

It has been a tumultuous period for us recently with lots of changes of personnel - with Hema, Peter, Steve and now Kate Hammond resigning. On the positive side, we now have Karen, Sarah and Ann, leaving just one space to fill (Interested parties to contact Karen at clerk@holford-pc.gov.uk)

It does mean that our roles and responsibilities may be shuffled about and I look forward to clarifying everyone's portfolios, as well as the rota for attending the coffee mornings. This should allow us to proceed quickly with all outstanding matters.

As we are all now relatively new Councillors, I am encouraging everyone to participate in the SALC online training courses coming up in the next couple of weeks. We've been invited to the Police and Crime Commissioner's *Councillors Forum* in Taunton on 24th January which may be of interest, particularly to those councillors who did not attend the meeting with the PCC in November.

There have been couple of meetings involving councillors to report back on. Firstly, Stuart and I met with Bill Jenman of QLPS to assess the War Memorial Trees, at which it was recommended not to plant any new saplings due to the good health of the existing trees and the difficulty in getting new trees established on the hill. I also met with Tommy Muncie who is Area Ranger for the National Trust in the Quantock and Blackdown Hills, and he has requested that any plans involving work on NT land be run past him in the first instance.

Karen has been keeping abreast and keeping us up to date with developments on the LCN, which by the look of things won't be up and running before at least June. The map of areas has not been cast in stone either, but for the moment it looks like we will be in a group with Cannington, Chilton Trinity, Durleigh, Enmore, Fiddington, Goathurst, Kilve, Nether Stowey, Otter Hampton, Over Stowey, Spaxton, Stockland Bristol, Stogursey, Stringston, Wembdon. The purpose of the LCNs (Terms of Reference) can be found at the following website: <https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s25116/Item%207%20Appendix%203a%20LCN%20Draft%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20V5%20January%202023.pdf>

As agreed in our previous meeting, I have set up both a Parish Council Facebook page and a Holford Community Facebook Group. Both of which have been seeing interaction and I hope will continue to engage with as many people as possible.

Karen has successfully set up individual email addresses for each Councillor and this has been very useful.

Shortly after our last meeting, we received a letter of response from the Mountain Bike event organisers and this has been forwarded to the person who made the initial complaint. I have not had any further comments.

We have received a few comments about Planning issues and highway drains. I look forward to discussing if and how we might be able to help with these.

Finally, we are due to agree next year's precept, which I hope will allow us to undertake appropriate training, help the village celebrate the forthcoming coronation and enable us to finally install the SIDs on the A39, all of this bearing in mind that everyone is feeling the pinch economically right now and we don't want to cause too much of an increase to the Council Tax.

Emily Heckscher