

Holford Parish Council meeting – March 8th 2021
Chairman's Report – Emma Cavendish

Falcon Housing have confirmed that they will be completing the planning application regarding the playground shortly. However this has been the response for over 18 months and it maybe that we need to ask Planning to approach them and remind them that they are in breach of their housing application consent in respect of the provision of a play area. The playground has been locked for at least two years.

The process of Local Government Reorganisation of the various Somerset area councils has resulted in the government postponing local elections due in May for a twelve month period for consultation as to the model to be pursued. There are two different proposals and, as yet, not much sign that an agreement will be reached across all five regions. The number of councillors will be drastically reduced from over 200 to about 100 which has implications for individual workload and the capacity to achieve targets.

The Chairman attended a presentation from SPARK Somerset concerning their role in the community. It is primarily a 'facilitator' and can offer advice and support for charities and local groups. They also co-ordinate volunteering efforts.

Holford Parish Council has held a joint meeting with Kilve Parish Council to see if there are areas in which we can be mutually supportive. Discussions took place about traffic issues, the state of the memorial trees and the use of Holford's defibrillator. Councillor Crossley confirmed the willingness for the Plough to continue with the maintenance of the defibrillator now that she and her partner have taken over as tenants. Councillor Campbell agreed to forward details of the Community Speedwatch scheme to Kilve PC.

The minutes of this meeting are available on the Parish Council website. Both Parish Councils agreed to meet again on a regular basis.

Since the January meeting Councillor Mo Young has resigned. The PC thanks her for her past service and wishes her well in pursuing an independent traffic monitoring group. The Parish Council traffic group of Councillors as established at the January meeting (Emma Cavendish and Stephen Campbell) will continue to investigate local traffic issues requested by Parishioners and is currently in talks with SCC Traffic Management Team and Councillor Hugh Davies. This will be discussed in detail later today's meeting.

The way forward with the proposal to allow a small area in Holford to be established as a wild plant area will continue to be investigated. The charity Plantlife leads a wild roadside verge initiative and has lots of advice and Somerset Wildlife Trust would be supportive. The proposal will be discussed under Parish Maintenance.