

REPORT OF THE CASTLE GREEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2020

Cancelled owing to the Coronavirus Outbreak

Until the advent of the Coronavirus restrictions, it had been a very active year for the Committee. Five full Committee Meetings and numerous informal consultations. This all followed on from the Parish Council's acquisition of the Castle Hill site, thus adding to the Committee's responsibilities.

As outlined in our Project Reports in the May and December Newsletters, we needed to firstly secure and then improve and enhance the site. With willing support from the owners of the neighbouring properties, we were able to cut back all overhanging branches and trees, repair and, where necessary, replace broken boundary fencing. We then fixed a stock proof fence around the whole perimeter.

We then removed all the elder and sycamore saplings and cut out all the dead wood from the mature trees. After which we cleared the whole area of accumulations of general rubbish and material. Thanks are due to Paul Lewis, our preferred contractor and a number of local individuals for achieving all this so efficiently.

Paul was then commissioned to construct a Kissing Gate between the Castle Green itself and the Castle Hill site. This, hopefully, will encourage villagers and visitors alike to climb the Hill and thus enjoy the unique views of the village and its surrounds. We will put in situ a notice encouraging use and informing visitors of their responsibilities when there are grazing animals present.

We had planned to celebrate the successful conclusion of the whole enterprise with a Mid-Summer Fayre on Sunday 21st June – Mid Summer's Day. This, like the highly successful Michaelmas Fair of two years ago, would have involved many of the village's organisations and individuals. However, the corona virus has sadly put paid to this. We will endeavour to reorganize it for the Autumn when, hopefully, the virus has been defeated and we can have a bountiful double celebration.

My thanks, as usual, are due to your Committee, namely Paul Crowley, Richard Fonge, Peter Pollak, Jo Powell, Will Priestman and Colin Wootton for their commitment and support.

Martin Sirot-Smith, Chairman.