

## Chairman's Report

As newly elected Chairman I would like to thank all the people who have very kindly contacted me to wish me success in the role. I am aware that there is a lot to learn and I have been studying as many relevant documents as I can during the last few weeks. I would particularly like to thank the out-going Chairman Chris Hayes for his invaluable insight and advice about the people and processes involved in this role. I would also like to thank the Clerk, Hema Stanley, for being as efficient as always and making sure I don't miss anything! I can promise that I will do my best for the Parish Council and the residents of Holford.

I have come to realise that a lot of people, like me, might not have been aware of all that the Parish Council does and its responsibilities so I am hoping to circulate a document in due course to those who might like more information about the role of the Parish Councillors and of the Chairman with the approval of the Councillors.

Since the subject of attendance at outside meetings was raised at the last meeting, the Clerk and Chairman have been conducting a review of regular invitations and it is planned to confirm attendance where appropriate (where a councillor is available) and to send apologies if this is needed. Since this Parish Council is a small one with only 7 councillors, many of whom have full time work, it may not be possible to attend some meetings. Minutes from relevant outside meetings will be posted on to the Parish Council website where appropriate. Councillor Ayre continues to attend meetings at Hinkley on a regular basis when available. Councillors Young and Cavendish will be attending the *Quantock Hills AONB Management Plan and Landscape Partnership Scheme Workshop – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February*. Ongoing training for councillors has been put back temporarily until the vacancy on the Council has been confirmed filled.

The Council has received an email from Traffic Management and Road Safety at SCC and been informed that, due to very limited funds within the council, amendments to traffic signage will only be considered where reports of accidents and incidents are received from official collision and traffic data. As far as I am aware there are no official records of any such incidents thus it seems unlikely that this will be carried any further.

Communication with councillors is still an issue and it has proved extremely difficult to arrange planning site visits due to some councillors not responding to emails or to phone calls. Can we please ask that all councillors read their emails at least twice a week?

The Parish Council has received requests for input regarding future developments that affect the area and we are currently looking into how best to respond to these.

- Somerset footpaths consultation deadline Jan 31<sup>st</sup>
- Sedgemoor District Council 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for the District' survey
- The AONB Development Fund grant