

Chairman's Report 22nd April 2015

I would like to thank all Kilve Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their time and commitment over the past year and the efficient way that our business has been conducted.

2014/2015 has been relatively quiet but here are some of the more relevant items of business, which are not in any particular order:

- 1) Losses: Bob Davies and Mike Dixon have both resigned from the PC having made valued and effective contributions to PC business.
- 2) Gains: Two new Councillors, Adam Gorman and Barry Whitehead, have been co-opted onto the PC providing a full complement of Councillors.
- 3) New gates have been provided at the entrance to Kilve Court permissive footpath at Winrush Corner.
- 4) The notice board in Sea Lane has been renovated.
- 5) The pot holes in Sea Lane have finally been repaired.
- 6) The Parish Plan is in the process of being reviewed by Cllr Whitehead and will be updated where necessary. Cllr Gorman has volunteered to keep an eye on parish footpaths and Cllr Grigg now represents the PC on the Village Hall Committee.
- 7) After continued representation from the PC concerning the speed of traffic through Kilve the Local Authority has finally suggested that a 'traffic management scheme' be put in place. Most of the details have now been agreed and the scheme, which involves new road signs and markings and some police involvement, should be in place in the near future.
- 8) After making our views clear – principally through Cllr Rogers - that removing the mobile library stop at Hilltop and retaining the one at Old Ham was a poor choice, the library services have reversed their decision. This cost cutting exercise has meant that one of our stops had to go and unfortunately the least used is Old Ham.
- 9) The attempt at setting up a local fast fibre broadband service – the 741 Broadband Campaign – has stalled for the moment. While the CIM panel said that the application for funding fulfilled requirements and presented a sound business case they have somewhat surprisingly deferred making a decision. Apparently, one reason for this was that the position of BT regarding the 741 exchange was not clear.
- 10) The PC is actively supporting current CIM applications from the Village Hall Committee and from Kilve Cricket Club.

- 11) We have been offered the opportunity of buying, for £1, the old red BT telephone box on the A39. If possible this will happen and we will then be open to suggestions regarding its subsequent use.
- 12) A group called 'Friends of the Quantocks' have offered to help organise and fund a footpath to Hilltop. At present, part of the footpath would need to go through land belonging to Lady Dorey and 'Friends of the Quantocks' have been able to talk with her about this possibility. While this doesn't mean that we will necessarily get a footpath sorted out it is a significant step in the right direction.
- 13) With just an averagely wet winter thankfully there were no incidents of flooding or water damage this year.

It is a pity that our PC meetings are, for the most part, unattended by members of the public. Although PC meetings are not strictly public meetings we do not adopt strict rules regarding public participation. Our meetings are conducted in an informal manner, which I believe is appropriate for a small community. In addition any parishioner may place an item on the agenda of any PC meeting via the parish clerk.

Once again we extend our thanks to Cllrs Hugh Davies, Sue Goss and Chris Morgan for attending our meetings and providing us with useful advice, information and help. Also we would like to thank Tracy Gorman for her continued involvement with the neighbourhood watch scheme, Robbie Rutt for looking after the defibrillator and our representatives on the Hinkley 'A/B' stakeholders group and the Hinkley 'C' community forum, Terry Williams and Mike Dixon respectively.

Alan Keen

Chairman, Kilve Parish Council

22/04/2015