

Chairman's Report 17th April 2014

As Chairman I would like to thank all Kilve Parish Councillors for their help and support over the past year. Thanks also go to the Parish Clerk, Shirley Rushent, for keeping us all well informed and dealing so effectively with the day to day administrative matters necessary to keep the Parish Council functioning.

Some of the more important items of business during the year 2013/2014 - not in any particular order and not exhaustive.

- 1) On behalf of the Parish Council I am pleased to welcome Dr Mike Dixon, who joined us in July, so we now have our full complement of seven Councillors.
- 2) One of our 'assets', the bus shelter, has been fully renovated. It has been painted inside and out with a notice board fixed to the back wall. A bench, made and donated by Allan Hollis, has also been installed inside the shelter.
- 3) Adam Gorman agreed to maintain the village web site for a nominal monthly fee paid by the Parish Council. I would like to thank him for providing the village and also, of course, the Parish Council with an excellent site.
- 4) The Parish Plan has been accepted by the Parish Council and approved by the District Council. This is now a formal published document which we are committed to review and update annually.
- 5) A plaque has been placed next to the tree planted by Sam Thorne to commemorate the Queen's coronation in 1953.
- 6) The Parish Council has provided financial contributions to the running of the Village Hall. Donations have also been made to the Cricket Club and the Somerset Levels Relief Fund.
- 7) The Parish Council responded to the 'Preferred Options Study' from the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency. In particular, this study proposed ways of organising the processing of intermediate nuclear waste at Hinkley Point. The Council's response expressed a strong objection to waste being transported to Hinkley for processing and was sent not only to the NDA but also to the Local Authorities, neighbouring parish councils, local newspapers and our MP.
- 8) High winds in January brought down a tree across a bridleway which joins the A39 to the east Hunts Lane. The tree completely blocked the bridleway and badly damaged some greenhouses belonging to Mrs

Webber. Intervention by the Parish Council has led to the removal of the tree from the bridleway and from Mrs Webber's property by the County Council.

- 9) The permissive footpath through Kilve Court, from the Village Hall to Winrush Corner, was completed in June with signs at each end funded by Kilve Stores, The Chantry Tea Rooms and The Hood Arms. Comments from villagers concerning the footpath have been very positive.

Winter flooding, which severely affected some parts of Somerset was not a major problem in Kilve. However, Hilltop had some flooding of the road and ditches and on St Valentines Day the village was almost cut off for a short while.

As in previous years the speed of traffic on the A39 through the village continues to be a concern - the speed statistics collected show a remarkable consistency over the last few years. However, until there are an unspecified number of accidents in Kilve there will be considerable official reluctance to take any measures which might lower the average speed of vehicles through Kilve. Children crossing the A39 at Kilve Court is a particular anxiety.

The provision of fast broadband across most exchanges in Somerset, but not the Holford exchange, is something we must take seriously. Small businesses in both parishes will be at a disadvantage with obvious possible consequences. Also, the indication that a lack of fast broadband depresses house values should be a cause for alarm even amongst those of us without much enthusiasm for computers or the internet.

We are actively seeking closer links with Holford Parish Council as there are clearly concerns, like the broadband issue and traffic speed, which affect both parishes in much the same way.

Many thanks to Cllrs Hugh Davies, Sue Goss and Chris Morgan for attending our meetings and providing us with useful advice, information and help. Last but by no means least our thanks go to the local police and to Tracy Gorman for her involvement with the neighbourhood watch scheme.

Alan Keen

Chairman, Kilve Parish Council

17/04/2014