

Defibrillator

The defibrillator on Church Green is being brought under the management of the Parish Council. Defibrillator funds which were held in Nat West Bank have been received into the Parish Council's account and we will now start the process of closing the Nat West account.

We are still waiting for Community Heartbeat Trust to advise who is registered for the Gestingthorpe VETS list. We are aware there has been a restructure, but we will continue to contact them for this information.

The Service Agreement held with Community Heartbeat Trust is due for renewal in May 2026.

Report for the pavilion, village hall and playing equipment

Pavilion: The cricket team are all set to use the facility for the upcoming season, I have not yet received the fixtures list, but as soon as I do, I will send a copy for the website. The kitchen stills need to be discussed, Richard Sciliitoe has a quote in for £800.00, this is to remove and dispose to of the old units and replace them with the kitchen units kindly given to us by Penny and Steve Bagby. I have spoken to Dan Smith who has given a verbal estimated quote, as he hasn't seen the replacement kitchen units as they are stored up at Hill Farm. Dan has quoted 3-4 days' work; his day rate is £180.00 per day. (£540.00 or £720.00).

The pavilion will be used for the upcoming 'Gestup' Fete on the 12th September.

The ceiling in the pavilion also has a large dark mottled patch, there does not seem to be a leak anywhere, but we may need someone to get up into the loft space to check, as I know the pipes for the water to the showers runs along the ceiling from the kitchen to both changing rooms.

Also, where the electrician replaced the lighting last year there is some work that needs to be carried out to make it good- maybe a little bit of plastering and repainting of the area.

Village Hall: Coffee morning has begun again, fortnightly, some have been better attended than others, this could be due to weather or people still being away on holiday. The hall has a few new private hires, and the upcoming election will bring in some revenue. A resident Rachel Patten from Rectory Farm is running the London marathon in April and there is a fund raising event to be held on the playing field the weekend before to invite people to walk, run, shuffle around the marked-out area giving an indication of the miles that Rachel will be running, An insert in the village magazine including a sponsor sheet. Badges will be provided to those that take part. The fund raising is to go towards a new kitchen/flat roof.

Flat roof over the kitchen area is leaking and causing some dampness. I have submitted two quotations to the committee for consideration; I wasn't at the last meeting so I cannot comment on any progression on this matter. The next meeting is on the 25th March. Electrical work has been carried out, the electrician is returning to complete some further work and then it can be signed off.

Play Equipment:

I have spoken to Play Safe who do have a record on their system for the Parish council, I discussed the rubber matting. Simon has requested I send some photographs of the matter areas that are lifting, they can then advise the best course of action and costs. The other items that need attention are still outstanding, once the weather has improved hopefully, we can get someone to do some repairs. Michael Sharp is currently looking at fencing options for around the boundary area.

Highways Update

Ref 26/0032/UBW3

This refers to a possible breach of planning regulations concerning a new access from the highway on North End Road in to land to the North of the road, which is currently being investigated by Braintree planning department.

Ref report 2968319

The damaged sharp left warning sign on Sudbury Road near to the junction with Pot Kiln Chase has been replaced and a road narrows sign has been added.

Ref report 4022862

The pot hole in Church Street reported on 15-2-26 has had no further action, I understand there is some drain work to complete at the same time.

Ref report 430266

Incorrect signing for the 30mph speed limit on Nether Hill as you enter the village reported 15-3-26

Councillor Schwier has confirmed that there is no budget for the proposed slow signs either side of the Pheasant pub, he has suggested that the Parish considers the self funding scheme as shown below.

Parish-funded works – There is now a process in place for parish councils to self-fund highway improvement schemes. Should the parish council wish to enquire about any self-funded scheme, they simply need to email parishrequests@essexhighways.org, providing detail of the proposal and the exact location (ideally using W3W, google Streetview snip, hand drawn plans, etc). Officers will then liaise directly with the parish to discuss.

Is this something that we wish to explore?

Playing Field Report

'I walked around the playing field yesterday evening. Michael Sharp has kindly planted a row of Lime trees along the northern boundary, and also impeccably guarded, supported and mulched them. He is likewise continuing to prune back the overhanging branches on the Southern boundary.

Disappointingly, the continuing wet weather, exacerbated by the rain last night, is delaying the clearing up of the lopped branches.

I intend to undertake this as soon as the field is dry enough— hopefully in April. However, it is essential that we are patient, and wait for the ground to become as hard as possible, so that no ruts or un-level tyre marks are created.