**REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS- Holford in Watchet and Stogursey Division**

For March 2023

I have done a joint report for all the Parishes in the Watchet and Stogursey Division for February/March and just changed them slightly for individual Parishes, because.at present I am getting a lot of information which is generic to the Division, fed to me by a large number of meetings being held either on line or face to face .

The Council has now adopted the increase Council Tax of just under 5 percent, less than half of the current rate of inflation. This is made up of a basic rise of 2.99 per cent in Council Tax and the 2 per cent social care levy. As a result of these proposals, the council tax proposed for a Band D property will increase by £78.24 each year, or £1.50 per week.

The total budget for new Council will be £491.37 million, a rise of £36 million over the budgets of the five councils the new Somerset Council replaces.

Cleeve Hill closure: as far as I am aware, there is no new information about the closure of Cleeve Hill, other than the County have amended some of the signage to make it less negative. Since the closure I have lobbied anyone I think that might help, including two members parliament and county councillors, including Cllr. Mike Rigby, and anyone else who might be able to help our case.

The last time I chaired the Scurtiny for Adults and Health Committee, I made sure that the Ambulance Service got a clear message from the county and we have asked them to report back to us again in six months time

As from 1st April, with the new Council, I will be a member of the Planning Committee (West), I am undertaking planning training next Wednesday. I will also be on the Harbour Board, Harbour Advisory Board as well as the Scurtiny Committee for Adults and Health.

My fellow councillor Cllr Hugh Davies has agreed to share on alternate meetings, two of the Parish Councils I which I report to. If you would be content to operate in the same way, I will concur to your wishes.

We have had assurance that the new Council will be up and running on day one: they have one phone number
,0300 123 2224 which will operate in an automated manner.

I realise that I have only covered a small part of what the County is engaged on, but if you have questions, please send them to me.

Cllr Rosemary Woods
Watchet and Stogursey Division. –