

Pitminster Parish Council Chairmans 2025 annual report

(Covering the period between May 2024 until April 2025)

The Parish Council meet, usually on every third Thursday of the month to discuss various matters relating to the parish.

At most meetings we are joined by Somerset County Councillors Sara Wakefield and Ross Henley who provide a report on what's going on at Somerset council.

Update on councillors

We have eight Councillors who are generally elected every four years.

There has been no change in councillor positions in this period.

Somerset Council

Last year a single unity authority for Somerset was created, that being Somerset County Council.

In November 2023 Somerset Council identified at-risk services and wrote to all city, town and parish councils to ask if they would be willing to take on any of them at local level. As mentioned in last year's report, it was anticipated that most of these at-risk services would not adversely affect our parish. That remains to be seen, however, I note that some of the main highways in our parish are being maintained by filling in potholes and resurfacing.

Local Community Networks (LCN's)

Please refer to last year's report for details regarding the formation of the LCN's.

Working groups for Roads & Transport and Environment & Conservation continued to meet to discuss what can be done at local level.

No firm actions have been decided on yet.

For more information on LCN's visit - <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/lcn-areas/chard-blackdowns/>

Highways

The Parish Council regularly discusses matters concerning highways, such as maintenance, hedge cutting and speeding.

We have 2 speed indicator devices, one at either end of Blagdon Hill. These devices do seem to control the speed of most vehicles to stay within the speed limit, although inevitably there are a small number of vehicles that do break the speed limit.

Speeding on our roads, especially through Blagdon Hill continues to be of concern.

We will continue to look at potential measures that can help with controlling traffic speeds.

Planning applications

Planning applications are discussed at most meetings, which the council deliberates on.

Since the formation of a unitary Somerset County Council we as a Parish Council no longer decide on whether or not applications get granted or refused.

Now we only provide comments, where relevant, and either register support or object to applications.

25 applications have been discussed and deliberated on in this period (May 2024 to April 2025).

Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

We are fortunate to live in a place where crime is very low; however, recently there have been several break-ins and property thefts within the Parish. We are aware of these instances, and we are in close contact with the police.

I would encourage residents to try to secure their properties and especially outbuildings, which have specifically been targeted. If you are concerned about this, please contact the Parish Council and/or the local police.

There is no formal Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating at the moment. However, we are a close community and most incidents are reported among the community, brought to our attention and circulated via parish email, if deemed necessary.

If anyone is interested in establishing a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme, do contact the Parish Council and we would be happy to help facilitate it.

Footpaths & Rights of Way

We monitor the condition of the footpaths and other rights of way in our Parish.

Repairs to significant structures such as bridges are required to be carried out by Somerset Council's Rights of Way (RoW) team. Several repairs have been completed by them, including, of note, the replacement of bridge stanchions, handrails, steps and the styles at either end of the steps with steel self-closing gates at Bridge 691 on footpath T 21/56 (known locally as Peggy Leggy Bridge).

Minor repairs can be carried out by the Parish council.

If you would like to view maps of all of our public rights of way, or report an issue, you can access the local mapping database via this website - [Roam](#)

Litter picks

At least once a year, we organise a litter pick to keep local public areas tidy. This year's litter pick was on 15th March with a dozen or so local volunteers helping out.

Contingency / Emergency Policy

We have an emergency plan which was reviewed last year. The document contains useful contact information for local people in case of emergencies. This is published on our website.

Link - [Pitminster Contingency Policy 2024](#)

Defibrillators

We now have 4 defibrillators in the parish, located at Blagdon Green by the tile shop, Angersleigh village room, Blagdon Hill Playing Fields Pavilion and the telephone box in Pitminster, near the bus stop.

If anyone has any questions, please have a look at our website, and if you want to get in touch directly, all councillors' contact details are available there.

Peter Cordier

Pitminster Parish Council Chairman

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