****

**HEYBRIDGE BASIN PARISH COUNCIL**

**JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to the second edition of the Heybridge Basin Parish Council newsletter.

**The Current Situation**

We are sorry to inform you that the Chair of Heybridge Basin Parish Council, Bryan Harker, has resigned from both the Parish Council and Maldon District Council. Bryan became a District Councillor in 1995 and was appointed a Parish Councillor to the newly formed Heybridge Basin Parish Council in May 2020. He has dedicated much of his time in the last twenty five years in representing the views of his community. We wish him well in his retirement.

We understand that Bryan’s replacement(s) will be appointed by Maldon District Council at their meeting on 1st October 2020. Unfortunately this does mean that the Parish Council cannot hold any meetings until after 1st October as we would not be quorate and, legally, would not be able make any decisions.

**Since June**

We have held two Parish Council meetings since the June newsletter. Both of these were virtual video meetings and were held on 7th July and 4th August 2020. Fortunately, both of these were without the technical problems we encountered in our June meeting.

At the July meeting we ratified the decisions to update the signage in the Daisy Meadow Car Park, to purchase Risk Management software, to become members of the Essex Association of Parish Councils, to appoint Councillor Sjollema as the Parish Council representative on the Chelmer Canal Trust and the Essex Coastal Community Team and to incorporate the village emblem on all our communications. Our thanks to Andrew Fawcett for giving us permission to use this emblem. We are pleased to report that the signage has now been updated.

Council agreed the bank reconciliation as at 30th June 2020, the accounts for the period to 30th June 2020 and the payments for June 2020.

It was also agreed to meet with the Maldon District Council Community Engagement Team to discuss appointing them to patrol the Basin Area on an ad hoc basis through to the end of October.

At the August meeting we appointed UK Power Networks as the facilitator for the provision of the power supplier in respect of the amenity lighting owned by the Council. We expect the contract to be in place by 1st September. We have also been working with Maldon District Council in an effort to supply toilet facilities in the Daisy Meadow Car Park.

Parish Councillor Jenny Sjollema organised a litter pick which took place on 31st July 2020. This was attended by nine people and was considered a great success. Our thanks to Jenny for organising this. A picture of the happy pickers can be found on our website.

We had hoped that the next litter pick would be on 12th September 2020 but, because we are no longer a quorate Council, this has been postponed.

Parishioners will be aware that HAT Projects are working on the proposed Lock Hill Development and they have held a meeting with interested parties. This was attended by Jenny Sjollema in a private capacity.

It was decided that it would help the Parish Council if a Working Party were formed comprising interested parishioners who could advise the Council as to what they would be hoping to achieve once elections were held and an elected Council were in place. Unfortunately, because we are no longer a quorate Council, this has been put in abeyance for the moment.

Following our meeting with them, a contract has been signed with Maldon District Council’s Community Engagement Team with effect from 1st August 2020. The Team would be patrolling the Basin area on a regular basis until 31st October at which time the contract would be reviewed. Unfortunately we are restricted by our budget as to how much we can use the Team.

**Going Forward**

Sadly, and because of the fact that we are not quorate and therefore unable to make decision, we are rather restricted as to what we can achieve in the short term. We would still welcome your views on how the Parish Council can work for you in the future.

**Finally**

We have attached to this newsletter a list of useful contact numbers.