

Chairman's report

Alfoxton House is now up and running and volunteers are on site carrying out repairs to the building. The Planning Department of SWT has a comprehensive list of remedial work that must be carried out in order to comply with listed building regulations and is monitoring the situation. The Parish Council is delighted that community events are taking place in the grounds and wish them well. Unfortunately as of September 14th new restrictions are in place regarding Covid-19 isolation rules.

Some activities have restarted at **the Village Hall** and details can be found on their website. The local distribution of grocery deliveries from the village hall has now ended. Local stores are still happy to deliver to our area if needed.

Transport : EDF are no longer picking up workers from Moorhouse Farm to safeguard local people. Workers will have to drive to Quantock Lakes or Cannington to pick up the service which unfortunately will mean more cars on the main road. The situation is being monitored by the traffic officer at Hinkley C. Thanks to Councillor Plomgren for bringing this issue to his attention.

The annual verge cut has taken place at Kilton corner to improve visibility for drivers turning at the junction.

Community bus service

The bus service will resume when the sneeze screens have been fitted to protect the drivers, these then have to be approved by the relevant government agency and there is a waiting list for approval. Passengers will not be allowed to travel unless wearing face masks.

Since the restrictions on foreign travel began to have major effects there has been an increase in visitors to the region and parking and turning in the narrow roads in some areas has become an issue. This will be discussed during this meeting to see if anything can be done to ameliorate the situation.

The Parish Council's discussion regarding the **Local Government Reorganisation** plans is ongoing. At a meeting of SALC it was stated that the reorganisation will go ahead even if there is local opposition because the current financial position of the councils is 'unsustainable'. There is considerable disagreement between councils as to the best model to pursue. Local Parish Councils will be consulted but it seems unlikely that they will have much influence given that the decision to amalgamate has already been taken.

Planning :

- There is a new planning appeal against the refusal by SWT to allow development of the Silk Mills site. Representations regarding the appeal will need to be sent before the deadline of October 13th.

- The Strawberry Field planning application appeal has been rejected by the Secretary of State and enforcement action for the removal of the building is expected.
- Falcon Housing confirmed their intention to put in a planning application in October to change the consent for the playground at Portway so that it can be made accessible to families again.

There has been a request from a Producer to film a movie in and around Holford. The Parish Council has responded and explained that the producer will have to make application to the National Trust, Natural England and individual landowners.

Charging was reintroduced in Somerset West and Taunton owned car parks on Monday 31st August. The Council introduced free parking at the start of the coronavirus lockdown and extended the offer as part of its wider plan to support the re-opening of High Streets and help rejuvenate the local economy.

The issue of night time light pollution from the works at Hinkley C has been raised by a local resident and the response from EDF was that it was for workers' safety. This suggests that they will not be addressing the complaint.

Due to the resignation of a councillor a casual vacancy has risen on the Holford Parish Council. Details on how to apply can be found on the 'Notices' section of the Parish Council website.