

Holford Parish Council. Cllr Chris Morgan Report.

Hinkley Point C Project.

Work on the site southern boundary continues. This work involves the use of heavy earth moving equipment, and on occasions the work is undertaken during week-ends and late into the evening.

There is also earth moving and site preparation work in the area designated for the workers "on-site campus".

Installation and construction of modular office blocks around the site.

Construction of the "Jetty" is ongoing. Fortunately this does not involve piling, the pillars are being screwed into the sea bed. The jetty-head design has been altered in order to be able to import not just aggregates, but also large containers, so a roadway will be incorporated into the length of the structure. Currently there are approximately 1,700 workers on site.

West Somerset Council.

As far as is known at this time, the composition of the Cabinet, and all other committees and groups will remain the same following the annual council meeting.

The Transformation Project between West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council continues with enthusiasm (with the exception of one Councillor) I would be happy to arrange for senior members of both councils to attend a future meeting of Holford PC in order that they could answer any questions regarding the transformation.

VOA / Hinkley Point B.

West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council entered into a shared staff and services project in order for both councils to streamline and save money. It was envisaged that during the first year of this arrangement, West Somerset would save c£300k +.

This saving was made, but unfortunately wiped out by the business rate re-evaluation by the VOA on Hinkley B. The business rate was reduced from £28m down to £8m. A rebate was made to EdFenergy (owners of Hinkley B) which caused extreme financial implications to West Somerset's budget.

Since then, a new valuation has been negotiated between EdF and the VOA culminating in a business rate of £20m pa.

EdFenergy to have the right to appeal against this amount but that is considered unlikely as they were part of the negotiation.

Planning Training.

With several new members of the Parish Council it may be worth considering arranging some Planning training (and as a refresher for older members?).

There are some "Do's and Dont's" that are worth bearing in mind, and I will do my best to try and arrange this for a (near) future meeting if members wish?

I would like to say thank you to Phil Brimson for his work over many years as Parish Clerk. He has always been a great help to me, and always steered Holford PC with quiet confidence and wise counsel.

I would also like to thank Peter Grandfield for his sterling work on the bus service now available free from Bridgwater through to Minehead. Very much the unsung hero of the scheme.

Cllr Chris Morgan.