

Holford Parish Council Chairman's report – March 14th 2022

There are on-going complaints about the local police inaction against poor Hunt behaviour. The Quantock Hunt believes that people are ill informed as to what is legal and what is not and they feel rather aggrieved about complaints being made to the police. The Police had promised a meeting in February to include a member of the Parish Council and indeed told a parishioner that we had been invited to attend. As the Chairman had not received such an invitation a query was raised but it transpired that a meeting had yet to be arranged. Still no invitation. Councillor Campbell will give an update on progress.

The Chairman and Councillor Copleston recently took part in a one day meeting on Carbon Literacy Training on January 17th. This was very detailed and comprehensive and a brief précis of the day will be discussed under agenda item 10.

Local Government re-organisation goes ahead, slowly, and the new unitary council will be in place in 2023. The Chairman joined a group of local parish councils for a Zoom meeting to interrogate some of the team involved in the changeover to the Single Unitary Council. The Chairman will update on this within the meeting. Local elections are due on May 6th including elections for parish councillors. New applicants welcome and please do VOTE.

The new recycling system is now in place and considerably more plastics and tetra paks will be collected by Somerset Waste Partnership. Three weeks seems a long time between wheely bin collections but as there is a lot more being recycled perhaps that will be adequate.

I'm sure you are all aware that there will be a four day holiday in June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council has agreed to fund the daytime celebrations on June 4th and we are hopeful that volunteers will come forward to join the Jubilee Team or just volunteer to help out. A meeting held on February 28th discussed some ideas for the day and the minutes of the meeting are available on the Parish Council website. The Chairman agreed to design a mail drop with the day's program so that all our parishioners can see what is planned and to ask for support. A quick run through of the program will be discussed during the meeting (item 10). The HDVH committee has agreed to fund the barn dance in the evening and the Plough has agreed to run the bar.

The PC reported litter problems on the A39 layby and the council has cleared away the majority of the fly tipping. They have also agreed to designate it as an area to be monitored more closely in the hope of reducing the problem long term.