Pett Parish Council Update

The parish meeting, at which parishioners can raise any topic and which is held every year, will take place on Tuesday 15 April. I am pleased to say that the speaker will be Councillor Keith Glazier, who is not only our local county councillor resident in the village, but is also leader of East Sussex County Council. He will be talking about the government's plans for devolution and the reorganization of local government. There has been much talk about this topic of late and I gave links to information in my report in the March issue of the parish news, but this will be an opportunity to hear about the plans and related issues from someone who is closely involved. There is a notice giving time and place elsewhere in this issue of the parish news.

Also at the parish meeting, I will give a report on the year past and there will be light refreshments. And then, as usual, the meeting will be open for any parishioner to raise an issue relating to the parish, including any reports from village clubs and societies.

At its meeting in March, the parish council agreed to appoint a solicitor to finalise the lease of the Pett Level toilets, based on the heads of agreement, which have been revised following the parish council's queries. Once the lease has been signed, the toilets will be opened as soon as practical. Note, however, that we are still looking for a cleaner; see the advert in the March issue of the parish news and on Facebook and Pettnet.

Also at the March meeting, the council agreed to support an initiative to start a board games club, called Board and Brew, which will meet once a month in the village hall. The organisers have said that:

> We hope this club will reduce isolation and promote community cohesion, everyone will be welcome, families, friends and people living alone as well as those with physical or emotional disabilities. It is well documented that playing board games can benefit your cognitive, social and emotional wellbeing by lowering stress levels, improving memory, enhancing critical thinking skills and strengthening social skills, not to mention making friends and having a laugh along the way.

More information will be available through the usual channels. For reasons relating to finance, the club will start as a working party of the parish council, but we hope will develop into an independent organization.

I am sure that many people have walked the Jubilee Way, with which the council marked the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth. The council is now planning to produce a leaflet with a map of the footpath (reproducing the map that is outside the Royal Oak). It is hoped that this will be available free in the village's pubs and churches, so that it will help people navigate the walk as well as making information about it more widely known.

A few years ago, the council arranged for work to be carried out on tennis court drainage. Unfortunately, as a result of animal activity (rabbits or badgers), the drainage along the side of court is not functioning correctly, so that water is going on to the court and moss is growing, making play difficult, if not dangerous. The solution is relatively simple, but expensive if carried out by a contractor. It has therefore been suggested that volunteers are called for to form a working party to sort the problem out, after which the surface of the court can be treated. This approach worked well some years ago, when the 'camino' was created, so I hope people will come forward to help again. If you can help, please let the clerk know. When there are enough people willing to help, a working party will be set up.

Following the 2023 flooding, there have been a number of developments that are intended to prevent such a serious event again. However, there are pipes at the bottom of Chick Hill that are either silted up or inadequate for the flow. The parish council will be writing to the Environment Agency to draw this problem to its notice, as well as asking when the silting up of the Royal Military Canal is likely to receive attention.-

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council