

Annual Report 2023

As Chair of Pitminster Parish Council I am pleased to submit my annual report. A synopsis of matters that have been discussed and implemented at Council meetings.

Following the upheaval and aftermath of the Pandemic it has been a relief to return to the familiar monthly face to face meetings. We have a full complement of Cllrs and a long serving Parish Clerk.

Our meetings have been well attended and we have benefitted from the reports from District Cllrs Sara Wakefield, Ross Henley and Dawn Johnson. Our Agendas have been varied and we have made agreeable decisions after discussion. We have considered 38 Planning Applications. Five of these were delegated for decision by Council. The Clerk has continued to maintain a good rapport with the Planning Department, but some negotiations have become protracted due to their general reorganisation. In particular, details of Enforcement procedures have been subject to delay.

At our meetings we have encouraged participation from members of the local community. We have been addressed on such topics as plans for the new Pavilion, a project entitled 'Greener and Wilder Blagdon Hill', the Repair Café, and a representative from Airband has given a brief promotional presentation. Cllr Peter Cordier has introduced the idea of setting up a Youth Council.

This Council has continued to donate funds to charitable causes. These have included donations to Citizens Advice and Devon Air ambulance and financial support has been provided to Ukrainian families located in Blagdon Hill. Annual funding for the upkeep of Graveyards at Pitminster and Chelmsine has been granted, and the new 'Green Blagdon Hill' project has received a grant through CIL funding from this Council.

I wish to record my thanks to all Cllrs for their support, loyalty and guidance
The Clerk Richard Tyzack deserves mention for his dedicated work. Our
accounts and minutes are maintained with great accuracy, and all are available
to view on Parish Council website.

Members of Council have continued with their commitment to uphold sound
standards in this area. The state of our Highways and Countryside remain of
high priority; 'litter picks' have been organised, overgrown hedging has been
reported, potholes and damaged surfaces noted for repair. The Speed
indicator devices have been serviced, monitored and have continued to be
effective. All Cllrs have areas of specific responsibility and have reported on
these if matters have arisen.

E. C. Burnett.

From The Clerk Richard Tyzack

The annual budget for the year 2023 to 2024 took place last December. A
precept of £9,500 for 2023 to 2024 was requested from Somerset Council.
The annual Audit is now taking place which begins with Council reviewing the
Risk Assessment. Followed by an Internal Audit conducted by a person remote
from the Council. The AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) is
completed by the RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) which is the Clerk. This is
presented to Council at the May meeting and requires signing by Chair and
Clerk, provided all Councillors agree. It will then be forwarded to the Auditor in
London. The public rights notice will shortly be displayed on noticeboards and
on the website allowing the public to have access to the accounts.