



Chideock Parish Council

Mr George Dunn

Via Email

13th December 2024

Dear George

RE: GRANT TO VILLAGE HALL FOR EMERGENCY REPAIR TO DRAINS

Thank you for your email of 10th December.

I don't understand how it is that you seem unable to understand the importance of Drains! I realise they are not exactly a topic that is much discussed however they are VITAL to our way of life allowing us to live without fear of dysentery, typhus and cholera at worst and nasty bacterial stomach infections at best.

Until proper draining was put into our streets by the Victorians most people lived with open sewers and many people died of these diseases.

In effect the broken salt-glazed sewer pipe that was found to be broken and leaking in the sewer of the Village Hall was exactly like an open sewer – leaking into the ground. Might I remind you that there are houses in close proximity to the Village Hall and the land slants downwards towards those houses and the Clock.

How would those residents feel if they knew what a fuss you are making about something that unquestionably relates to Public Health and Hygiene and the ground around their properties becoming contaminated with effluent leaking from a damaged pipe just adjacent to their houses?

Apart from questioning that this is a Public Health matter you also objected to the Parish Council making a grant to assist with the cost of repair because you said the Village Hall had £20k in their bank account.

The Parish Council was well aware of this but perhaps what you didn't know is that the Village Hall Treasurer and Committee have set aside the greater part of this sum to put towards the cost of the main roof in the Hall. The 'back' roof was under repair at the time of the discovery of the leaking drain and there were also quite large sums being expended on the refrigeration and dishwasher in the kitchen.

The Parish Council concluded that as the greater part of the £20k had been set aside for a large and expensive job which might need to be done in an emergency that we would therefore contribute to the drain repair which should not be delayed.

One further point you make in your letter is to do with the Grant Application Form. I have spoken with our Clerk about this. She reminded me that she had just taken over from the previous Clerk and a new Grant Form needed to be put together quickly that reflected 'best practice'. These subsequent amendments explain why you have seen two different forms. The salient point is that they do the same job.

When I cast my mind back to when you were Chairman of the Parish Council, I recall that during one of the Democratic Periods I took you and your committee politely to task over the suggestion that the Parish Council would not give an annual grant at all that year to the Village Hall. I mentioned that it appeared that there was a personal element to this which I said was unacceptable.

I still find it unacceptable; and it is very hard to avoid the conclusion that resentments and personal grudges are involved in this endless stream of complaint about repairing drains and perhaps other matters.

So far as the Parish Council is concerned George – this closes the matter. I have explained our reasons and reasoning, and I hope you are satisfied.

Your sincerely

Caroline Parkins
Chair - Chideock Parish Council
www.chideockparishcouncil.com