He was an active supporter of the Scouts and built the Scout Hut next door to Lydeard House. He knocked down two cottages he owned and, with the help of four friends who volunteered their time, built the new Church Centre. He restored the Mill, creating a rural life museum, raising over £200,000 for charity from visitors' entrance fees. He will be much missed.

The good news is that work to resurface Streamside path will take place between 31 March and 5 April. The Parish Council also approved a quote to resurface an additional area of footpath on the Oxleaze side of the stream.

Another piece of good news is that we agreed to run a Digital Café, in conjunction with Spark iT, alongside the Talking Café held in the village hall. This means that there will be someone on hand to provide free help and advice on computer and IT problems. This should start soon.

The owner of Greenway woods has approached the Parish Council, asking if we would be interested in buying this holding, comprising 16.8 acres of woodland and ponds. Before we make any decision, we need a chartered surveyor's valuation, an understanding of what it would cost to make the area safe for public access and what the ongoing costs of maintenance are likely to be. We agreed to seek quotations for this work.

We are making progress, albeit slowly, on the new Village Gateway on Cothelstone Road. We agreed to pay £12,500 to Somerset Council for a Developed Brief, which is the next stage of the design process.

Along with many other organisations, Parish Councils face what sometimes feels like a blizzard of regulation. Our excellent new clerk, David Richards, has attended many training sessions and is now working to get us up to speed with all the requirements. At the meeting we reviewed and approved updated Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Asset Register, Risk Register and a policy for recording Parish Council meetings. There will be more to do next month to make sure we have everything in order before submitting our Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) to the auditors.

Full details of all the documents relating to the March meeting and indeed previous Parish Council meetings can be found on the Parish Council website <https://bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk>.

As ever, do please feel free to contact me or the Clerk if you have any questions or comments on the above, or any other issues relating to the Parish Council.



Chair, Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council

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