

Report received from the Chairman of Affpuddle & Turnerspuddle Parish Council –

It has been a busy year for the Parish Council.

2018 represented the centenary of the end of World War 1 and the Parish Council was keen to mark this poignant anniversary in an appropriate and lasting way. Arrangements were made to clean the War Memorial so that the names of those Parishioners who had given their lives in both World Wars were once again legible. This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the War Memorial Trust, to whom the Parish Council is very grateful. In addition, Phil Ventham came forward to suggest the planting of daffodils in Briantspuddle Woods to commemorate the fallen. The Parish Council provided the funding but Phil took the project by the horns by organising a working group to plant 2,000 bulbs last autumn. Thank you to Phil and to the willing group who helped complete the task. The Parish Council also worked closely with Affpuddle PCC to organise a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11am on Sunday 11th November. Many local organisations were represented by the laying of a wreath and this simple but moving act brought our small community together in remembrance. Thank you to Jonathan Haigh who led the Service and acted as liaison between the Affpuddle PCC and the Parish Council.

The year has seen the successful creation of our new community website. Thank you to Campbell de Burgh, who masterminded the project to set up the new website and who, on behalf of the Parish Council, continues to edit and maintain the site. It offers a valuable record of the news, events and life in the Parish and we are mindful of the effort that Campbell puts in to keep the site relevant and up to date.

Moving onto the work undertaken by the Parish Council itself a highlight included some significant improvements undertaken to the roads in the parish in conjunction with Dorset Highways. The Parish Council has sought safety improvements to the Waddock Crossroads junction for many years, working with Highways and our County Councillor I'm pleased to report that some initiatives have now been implemented. New signs have been erected on the approach from Bovington and south on the B3390, as well as fresh road markings on the eastern approach. An experimental verge was laid and planted with a variety of slow growing plants to reduce maintenance also has the benefit of improving visibility northwards. Flooding issues in Throop were

also brought to the attention of the Parish Council and Highways were congratulated for acting swiftly to correct the issues.

Unfortunately, highways issues have caused considerable distress to residents of Affpuddle. The increasing number of movements by large agricultural vehicles transporting slurry have caused safety concerns and a loss of amenity value. A planning application to install a slurry lagoon at Southover Farm was received during the year. It was claimed in the application that the introduction of the slurry lagoon would have the effect of reducing traffic movements to the site. Residents expressed their concerns to the Council in writing and during the public participation at the Council's Meetings. As a result, the Parish Council have made representations to Dorset County Council requesting wide ranging and specific conditions be applied to any grant of permission associated with the application. These conditions include the introduction of a liaison committee which will give a voice to residents to raise issues associated with the site. However, Members are keenly aware that the Parish Council have been unable to influence matters to the extent that many residents had hoped.

Last year the Borough of Poole purchased the former water meadows north of Briantspuddle for the purposes of complying with nitrogen neutral policies associated with new housing. Investigations were under way to decide whether to create a wetland environment, but they were put on hold to deal with other priorities. The Parish Council understands that a survey will be carried out to establish water levels at which point the authority will consult with the Parish Council about any proposals.

As an ongoing part of Council work, we endeavour to maintain our working relationship with other groups in the Parish and to ensure that policies and agreements are reviewed and modernised where necessary to maintain their relevance into the future. With this in mind, a decision was taken to realign agreements between the Parish Council and Bladen Social Club and remove ongoing confusion as to whether the 1982 or the 1986 agreement took precedence. At the same time, and in recognition that all the Agreements between the three parties are now over 30 years old, the Parish Council reiterated its desire to take part in discussion to modernise the remaining agreements by mutual consent. It is hoped that progress will be made towards this objective in the coming year.

In August the Parish Council made grant awards following applications by Affpuddle PCC, Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee and Wareham Citizens

Advice Bureau. These awards were made to enhance the lives of parishioners and the Parish Council would like to thank all these organisations for the role they play to support and enrich community life.

In March I had the pleasure of attending the Offices of Purbeck District County to present the award of Volunteer of the Year Award, on behalf of the Parish, to Eve Badcock. As most of you will know Eve has held the role of Postmistress for the last 16 years, a role which comes with considerable financial responsibility. As well as making a huge contribution to the shop and Post Office in this capacity, Eve also supports both the Village Hall Committee and Affpuddle PCC by making her garden available for key fundraising events in the form of the Annual Church Fete and Open Gardens. On behalf of the Parish I would like to thank Eve again tonight for the contribution she has made to our community.

Parish Maintenance is an ongoing task for the Parish Council, and this has included several initiatives this year.

Two fingerposts have been replaced in line with the Council's objective of restoring the way markers throughout the Parish. The fingerpost at Briantspuddle Crossroads incorporates an additional finger to direct visitors to the Village Shop and Hall and was partly funded by a grant from Viridor as well as an anonymous donation by a parishioner. Thanks go to both parties for their generous support. The finger post at Affpuddle Crossroads has also been replaced.

All Parish noticeboards have received attention. The noticeboard at Waddock Cross has been replaced and the boards in Affpuddle and Briantspuddle have been repaired. Grass cutting, weeding and other duties have been carried out to the highest of standards by the Parish Council's Groundsman. These efforts amongst others paid dividend when Briantspuddle was awarded the title of Dorset Best Village 2018 last September. As well as a plaque, the prize included a cash award of £200 which the Parish Council used to purchase its own litter picking equipment.

This new equipment was put to use for the first time and to great effect during parish litter pick weekend. An entire trailer load of an extraordinary variety of litter was collected. Thank you to the 20 or so parishioners who gave their time so willingly to complete an unpleasant task, which sadly has become a necessary annual event. However, the result represents a big improvement to

our environment and one which will showcase the parish for visitors at the up and coming Open Gardens event run by the Village Hall committee.

I am delighted that several initiatives have been brought to fruition during the year for the benefit of the Parish. In large part these would not have happened had it not been for the ideas, support and hard work of some willing volunteers.

Last year the Parish Council adopted both Telephone Kiosks in the Parish for £1 each, from BT. The Parish Council invited parishioners to suggest ideas as to how to use these little spaces to the best effect. Following the feedback, it was decided to install a defibrillator in the Affpuddle box and to transform the Briantspuddle telephone box into a mini information centre.

David Griffith spearheaded the defibrillator project overseeing the grant funding and installation as well as ensuring that training was made available to parishioners at a free event in the Village Hall. He continues to check the defibrillator units in both Briantspuddle and Affpuddle each week and the Parish Council, and I am sure all Parishioners, are extremely grateful to him for this service.

Leonora Sheppard together with Roger Stayte have transformed the Briantspuddle box into a mini information centre and designed the content to fit in the tiny space. The interior of the box now contains three aluminium, weatherproof panels that display local history and information. The opening of the box attracted over 30 Parishioners to celebrate the occasion. Special thanks also go to Audrey Grindrod, who cut the ribbon on the day and remains the custodian of this special feature at the heart of the Parish.

Our long standing and highly respected Chairman of the Parish Council, Nick Gore, decided to step down from his post this year. On behalf of the Parish I would like to thank him for the contribution he made over a significant period to the Council and parish life. In addition, the Parish Clerk, Lindsay Hole, resigned to take up an alternative post and Jonathan Haigh decided to relinquish his position. They have both made positive contributions to the Parish Council and I thank them for all their work. During the year the Parish Council welcomed Stuart Chorley as a Parish Councillor and more recently Graham Lightfoot was welcomed back as a Councillor, following the recent Elections.

I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for the part they have played over the last year. Charles Barter, Vice Chair, has offered me tremendous support, for which I am very grateful, and Sarah Lowman kindly took on the role of Acting Clerk which we recruited to fill the vacancy. I am very pleased tonight to introduce and welcome Louise Dowell who has accepted our offer to join us as our new Parish Clerk.

In thanking so many parishioners in my address I am very conscious that there are many volunteers who give their time so willingly throughout the parish. We will hear from some of the organisations who help contribute to the life of the parish later tonight. However, before I invite them to speak I would like to thank all volunteers for their efforts, which are much appreciated.

Looking forward to next year the Unitary Authority has been established and the recent elections concluded. Our County Councillors will be Peter Wharf and Laura Miller both of whom we have worked closely with before and we look forward to working with again in the interests of the Parish. As things stand we do not yet know how the Parish Council will be affected by the changes brought about by the Unitary Authority, Councillors will keep Parishioners informed as events unfold.

8th May 2019

- Affpuddle PCC - Jonathan Haigh
- Briantspuddle Community Group - Angie Talbot
- Briantspuddle Music Group - Jonathan Haigh
- Bladen Social Club – Peter Harrison
- Briantspuddle Village Hall - Jennifer Lightfoot
- Briantspuddle Village Shop and Post Office - Ken Kilbank
- Erica Trust - Sue Jones