

Holford Parish Council – Chairman’s Report

Public Pathways Consultation

The Council submitted a report to Jake Taylor regarding the continuing maintenance and clearing of designated footpaths within the Parish in consultation with Sue Edwards. Only a small number of paths are regularly cleared and there is no additional money to increase the number so it was decided to continue with the current arrangements for the foreseeable future. Local people were encouraged to contribute any comments about the footpaths and only a few minor issues were raised.

Councillors Young and Cavendish attended the Quantock Landscape Partnership Workshop on February 5th. The Partnership has received a very large grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in order to plan for the future of the Quantock Hills. This was a very interesting morning with the opportunity to put forward proposals for how the area could be made more accessible going forward. One of the key points raised was the need to make the Quantocks more accessible for people with disabilities and for disadvantaged young people. From a survey carried out in 2018 over 700,000 people visited that year and the average spend was less than £4 each visit. The fact that 90% of those visitors questioned were ‘local’ may have been part of the reason for the low spend. Perhaps there is some scope for improving on those figures! I would mention that the survey was undertaken on a week day between 10am and 4pm so the results are not representative of visitors at other times.

We have received notice of a fund ‘The Calor Rural Community Fund’ which offers grants of up to £5,000 for deserving community projects. If anyone has any ideas of suitable projects please have a look at the website at <https://www.calor.co.uk/shop/communityfund>

Thanks to Councillors Young and Ayre for attending the Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee in the afternoon of February 5th.

Thanks to Councillor Ayre for regularly attending a number of meetings at Hinkley Point. The details of the discussions are accessible to all on the EDF website.

The Council would like to thank Emma Prince for her past contributions to the Parish Council and wish her well in the future.