

Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report 20th May 2016

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.

2015/2016 has been relatively quiet but here are some of the more relevant items of business, which are not in any particular order:

- 1) The Parish Plan has been reviewed and updated by Cllr Whitehead.
- 2) Cllr Grigg has taken on responsibility for the defibrillator from Robbie Rutt.
- 3) The PC has continued its financial support for the Village Hall. We do appreciate that Alison Eyley and the Village Hall Committee put in a lot of time and effort to make our village hall a successful venue.
- 4) At the last Parish Meeting a year ago I said that the 'Kilve traffic management scheme' negotiated between the PC and SCC should be in place in the near future. The 'near future' is now maybe sometime this year. The PC has recently spent a lot of time trying to negotiate with SCC a way forward concerning a safer way of getting children across the A39 from Kilve Court. Most of our suggestions have been dismissed by SCC and at present the only option is one which includes the possibility of extending the eastern 30mph speed limit boundary. Apparently this would mean that the new positions of 30mph repeater signs would then allow flashing warning lights to be installed which can be controlled by Kilve Court. At present we are waiting for SCC to make a decision.
- 5) At December's meeting an explanation, of sorts, of the way the CIM fund works was provided by David Eccles from EDF and Andrew Goodchild from WSDC. Not entirely satisfactory but we had to expect them to defend the CIM process rather than admit to what some might see as errors of judgement or even incompetence.
- 6) Out of the blue BT has decided to provide fast broadband to a part of Holford and a part of Kilve. This effectively kills off the 741 Broadband Campaign. Ironically, if the CIM fund had provided the support we needed the whole of the 741 area could now have an up and running truly fast broadband. Kilve is under consideration for inclusion in CD&S's delayed Phase 2 procurement and we may have a result this year.
- 7) Licences to explore for oil and gas have been granted for the coastal region including Kilve. This could result in fracking being carried out under the AONB area. We need to be vigilant – the licenses were granted without parliamentary debate – so Cllr Whitehead will make sure that we are up to date on any activities which might affect us.

- 8) The Pub. As you well know the village pub, the Hood Arms, has closed after hundreds of years as our alcoholic watering hole. Devastating news for the village and we can only hope that it will, one day, flourish as a pub again. Something like this makes for plenty of rumours. At present it seems that the owner went bankrupt, a fact which is in the public domain, the pub is in the hands of the 'receiver' and is up for sale. Why this has happened is mostly down to speculation. I think I can say that over the past few years the pub has not been as popular amongst villagers as it should have been but it has not appeared to be unviable as a business. However, any sympathy that the owner might have received from the village has evaporated with a 'YouTube' video, posted after the pub shut down, showing the current landlord being very rude and nasty about the residents of Kilve. Viewing this video might possibly give you a hint of why the pub failed and it has nothing to do with the behaviour of the local community.

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, Adam Gorman for managing the village web site, our representatives on the Hinkley 'A/B' stakeholders group and the Hinkley 'C' community forum, Terry Williams and Mike Dixon respectively and Brian at Kilve Court who mows the permissive footpath.

Alan Keen

Chairman, Kilve Parish Council

20/05/2016