

Chairman's report – Previous reports are available on the Parish Council website.

An eventful year with many changes in the make up of the Parish Council. The council is delighted to welcome 5 new councillors elected for the next four years. Training for the new councillors will take place on June 4th. Our thanks to the outgoing councillors.

From April 1st there has been a merger of two local councils now known as Somerset West and Taunton Council. It is hoped this will bring about savings but it inevitably means some job losses. There is now only one councillor (Chris Morgan) not two for our district. Liz Peeks has resigned her post as Planning Officer which is a great loss as she has extensive experience particularly regarding listed building consents. The new planning department will not be sending paper copies of applications in future, all correspondence will be digital.

Work is nearing completion on the renovation of the Village Hall assisted by the £10,000 loan arranged by the Parish Council to facilitate the release of funds from Viridor.

Some notable planning applications were received. Two in particular caused major concerns within the Parish and in May an extraordinary meeting was called to discuss the Silk Mills planning proposal during which members of the Parish voiced their views. This application is ongoing. A planning application at Strawberry Fields also raised many objections and this application was refused. There is a planning appeal in place for the site adjacent to the Plough which was refused in

Repairs have been undertaken to the Dog Pound this year but there are still ongoing needs to be addressed this year. The council is investigating sources of grants. New sapling trees have been planted amongst the declining Monument Trees with funding shared between Kilve and Holford PCs. The council has approved the renewal of the contract to the Parish Groundsman.

Requests had been made to West Somerset Council for new road signage but due to financial constraints WSC will not consider any new signage unless there are reports of traffic accidents associated the current situation. Requests to the Fairfield Estate for repairs to potholes around the Car Park have been refused as it is not the policy of the estate to fund any repairs on land with discretionary public access due to the large area this covers. It has been noted that members of the public can now directly report potholes and issues with Rights of Way on the website.

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.

Councillors Young and Cavendish attended the Quantock Landscape Partnership Workshop. 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 over the next few years. Concerns have been raised about the promotion of night-time cycling events on the hills and at least one 'Rave' has occurred. There are worries that wildlife and the environment may be badly damaged by these activities.

There have been some reports of anti-social behaviour by the Hunt over the year and these have been reported to the Police.

The Parish Council has continued to attend EDF meetings regarding progress of work at Hinkley Point C. The minutes of these meetings are available on the EDF website. There has been no representation on the Quantock Hills Advisory Committee due to the resignation of Councillor Grandfield and a new representative will be put forward now that elections have taken place.

The defibrillator at the Plough has been installed and updated during the year.

There have been significant changes to policing procedure in 2018/19. Details are available on the Parish Council website.