



AUGUST 2022

"Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August." *Denise Levertov*

THE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the August 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 or at the Facebook page hosted by facebook.com/parish.clerk.771 or via the Wool Community Facebook page. The Parish Council held its main meeting in July on the 18th of the month. Our main Parish Council meeting in August will be on Monday 22nd August. 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 check on the website for up-to-date details of times and venues! You should also note that your Parish Council also holds monthly sub-committee meetings. These are also open to members of the public, and time is allowed for public participation if required. The committee meetings in August will be on the 8th of the month.

There are currently some vacancies on the Parish Council but by the time this issue of the newsletter is released, we hope to have embarked on the process of appointing some new Parish Councillors. We will make a further announcement in due course, both in the September newsletter and of course on the new website (which has now gone "live")! 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). 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.

DAPTC Star Awards 2021/22

Perhaps we shouldn't be blowing our own trumpet, but the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils has given us **Double Star Recognition!** We have received a letter from DAPTC congratulating Wool Parish Council on continuing to support the development and training of both elected members and employees. It would seem that our commitment to training through DAPTC has propelled us into the 'Double Star Award' category where we join a select group of parish and town councils in the County. It is very much part of Wool Parish Council's ethos that councillors get regular updates and training in order to keep up with all the legislative changes that impact on all tiers of local government.

But on a less happy note...

... It is becoming more noticeable that some areas of our village are becoming hotspots for litter. A particular hotspot is the path by Millennium Square, adjacent to the car sales lot, where somebody deposits an empty crisp packet almost every weekday morning. This then encourages others to think it is a good idea and it is soon overrun with bottles and cans and food wrappers making the area very unsightly. This is a sad occurrence that is also very evident around our shopping areas and the main pedestrian routes from the station. It is appreciated that it is sometimes passing traffic throwing rubbish out of their vehicles as they pass through. Hopefully somebody will read this and take these comments on board and discuss the problems of littering amongst their families so that we can see a reduction in the future. We just need to prick a few consciences and make people more aware of how unsociable littering can be.

DEALING WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Wool Parish Council is consulted by Dorset Council on planning applications within the Parish. While the Parish Council does not make planning *decisions* (it does not grant or refuse permission), it does submit *observations* to the authority, which Dorset Council may take into account when making a final decision.

When Wool Parish Council receives a planning application it will be added to the agenda of the next full council meeting wherever possible. If the planning application cannot be added to a full council meeting, then it will be added to the agenda of both monthly committee meetings. If the timing is such that it is not possible to add it to a full council meeting or a committee meeting, then Wool Parish Council will request an extension from Dorset Council.

You are of course still welcome to email the Parish Clerk on woolparishcouncil@gmail.com or contact one of your Councillors at www.woolparishcouncil.com. The Parish Council office remains closed to the public at the time this issue of the newsletter is published, but you can still phone and leave a message on : 01929 460054 And don't forget the website is always available: www.woolparishcouncil.com

When an application is discussed at a formal parish meeting (and this is announced on the Agenda), the applicant and any parishioners may attend to express their views. There is a 15-minute period near the start of the meeting (referred to as 'Public Participation') during which members of the public, including those supporting or opposing a planning application, can make statements. At the relevant point on the agenda, Councillors will discuss and vote on the Parish Council response to each application. The Parish Council will consider, but not be bound by, comments and representations made to them in arriving at its decision.

Following the meeting, the Parish Clerk then submits the Wool Parish Council's response to Dorset Council. But do also remember that as an individual you can comment on Planning Applications: you can make your voice heard by submitting your own comments to Dorset Council. Members of the public can comment on planning applications by visiting the Dorset Council website (www.planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or by calling 01305 838336.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN AUGUST 2022

Monday 8th August - Committee Meetings. Meetings start at 6.00pm (Policy and Resources) followed at 7.00pm by Recreation and Amenities

Monday 22nd August 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.

HEDGES, TREES AND FOOTPATHS IN WOOL PARISH

As we are now very much into the major growth period for trees and hedges, can all residents, and property owners remember that it is *their* responsibility to take the time to have a look at the boundaries of their properties and check for hedges and trees that are encroaching onto and over the footpaths. Please also check around your neighbour's property, and help them, if you know that they are unable to check and trim their hedges and trees for themselves.

If you are not able to trim the hedges and trees because of restricted access or nesting birds etc., please as a very minimum, cut back any overhanging brambles, nettles and thistles that may be a hazard or cause harm or injury to passers-by. Hedges and trees should be cut back to the highway boundary, or property boundary, and vertically above the rear edge of a footpath to a height of 2.2 Metres. *It is the responsibility of every householder to ensure that their perimeter does not pose a hazard.*

Please do **NOT** contact Wool Parish Council if you notice footpaths that are obstructed by vegetation; you should use the DORSET COUNCIL website (<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com>), or phone line, to report problems. If you are unable to report issues to Dorset Council because you are not online, you can contact Customer Services by phoning **01305 221000** or you can write to: Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ. Your help with this potential problem is greatly appreciated. Please mention this to all who may not receive copies of the newsletter.

DEFIB NEWS UPDATE

A defibrillator has been installed on the front of Taylor's Butchers at Braytown at the junction of Colliers Lane and Dorchester Road. As well as thanking Taylor's for hosting, Wool Parish Council would like to thank Joe Newton Electrical for not charging for labour for the install. A reminder that the other defibrillators are situated at The D'Urberville Centre, East Burton Village Hall, The Velo Lounge, Bovington Community Store in Gaza Road, Cologne Road Community Rooms and at 3 The Briars on Purbeck Gate. Another defibrillator will be installed in Wool High Street soon.



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS for August 2022

MORE ON BIODIVERSITY

Developing the theme from last month's Newsletter when I mused upon the loss of words relating to the natural environment, on 15th April this year the OCR (the organisation controlling school examinations) launched a new GCSE in Natural History; this after an 11-year campaign by Mary Colwell. The GCSE will seek to bring young people to an understanding and knowledge of the rich biodiversity that surrounds them, and thereby foster a love and appreciation of the natural world. It will differ from biology which tends to explore the systems within living things, as the new GCSE will concentrate on the identification and connections between the multitude of living things and their environment. Push to ensure this GCSE is on offer in our local schools. Both the book, *The Lost Words* and the new GCSE provide the opportunity for young people to re-establish connection with the wonders of the natural world around them.

As I write this at the very end of May the wonderful House Martins on Purbeck Gate are just hatching their first brood of chicks, evidenced by fragments of white eggshell from their tiny eggs. Hard to believe that the tiny chicks, now weighing only 1.8g, will in four months' time be starting their perilous journey over the Sahara to spend our winter flying over southern Africa.



A House Martin in flight

Long ago, when the world was young, and I was in short trousers, I learnt at college that biological stability depends on complex relationships between myriads of organisms. Simple communities such as those in deserts, and arctic regions consisting of only a few species, are by their nature unstable. Here in our country, in Wool, we rely on a rich diversity of life to preserve the natural stability of our environment. We need to know what is around us, value it, and protect it if we are to look forward to a healthy future in which humans and wildlife live and flourish in harmony. We need to enhance our rich biodiversity by providing connected wildlife habitats in our gardens and our community for the benefit of not only the wild creatures and plants, but also ourselves.

We have now stopped catching our Great Crested Newts for this year and will shortly be matching up individuals to make our third population estimate of their numbers. Also, our third generation of Emperor Moth caterpillars has just hatched, and I have been busy retrieving minute black specks to carefully place on their bramble food plant. All part of monitoring the wildlife we have around us. Volunteers needed!



Emperor Moth caterpillar

As always, we will be pleased to help with any wildlife issues!

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Have you had a look at the Parish Council's [new website](http://www.woolparishcouncil.com) yet? It's well worth a visit, and we'd like to know what you think of the new version. Go to: www.woolparishcouncil.com and you can let us know what you think by e-mail to: woolparishcouncil@gmail.com

ON YOUR BIKE

Beryl Bikes bays are now open at Wool Station, Cologne Road Community Rooms, Bovington Memorial Hall and the Innovation Park... There will be more bike news next month, but briefly, Beryl Bikes is a bike hire scheme where you could, for example, by using the Beryl mobile app, hire a bike for a 24 hour period for only £12.00.



The official opening of Beryl Bikes at Wool Station. L to R: Mike Whitwam, Chair of Purbeck Community Rail Partnership, Frank Snart, a Friends of Wool Station member, Andrew Ardley, Regional Development Manager, South Western Railway, Steve Smith, Cllr Laura Beddow, Mick Stone, Secretary for Purbeck CRP.

WOOL LIBRARY – July report

We have received some information to pass on *via* the newsletter concerning the latest research from Dorset Libraries and the upcoming **Summer Reading Challenge**.

Following the consultation, it was clear that libraries need to become places where people can be "alone but not lonely" - a safe space which provides company for those on their own - and Wool Library anticipates that the library will need to provide a warm space in the winter for some of their customers. The research also identified the need for libraries to provide support for people looking for help and advice and it is hoped that once the new extended library is in place that it can offer such support from groups such as Citizens Advice.

In the short term, Wool Library will again be supporting the national Summer Reading Challenge during the school summer holidays. This encourages children between 4 and 12 to read 6 books across the summer to win stickers, medals and certificates. It is usually a great success at Wool, with up to 50 children signing up. This supports literacy across the summer as research shows that without regular reading practice, children's reading age can drop significantly by the time they return to school in the autumn. It is hoped that as well as the reading challenge that there will be 2 free activity sessions in August in the main Hall for local children, following the Reading Challenge theme of "Gadgets".

The number of people using the library dropped in May but there was an increase in footfall into the library in June and it is hoped that this will continue.

Finally, on 15th January 2023 Wool Library will celebrate 10 years of successful operation as a Community Managed Library, and a celebration is planned to mark the event.

EAST STOKE & WOOL COMMUNITY CHEST

THE DEADLINE FOR THIS YEAR'S APPLICATIONS IS 5TH NOVEMBER 2022.

The 'East Stoke & Wool Community Chest' award grants once a year that are donated by the owners of the Solar Farms located on Tout Hill. If your charity/organisation would like to apply please email for an application pack to contacteswcc@gmail.com. The funds generally are available to Registered Charities, Voluntary Groups, Community Groups and Clubs within the parishes of East Stoke and Wool.

The 'East Stoke & Wool Community Chest' are currently looking for a volunteer, based in the Parish of Wool, to join the group to help administer this valuable asset.

For more details, please email contacteswcc@gmail.com.