REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS- Watchet, Williton and Holford January 2023

For 9th January 2023

Again I have done a joint report for all the Parishes in the Watchet and Williton Division for Januray and just changed them slightly because. three of the parishes have their meeting on the 9th Janouary. I will start at Watchet, travel to Williton and then on to Holford. I hope that I can answer any queries you have during the evening but if there is anything that you wish me to address please do not hesitate to contact me on rosemary.woods@somerset .gov.uk

At the time I am writing I have not been present at an updated Budget presentation……..

I attended the Local Government Reform Implementation Board on 20th December, representing the Conservative Group Leader. I cannot say that I was impressed with this meeting: the report was fielded by the finance officer who basically reported figures from October without a November update. This does not bode well. No light was shed on the decisions about Community Network but the committee has been promised an update at their next committee meeting. =

The appointment of Tier 2 officers (Director level appointments) for the new authority is scheduled for mid-January and Tier 3 appointments (before vesting day) in March, this means that there is still a great deal of uncertainty for our staffing for the new authority. This has created a significant risk for the programme for the new authority, athough we are told that the vesting date remains as 1st April.

I had heard that the County are going to subsidise the late night buses that run between Taunton and Williton the 28 route (Decembers report). Since then we have heard that the £2.00 bus fare is happening at the beginning of the year. I believe,this is a government initiative, and that both these measures are to start at the beginning of this month and run until March.

Primary School intake places for September 2023 close on 15th January. Placements will be confirmed by 17th April. So the message there is, if you have a child wanting to start school this Autumn get them registered NOW.

If you haven’t had this year’s Flu vaccine or COVID vacine and are eligible, get it now. I am having mine on Thursday 5th January, (at the Pharmacist’s) so by your meeting I will be able to tell you how I got on!

Councillor Rosemary Woods
Watchet and Stogursey Division
Somerset County Council.