

Parish Council Chairman's Report – July 2019

Six of the seven councillors have now had training in the role of the Parish Council and its councillors. It was a very informative session. There is now an updated NALC Code of Conduct (2018) which it is proposed the Parish Council should adopt. It was pointed out that the public should not speak from the floor during the PC meetings but only within the 'Have your say' section of the agenda and then for a maximum of three minutes. It was suggested that all councils should have a long term plan for the four years going forward following the elections and Parishioners should be asked for their views on what should be the priorities for the future.

Councillors Talling and Cavendish were present at the Watchet, Williton and Quantock Area Panel meeting in June. A representative of the new Somerset West and Taunton Council was there to update the status of the new council.. A number of issues were raised from the floor regarding the inability to get through to anyone on the council and the new website has a number of problems with links. We were told that the council has allowed more people to take redundancy than they anticipated so that there are now 40 unfilled posts at the Council which is making it extremely difficult to cover all the necessary services. It was confirmed that from 2020 there will be a roll out of the new refuse collections to three weekly. The recycling will be weekly and more materials will be recycled. It was confirmed that special arrangements for refuse collections will be put in place for those with particular health issues. The village agent Izzy Silvester talked about her work and introduced the Good Neighbours scheme. Leaflets about the scheme will be available in the Village Hall.

Councillor Plomgren has attended various Hinkley EDF meetings. The minutes of these are available on the EDF website. There is a public consultation about the storing of nuclear waste from other power stations at Hinkley. This ends on July 20th. Links to these Papers can be found on the Parish Council website.

Councillor Campbell will take on the role of AONB and JAC representative in due course but currently we are waiting for information on the procedure as things have been on hold since the elections.

There are still ongoing repairs needed for the dog pound and the PC will be applying for a grant from the CIL fund in due course when estimates are available for the work. **Councillor Coplestone** is investigating the historic title deeds issue and the Clerk has been in contact with Wildlife Woodlands about access.

The potholes near the car park have been filled although this is likely to be a recurring issue.

The Chairman has spoken to The Conservation Officer at the new council and he is now in contact with the owners of Alfoxton Park and will make a site visit to investigate reports of the building not being maintained in good order.

The Portway Lane play area is still closed due to vandalism. The Parish Council will need to consider the options for this amenity in the future.