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WORTH MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL
Representing Harmans Cross and Worth Matravers
Annual Parish Meeting 2 April 2013

CLlr Burden was in the Chair, Cllrs, Mrs. Meates, Sandham, Bugler and Hobson were in attendance. Cllr Mrs. Vosper & Cllr Field had given their apologies for absence. There were three members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Council met each month in 2012-13 with 2 new co-opted Councillors filling the vacancies left after mid term resignations. Councillors continue to be actively involved in a voluntary capacity, supporting the financial management of the car parks and assisting with local minor maintenance. A new web site for the Parish Council has been set up, Approximately 45 planning and tree works applications to PDC were commented on in 2012-13. It was pleasing to see the Worth Tea Rooms increasing their indoor facilities to accommodate future customer needs. Major consultation items have been commented on such as the proposals for extracting Purbeck stone in WM within the Draft Mineral Strategy for the County and the Navitus Bay Wind Farm off The Worth coastline. Responses have been made to PDC on Housing Policy and Affordable Housing Strategy to 2027 and to DCC on the future Heath lands policy. Work continues with Dorset CC Highways to seek improvements especially to maintenance of the surface and footpaths. Hedge trimming took place on Haycrafts Lane and other local roads in the Parish to improve visibility for traffic. Harmans Cross has been provided with a new property location sign to assist drivers and visitors find their local house destination. The new orchard in Begbie field was finally implemented. I thank Councillor Bugler for all the work he has carried out to make this project a reality. I am pleased that the Parish Council is able to set a £NIL precept for 2013-14, being one of 4 parishes or town councils out of 24 to do so

Responsible Financial Officer's Report

Expenditure was well within budget. Car park income in 2012- 13 has fallen from 2011-12 due to the recession and exceptionally bad weather during the year. Grass cutting and hedge trimming costs have been held following the successful retendering in 2012 for a three year period to 2015 PDC decided from October 2013 to cut back over three years their present financial commitment to maintain the Worth public toilets. These cost some £6900 per annum and will have to be progressively built into the Parish Council budget for 2013/14. There has been one off expenditure for a new location sign for HX and two new salt bins in Haycrafts Lane. The Worth Toilet block was repainted as a temporary improvement pending a more major improvement planned for future years.

WORTH MATRAVERS VILLAGE HALL

Improvement to WM village Hall in the last year included a new commercial dishwasher and a hot water boiler. The path has been re-laid and ramped up to a wider step at the front door. A full series of events have been held, with bookings for 2013-14 running similar to previous years with a constantly improving on-line booking system. Income continues to come for Hall hire fees,

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fundraising events and rental income from the School House, without which the Hall would be in permanent deficit. It is hoped that more volunteers will help to support this village facility.

Harmans Cross Village Hall

The strength of the Hall comes from the commitment of the local community; they regularly attend the different committee meetings, running separate clubs, such as the Village club, Residents club and Movie Nights. Consolidated results for the year end 31st July 2012 showed rental income increasing three fold from the last years in the old building. The Hall continues to attract wedding bookings and several sub groups of the U3A. There is pressure on storage and planning permission has now been received for a storage barn to be built, costing £35,000; Maintenance costs will be high this year due to the breakdown of the rainwater harvesting system, problems with the ground source heating system and the general condition of the interior, which needs rectification.

St GEORGES SCHOOL GOVERNOR

The First School has new signage and new school uniform, and completion of the construction project is due in November 2013. The number on the roll is 99, including pupils from Reception to Year 5. A new full time teacher commenced this year and the return of the full time Reception teacher after illness was welcomed. The results of reading, writing and maths has proved to be above the national average. The regular service at St George's Church is an important part of school life. Governors are grateful to The Old Malthouse for their cooperation and support in providing St George's with the use of their accommodation throughout the period of transition.

FOOTPATH LIAISON OFFICER

The keynote of the past year has been the rain, which took its toll on the conditions of paths, bridleways and stiles on the ROW network. The proposed project to drain and repair several of the most damaged sections of the Priests Way has received support from local businesses, voluntary organizations and from individuals at the Parish consultation event in late February. Drainage, surfacing and signage will receive investment and repair and local stone will be used. The programme for improving signage on paths and kissing gates around WM has continued by DCC, monitoring will be continued to check on proper execution of this work.