

Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman's Report 15th May 2019

As Chairman I am very pleased to report that Kilve Parish Council continues to carry out its business in an efficient, informal and friendly way. The commitment of all the Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk is faultless and I would like to thank them all for their contributions and support which makes our Parish Council (PC) work as well as it does.

Here is a very brief and selective summary of our activities since the last Parish Meeting - I will have missed out some items, by design or accident, appearing in the PC minutes.

In May 2018 Pat Woolley completed our full complement of seven councillors. After long service as a parish councillor Ken Samson resigned in September 2018 because of an impending move to Norfolk. This vacancy was filled in November by Steve Collins, so we are now back to seven councillors.

Cllr Grigg and Cllr Woolley have now taken on responsibility for the neighbourhood watch scheme in the village.

Cllr Collins is now responsible for checking on our parish footpaths, replacing Adam Gorman.

We are kept informed about fracking and related issues by Cllr Whitehead.

Our web site provides more information on how the PC is now represented on outside bodies and also who has local responsibilities.

Many thanks to Adam Gorman for continuing to maintain the 'kilvevillage' site and making such a good job of it.

Attempts to get a response from Highways regarding the broken wall on the A39 at Lager Hill and also ways of making drivers aware of the unusually narrow carriageway at this point have come to nothing so far. We have not given up but the words 'stone' and 'blood' spring to mind.

The planning decision taken by WSDC regarding Winters Tale was taken to appeal by the applicant. The PC submitted a summary of our position, supporting WSDC, to the Appeals Commission. The appeal was rejected.

A wooden bench in remembrance of Cllr Rogers has been placed at the Winrush end of the permissive footpath through Kilve Court.

The manager of Kilve Court has agreed to allow us to use some land near the permissive footpath for the benefit of the parish. How this is achieved depends on negotiating with SCC which looks like being a protracted business.

We are involved with the East Quantoxhead Estate in improving some of the facilities around the Kilve Beach area. This includes funding some new seats in the car park and on the grass area next to the beach.

Another project that we will partially fund and also be directly involved in is the creation of 'digital trails' from Kilve Church to the beach. This is in conjunction with the Somerset Coastal Project ('Somerset's Brilliant Coast') scheme which will also be providing financial support.

Support for the Village Hall continues with a substantial contribution towards renewing the floor in the Denovan Room.

The defibrillator outside the Hood has been causing us unnecessary problems over the years and it is with some relief that I can report that a new, easy to use and hopefully reliable one is now in place. We have a contract in place which also covers maintenance and training sessions.

We are supporting a group in Watchet who are providing picnics for some of the less well off local children during the school holidays. The group is being provided with food bought by the PC from Kilve Stores.

WSDC as an independent local authority no longer exists. The new authority combines WSDC and Taunton Deane DC. One effect of this merger has been to reduce the number of district councillors – we now have one instead of two. Whether we see any advantages in this reorganisation remains to be seen.

Kilve PC finances are healthy so the precept will remain unchanged for 2019/2020.

Lastly, many thanks to Cllrs Hugh Davies, Sue Goss and Chris Morgan for attending our meetings regularly and providing much useful advice and information. Sadly, we are losing Sue Goss as she is leaving her post as a district councillor.

Alan Keen

Chairman, Kilve Parish Council

15/05/2019