

I wish to thank those Councillors who helped us make a very last minute decision to postpone our last meeting due to the national period of mourning. It was widely accepted as the right thing to do. Hema is in touch with the PCC's PA in order to reschedule his much anticipated visit.

We held an extraordinary meeting last month to cover a couple of time sensitive issues. We agreed a job description and timeframe for our parish clerk advert and I believe the post has been advertised widely. The closing date is the end of this week, interviews next week, with start date of 10th October. Thank you Stuart for helping whilst you were on holiday abroad!

We also met to decide on whether to proceed with the opportunity to start a community review, which we agreed to do. I have now attended the online launch meeting as well as the more recent Marketing seminar. There are approximately 28 Somerset parishes now taking part, some of whom will be on a slightly slower path for delivery by end of June due to the increase in numbers.

After having had our bid accepted by the Police Community Trust for funding for a SIDS some months ago, we have finally received a cheque for the grand sum of £4853.83. We now have 3-6 months to report on the progress of our project, which I hope Councillor Kate Hammond can expand on later in the meeting.

I hope you will all have seen the information Hema distributed regarding the current consultation about Local Community Networks. This closes on 17th October, so please let me know if you feel there is anything specific we need to address as a Parish Council. There was a meeting held in Nether Stowey for local interested parishes, which threw up lots of questions and they will be putting together a joint response. The boundaries, roles and names of the LCNs are still undecided, but it seems it has been made clear that there will be no devolution of assets and services to the LCN. There are two more related meetings coming up - the City, Town and Parish Conference in Yeovil on 2nd October, and the local in-person engagement session in Williton on 10th October.

I am also hoping to attend two free full day workshops in mid October - the Community Resilience Day in West Monkton and the second of the workshops for the Quantock Futures Project, in Cannington.

There has been a lot of tree felling by National Trust in the village recently. I believe all permissions have been in place for these and that it is to combat Ash Dieback, but it is still very sad to see. I sincerely hope that they will be replaced in due course with other more resilient and native species and will write to NT to find out.

I would like to remind Councillors that all of our official correspondence occurs via email and that you are responsible for making yourselves available to this form of communication. I see very little feedback to the emails that get circulated from Hema or myself and hope that this does not mean the messages are not being read.

Finally, it appears that my photo and resume on our website remains very lonely. I would suggest that either more councillors send Hema their details or we revert back to the simple list at the end of the month.

Emily Heckscher