

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

William Helen

The Parish Council hope that you find this free copy of the Dever informative and the newsletter a useful update on the Council's activities and support across the Parish. I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, City Councillors and Hampshire County Councillor for their support and efforts to maintain an active and thriving community, safe for us to live in.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all residents a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Carousel Park

In the 2024 Carousel Park appeal decision the Planning Inspector gave planning permission for the site to become a Gypsy and Traveller site with 24 pitches, subject to a number of planning conditions. Under the new conditions, a plan had to be submitted and agreed within 11 months. No agreement was reached within this deadline and Winchester therefore issued an

application refused letter. This was appealed but the appeal was refused by the Planning Inspectorate in August.

As no plan was agreed within 11 months of the 2024 decision, planning reverts to the original 2002 agreement, and enforcement can be carried out under the terms of this decision, unless a new planning application is received.

In October 2025 a new planning application (25/01558/VAR) was received seeking to vary conditions included in the 2024 decision such that the conditions could then be met. The Parish Council have objected to this planning application based on the valid reasons for retaining the bund, there being inadequate detail of waste water treatment and a number of other points. The proposed new timescale of 12 months for implementation is also objected to as the 2024 ruling already allowed 11 months to comply and a further delay is not considered justifiable.

Lord Rank Pavilion

Vandalism is a constant issue at the LRPF and further damage has been done recently to the roof supports of the pavilion, only a few months after a repair was needed to prevent the collapse of the roof.

The pavilion is nearing the end of its useful life with frequent issues occurring and the Parish Council would like to canvas the views of residents on how we should proceed.

The toilets at the pavilion are necessary to support the use of the playing field by the school and youth football teams, the kitchen is also used for the annual Church fete and sometimes by the school.

The Parish Council are wary of creating a facility which might draw much needed business away from Northbrook Hall or the pub and are therefore considering a smaller, but sturdier, unit with toilets and a kitchenette. The views and opinions of residents will guide the Council and we would very much like to hear from as many residents as possible.

Micheldever Water Treatment Plant

In November a presentation was made to the Parish Councillors about concerns over the impact

of the water treatment plant on the river Dever. It was noted that the reed bed is no longer being used, having been bypassed by plastic piping, so that an important filtering stage is no longer effective, increasing the risk of environmental damage.

The City Councillors will raise these concerns to Winchester City Council (who operate the plant) and further action will be determined by the responses which they receive.

Micheldever Village Clock

A number of residents are missing the sound of the clock chimes. The updating of the clock is a major project and progress has been slowed by the need to carry out bat surveys, something which can only be done at certain times of year. The report on the bat surveys is now awaited and this will determine the types of permissions needed before it will be possible to proceed with repairing the clock, adding an automatic winding device and securing the clock tower against ingress from birds.

Proposed Development at Popham

Basingstoke and Deane, in the latest version of their Local Plan,

are proposing to build 4200 homes and an industrial park at Popham. A consultation event is to be held, probably in Micheldever Station, in January. The Parish Council will seek to make residents aware of the event and the details of how residents can respond directly to the Basingstoke and Deane consultation as soon as this information is available.

Hedges and overhanging trees

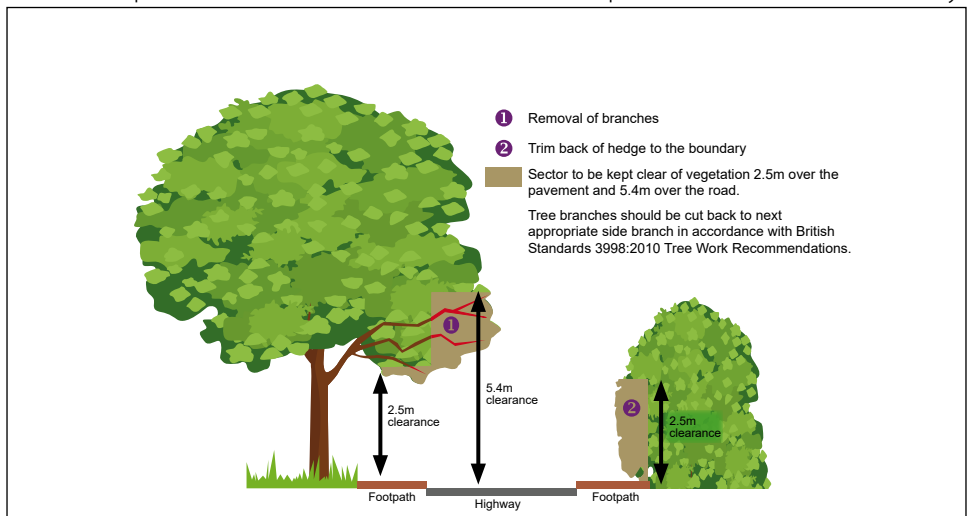
Responsibilities for hedges and overhanging trees are set out in the Highways Act 1980 and are enforceable by HCC who are the Highways Authority. In the first instance, HCC ask Parish Councils to write to residents to remind them of their responsibilities. If residents fail to take action, HCC may serve a notice upon the landowner

and have the authority, where necessary, to carry out the work themselves and recover the cost.

Now is the time to look at any parts of your property boundary which meet the road edge. All growth of hedges and trees should be cut back behind the road edge, allowing room for growth next season. Growth should be clear to a height of sixteen feet vertically. The diagram below shows how cutting should be carried out. If this was enforced fully throughout the Parish major tree and hedge work would be required, so please do your utmost to comply with this requirement.

Road Signs

In the past HCC has had adequate funds to go above and beyond their responsibilities and clear many



areas of foliage, including hedges obscuring signs. With increased pressure on funds this cannot continue and any signs obscured with foliage are the responsibility of the owner or manager of such a hedge and need to be trimmed back to allow clear vision for road users. Again, your vigilance in this would be appreciated.

Parking on Pavements

Please could residents consider carefully before parking on pavements and forcing pedestrians, particularly those with pushchairs, out into the road. Parking on a pavement is an offence under the Highway Code. The safety of our youngest residents is more important than any vehicle.

Grit Bins

Grit bins around the Parish should now have been refilled. If you know of any that have been missed please note the number (inside the lid) and contact the Clerk who can ask for it to be refilled.

As many of our roads are

not gritted by HCC, they have supplied these bins to help keep the roads clear of ice.

Please remember the grit is for highways use and not private use. If the grit is found to be being used for private paths and drives HCC may refuse to refill the bin.

Community Emergency Plan

The Parish Council have written a Community Emergency Plan which will be published on our website www.micheldever-pc.gov.uk and will be lodged with the HCC Resilience Team. To be able to operate effectively, a small group of residents are needed who would be prepared to act as coordinators in the event of an emergency in the Parish. Thank you to those who have already volunteered, but if you think you could help, a few more would be very welcome. Please contact the Clerk (as below) if you think you could help.

The Parish Council can be contacted via Jocelyn, the Clerk, clerk@micheldever-pc.gov.uk or 01794 368951