

# Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council

## Chairman's Report 2017

It was with great sadness that the council were made aware of the passing of Bill Debenham. Bill was a recent co-option to the council and instantly made a significant contribution to business with his ability to cut through to the real issues. He was very well liked and respected by all and is deeply missed.

We welcomed Lizzie Guinn from Affpuddle to the council in May and Lizzie has immediately jumped in to the deep end attending meetings on behalf of the council in support of issues affecting residents.

It has been a particularly busy year for the council with many issues from higher authorities and government having the potential to directly impact the parish along with our own local ones.

**The Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan** has brought forward a number of potential sites near or adjacent to the parish southern boundary. The council has responded to a number of consultations with the intention of mitigating the impact on affected residents and to ensure consideration of a meaningful transport strategy.

**Highways** issues are regularly addressed by the council. Continued vigilance and regular maintenance of drains has been necessary to ensure alleviation of flooding. We are currently awaiting details of how the inclusion of Waddock Cross in the Transport Improvement Scheme will make this junction safer. The signs for action are promising but this is offset with having been at this point many times before.

**Fingerposts** have gradually been restored with the one at Culpeppers Dish being the most recent. The council is currently working on a fast track scheme to restore the remaining posts, and possibly replace some that have been lost in the past, with an application to Viridor later in the year. This will hopefully make an immediate impact and also reduce the financial layout for residents.

**Telephone Kiosks** in both Affpuddle and Briantspuddle are losing their telephone equipment. As such, the council has been given the opportunity to purchase them, as they are a much loved addition to the street scene within

the community. Once this process has been completed it is likely that we will consult residents in both villages on possible future uses.

The **Piddle Valley Conservation Review** is still ongoing although it is expected that the final draft will be published within the next few months. The removal of the water meadows concerned many residents and this was one of the major points in the parish council's submission. It is anticipated that the opportunity to comment will be available immediately prior to the reviews submission for approval to Purbeck District Council.

The **Local Plan Partial Review** has become so far reaching that it is now a full review. As such the process has been extended and decisions on the potential increase in housing in the Moreton area, which will impact this parish, are therefore delayed.

The **Housing Needs Survey** commissioned by Purbeck District Council has not convincingly identified a local need for affordable housing within the parish but it has nevertheless made the parish of interest to the Hastoe Housing Association. An offer of land for an 'exception site' outside of the Briantspuddle development boundary has been made by a local landowner. The association say they intend to work with the general support of the local community and as such the council is awaiting further notification on how this will proceed, especially if that support is not forthcoming.

**Tractor and Trailer** movements through Affpuddle have caused considerable concern to residents due to the impact on quality of life and safety issues. The council has been in communication with the farming business responsible and a number of mitigations have been identified. A one way system through Tolpuddle and a reduction in speed have had some impact but it is still a massive increase in traffic than existed in the past.

The **Precept** was increased from £9000 to £9450 principally to cover inflation with grass cutting, repairs and maintenance and insurance seeing the largest increases.

The council has continued to promote the interests of the parish with many other issues. We were particularly delighted to see the return of the post box facility at Waddock and also the successful litter pick weekend earlier this spring. As always we are indebted to all residents who volunteer within the

various organisations that operate within the parish or simply take it upon themselves to deal with something that improves our quality of life.

Congratulations are due to the Bladen Social Club who have provided a well-used amenity for their members, the majority of whom live within the parish, for 60 years this year.

The volunteers from the Briantspuddle Post Office and Shop Association were the deserved recipients of the Affpuddle and Turnerspuddle Parish Council's nomination for Volunteer of the Year Award with Purbeck District Council. A tremendous effort is put in by so many members of the community to ensure that this small rural outpost continues to benefit from such essential services.