

## **Parish Council Newsletter – October 2022 – Accessible version**

### **Editorial**

Welcome to the October 2022 issue of Wool Parish Council's monthly newsletter. To keep up to date, make sure you look at the PC's website [www.woolparishcouncil.com](http://www.woolparishcouncil.com) or at the Facebook page hosted by [facebook.com/parish.clerk.771](https://facebook.com/parish.clerk.771) or *via* the Wool Community Facebook page. As a mark of respect following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the main meeting of the Parish Council in September was cancelled. The next full meeting of Wool Parish Council will take place on Monday 17th October. As this is a full, designated meeting of the Parish Council, members of the public are entitled to attend and to take advantage of public participation. You should also note that your Parish Council also holds monthly Committee meetings. These are also open to members of the public, and time is allowed for public participation if required. The Committee Meetings in October will be on the 3rd of the month.

Fuller details of meetings appear later in this document. Meetings are held in the D'Urberville Hall.

Two vacancies still need to be filled on Wool Parish Council! If you think you might be interested in finding out more about being a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk. And repeating a plea made previously, if anyone is interested in getting involved with helping to develop the Wool Neighbourhood Plan, please get in touch *via* the Parish Council (the e-mail address is [woolparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:woolparishcouncil@gmail.com) ).

And finally, a reminder that if you would like to get your Newsletter e-mailed to you, please contact the Clerk to Wool Parish Council who will add you to the mailing list - or you can make the request via the new website. You'll find all the details of contact numbers and addresses in this issue of the newsletter.

### **Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

By the time that this issue of the Wool Parish Council monthly newsletter is published and circulated, the funeral of the Late Queen, Her Majesty Elizabeth II will have taken place, and it is certain that many members of our community will have been very moved by the coverage in the media of the death of Her Majesty and the ensuing events.

Wool Parish Council published its condolences and expressed its sorrow following the sad announcement, and arranged for a Book of Condolence to be available at the Parish Council Office (by the Library at The D'Urberville) and there have been many touching tributes inscribed therein.

As a mark of respect, the meeting of the Parish Council that was scheduled to take place on the day of the State Funeral was cancelled, and an item on the Agenda of the next full meeting of the Parish Council (on 17th October) will call for discussion on the creation and erection of some kind of permanent memorial to the late Queen to be located at an appropriate place within Wool Parish. If members of our community have any suggestions for such a memorial, please communicate them – preferably by e-mail - to the Clerk of Wool Parish Council, using the contact information in this issue of the Newsletter.

## The AGAR

The AGAR, as far as Wool Parish Council is concerned, is nothing to do with the seaweed derived jelly in which germ cultures are grown: in our case it stands for *Annual Governance and Accountability Return*. Every year Wool Parish Council needs to complete an AGAR : It is basically an external audit of the council's financial statements and procedures.

So what are the steps involved?

1. Produce End of Year accounts and get them approved by a Parish Council meeting
2. Employ an external company to carry out an 'internal audit' and get the results approved by Parish Council meeting
3. Fill in the forms required by the AGAR and get the forms approved by a Parish Council meeting
4. Submit the forms (and any additional material required) to the external auditor
5. Wool Parish Council publish AGAR forms on the website and noticeboard for the required period of time
6. Wool Parish Council publish on the website and noticeboards that the public have a right to view the accounts for the required period of time
7. The external auditor performs an external audit
8. Once the external audit is complete, publish the results on the website and noticeboard for the required period of time
9. Any findings/recommendations from internal or external audit are acted upon by Wool Parish Council

As you can see, it takes a lot of effort and precise accounting to ensure that public funds are correctly and appropriately used.

Wool Parish Council council is therefore very pleased to report that it passed tge external audit (stage 7 of the process) with 'no matters that give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

In line with the AGAR requirements, the results will be published on the website for the required period of time.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN OCTOBER 2022

**Monday 3rd October - Committee Meetings.** Meetings start at 6.00pm (Policy and Resources) followed at 7.00pm by Recreation and Amenities

**Monday 17th October 2022 - Full Parish Council meeting,** commencing at 7.00pm. As this is a full, designated meeting of the Parish Council, members of the public are entitled to attend and to take advantage of public participation. Please note also that Parish Councillors will make themselves available to the public from **6:30pm** before every full council meeting. All meetings usually take place in the main hall of The D'Urberville Centre. Please check for details of venues and times/dates on the website.

## Purbeck Film Festival at The D'Urberville

On Thursday 20 October at 7:30pm, The D'Urberville will be hosting the Purbeck Film Festival. This year's film is *Bohemian Rhapsody* (12A). *Bohemian Rhapsody* is a movie based on the true story of Queen's journey from the start of the rock band to their now-legendary

1985 performance at the Live Aid concert in Wembley Stadium. The story chronicles lead singer Freddie Mercury's tempestuous journey from an outcast immigrant struggling to find his place in a rejecting society to his becoming a beloved and world-famous artist.

Which reminds one of the dad joke regarding job interviews.... 'Can you perform under pressure?' .... 'No but I do an amazing Bohemian Rhapsody!'

£6.50 or £5.00 (students and under 25s). Free bar but there will be an opportunity to donate to the upkeep of The D'Urberville...

Tickets available from <https://www.purbeckfilm.com>

*Steve Smith*

*D'Urberville Centre Manager*

### **BERYL BIKE USAGE – part two!**

As promised (threatened?) in the last issue of the Parish Council Newsletter, here's an update on the usage of the Beryl Hire Bikes, nominally 'stationed' at the station. One piece of strangely excellent news is that far from any of the original ten bikes going missing, they seem to be 'breeding' in some strange way, because there are now **eleven** showing up on the metaphorical (and literal) radar.. though mysteriously, one of them seems to have sprouted a battery pack and electric motor.

Anyway, to be more serious, the first piece of data worthy of note is that in the last month, relative to the first month of reporting and data analysis, there has been an almost 50% increase in usage, with 156 journeys being made last month compared to 109 the previous month, which is excellent news. The users are clearly going further as well, because the average distance travelled is up from the previous 2.62km to 3.65km – which gives a total for the month of 569km for all the users and all the bikes combined – compared to 286km in July. Of the 63 people who used the bikes (ten up from last month) 56 were first time users, which presumably means that seven are now regularly hiring a bike – whether for business or pleasure is not known.

In terms of when the bikes are being used, it would seem to be the case that weekday usage is much higher than weekend hire. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday accounted for 61% of the journeys, with weekend hire only contributing 20% to the total, and the highest percentage usage in the context of time of day would appear to be between 7.00am and 8.00am closely followed by 4.00pm to 6.00pm – perhaps suggesting that the bikes are being used effectively to commute, a suggestion which is however nullified by the statistic from the data on number of rides per user, with 52% only making one journey (unless they're only going into the office once a week, of course)... Only 2% of users made 5 or more journeys. For the record, the day with the greatest number of journeys made was August 15<sup>th</sup>, which happened to be a Monday.

96% of the journeys made ended at one of the established bays – with 65 of the journeys ending at Wool Station. Another reason for supposing that commuting is perhaps not the main use being made – at least at the moment – is that five fewer journeys ended at the Innovation Park compared to the previous month, a user-demographic theory supported by

the huge increase of journeys which ended at the Tank Museum – 18 in the last month compared to 6 in the previous four weeks – although one wonders of course how they got back...

Quite what to make of the numbers of hirers requiring ‘support’ is not easy without knowing the kind of support that was requested. All that the figures show is that in the last month 23 users needed to contact the support service, relative to 13 in the previous month. The only immediate assumption is that the increased number of first-time users might contribute to the number of problems requiring resolution!

Pay as You Ride still seems to be the most popular method of payment (as opposed to purchasing of Day Passes or timed Minute Bundles), and of course because the distances travelled seems – according to data mentioned earlier – the cost of Pay as You Ride has also risen, although only by 6p or 7p per ride.

But to conclude – whilst there are “lies, damn lies and statistics” in plenty in this modern world of number crunching, the increase in the number of users, the increases in the distance collectively travelled and indeed the mysterious increase in the number of bikes all point to the initial success of the scheme, although as last month’s report hinted, perhaps the numbers will start to fall away now that Summer would appear to well and truly over! So that’s a bit of a cliff-hanger on which to end this month’s Beryl Bike report – bet you can’t wait till next month’s instalment!

**LATE NEWS ON BERYL BIKES** – First the bad news: two of the bikes involved in the scheme had their tyres slashed recently. The good news is that the repairs were carried out within three hours of the damage being reported!

### **Xylophone seat**

A big thank you to the parishioner (who wants to remain anonymous) who donated the new xylophone seat to the Meadow Lane play park. It looks very pretty, and the residents of Meadow Lane should not be unduly alarmed: it does **not** make a noise.

### **Keep warm at The D’Urberville**

To help people stay warm amid rising home energy bills and the wider cost-of-living crisis, the trustees of The D’Urberville would like to offer a warm space this winter free of charge. The meeting room (holds up to 20 people) has a small kitchen, tables, chairs and a toilet. The trustees will make this available for individuals, groups of individuals or organisations to book for free during the cold months.

Bookings can be done via the Booking Clerk on 07522 844584 or email [durbervillebookings@outlook.com](mailto:durbervillebookings@outlook.com) If you are an organisation or a group of individuals who would like to organise regular sessions, then please get in touch with the Booking Clerk to discuss the logistics.

*Steve Smith*

*On behalf of The D’Urberville Trustees*