

Parish Council News – February 2024

Reporting blocked ditches, flooding etc.

Recently there have been a number of problems with blocked ditches causing localised flooding. Devon County Council have cleared some of these ditches in the past, but they advise that the responsibility for keeping ditches clear lies with the owner of the land, not with them and that they no longer have the budget to clear these ditches. However, they ask that you still report blocked ditches to them so that they can chase the relevant landowner to clear them - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/maintaining-roads/managing-the-network/flooding-and-drainage/report-standing-water-flooding-or-blocked-drains/>.

If you find any issues of blocked drains, flooding etc can you let the relevant landowner know and, if appropriate, help to clear the problem. If you have any difficulty with this then please can you let the Payhembury Parish Road Warden know and he may be able to help – Cllr Paul Thomas, paul.thomas@payhemburyparishcouncil.org.uk. Hopefully, by doing this, we can reduce the number of floods and the inconvenience caused.

Telephone Box Library – sometimes too many donations

Our lovely Telephone Box Librarian does a wonderful job looking after the library – tidying, sorting, etc. Recently she has found bags of donated books dumped on top of other bags of donated books, making it hard for people to borrow books and hard for the Librarian to manage. Whilst we really appreciate donated books, please can we ask that, if the Telephone Box looks very full and there are already bags of donated books there waiting to be dealt with, could you hold on to your donation of books until another time. Thank you.

Playing fields tidy up – 9.30am, Sunday 11th February

On Sunday 11th February, the Parish Council will be doing maintenance work on the playing fields, including removing brambles behind the football nets, cleaning play equipment and some minor repainting of equipment, etc. If you would like to help, please can you let the Parish Council know or come to the playing fields at 9.30am on the day.

Parish Council grants awarded – January 2024

Each January the Parish Council awards small grants to local groups who have applied for a grant. This year the Parish Council are very pleased to award grants to Applepips, Payhembury Parish Paper and Tale Valley Trust and wish these, and all the other hard-working voluntary groups in the parish, a rewarding and successful 2024.

Road closures – February 2024

The following road closures are scheduled for February 2024, diversions should be in place if needed:

- **12th - 16th February 2024** - Road from Colestocks Cross (by Shutes Barn) to Payhembury Road - DCC drainage work. This will disrupt access to and from Feniton.
- **13th February 2024** - Road from Blue Anchor Cross to Tuckmill Cross - BT pole replacements
- **19th February - 8th March 2024** - Road from Colliton Cross (A373) to Haskins Cross - some underground cabling works and tree-cutting required to assist with extensive overhead cabling (BT). This will disrupt access to the A373.
- **29th February 2024** - Road from the telephone box towards Upton - Installation of sewer level equipment in the man hole (SWW)