



Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council

CLERKS REPORT – June 2024

1. **Speedwatch** – emailed a final reminder asking for a new Co-ordinator, cut off date 31 May. Advised if no responses Group would be disbanded. If this situation remains the same at the date of the Council meeting, the Group will be ‘wound up’.
2. **Dartmoor Marshalls** – DNP plan to introduce the Marshalls gradually and earlier this year, starting May bank holiday with just 1 van and 2 marshalls covering the key hot spot areas only. It will then be ramped up to the normal at the start of the school holidays. I have advised OHPC wish to continue with cover for the school holiday period only and during that time councillors monitor the activities/benefits of the scheme. DNP are introducing a new ‘app’ again this year, this should be able to provide some statistics of activities etc during and at the end of their activities. Agreed with Simon Lee that councillors would meet the Marshalls at the start the same as previous years, and he advised councillors going out with the Marshalls would be quite acceptable. DNP are requesting a contribution of £2000 towards the total costs.
3. **Clerk handover** – Confirmation has been obtained that agendas do still need to be placed in the noticeboards, publication on the website alone is not sufficient. Councillors need to decide how they can help with this task eg split the task between you and agree which ones you can do. Currently there are 4 noticeboards – Brightley, Southcott, Meldon Fields and Romansfield. The one at Meldon will hopefully be replaced by the one taken down from Mole Avon. It is not yet known if there will be an appropriate space at Mole Avon to have one there in the future.
4. **Council Insurance** – I have obtained alternative quotations from 2 other companies. One was almost identical to the existing insurers. The second with Zurich insurance came in at £706.35 for a 3 year long term agreement, a saving of £401.01. The Council insurance policy is being changed to Zurich with effect 1st June 2024.
5. **Road safety** – received the following email from a resident.

I would like to discuss getting a pedestrian crossing put in place on Crediton road by St James primary school. I am aware a survey has been carried out previously and a decision was made that it was not needed due to low numbers crossing the road. If this is the case it's absurd as the children's safety on the way to and from school should be what matters most. Each year St James has added a year to the school so come September there will be more children crossing the main busy road adding to already high risk of a horrible accident. I feel that it shouldn't matter how many people are using it but the fact it's in front of a school. Okehampton College has a pedestrian cross on what is a small road compared to the St James parents want a safer crossing for their children.

I have forwarded to Cllr Samuels and asked for an update, responded to the resident, what other actions do you wish to consider??

6. **MOD use of Meldon Quarry** – I have been advised there is to be a military exercise taking place in the quarry in July. The organisers would like to update Councillors and the Community with some more information, Nathan Ironmonger will attend the start of the next meeting to give a brief update on what is planned.
7. **Open Spaces Management Plan** – update on situation circulated to all Councillors, suggest on Jim's return another update is requested.