

## Chairman's report for parish annual meeting May 12<sup>th</sup> 2014

It is my pleasure to welcome you all again tonight and thank you for your continued support for the Parish Council. My thanks also to Richard Tyzack, our clerk who continues to support us in his quiet and efficient manner.

The main event of the year was the public meeting held in October to discuss the results of the Parish plan. This was attended by some 83 people and was the culmination of the questionnaire that was sent to everyone in the Parish of whom 442 completed it; a 54% result.

I have previously summarised all the concerns raised and they have been discussed at Council so I will only briefly summarise the main themes that will be addressed , I hope, in the coming year or two.

**A new village hall** is considered by most to be the main priority and this is being led by the Pitminster & Angersleigh playing fields committee who need a new sports pavilion at Sellick's Green. A number of events are to be held over the course of the summer to raise money and keep this at the forefront of peoples' minds.

**Speeding** throughout the parish remains another concern. The recent information obtained from the SID's highlights this issue. I'm sure Cllr Whatmore will tell us more later.

**A parish website** remains on hold. The stumbling block is finding someone who has the time and energy to keep it up-to-date. The originator of the Pitminster pump website is happy to put all the information on but he needs to be supplied with that information. Clear Sky designs has offered a website but he no longer lives in the area.

**A welcome pack** is being progressed by Cllr Morgan.

As you know, the council has a planning agreement with Taunton Deane Borough Council. Last year we discussed 23 planning applications and made decisions on 13.

The appalling winter weather has played havoc with our roads. Verges in particular are in many places in a very poor state and there are also a number of potholes. These are repaired quickly by Highways but there is plenty more for them to do. Our thanks to Peter Arscott , who lives in Pitminster, for the work he does on keeping the drains and the ditches unblocked. We wish Graham Warnecke a long and happy retirement following his departure as our local highways engineer.

It is good to see the Blackdown Youth Club going from strength to strength and congratulations to

Trudi Morgan for this success and for her work as Village Agent. Trudi was nominated and received a Somerset County Council Chairman's award for services to the community.

Our regular litter picks continue to collect large quantities of discarded rubbish from road side verges.

I look forward to another year in which I hope to see a strengthening of the community spirit as we work together to provide a village hall, a parish website and improve road safety in all its aspects.

Finally may I remind everyone that this is the centenary of the start of World War I and that we will be looking to smarten up the War Memorial. Michelle Sanders and Richard Holt are looking for World War I memorabilia for a forthcoming exhibition.

David Edmondson. Chair, Pitminster Parish Council