

## Chairman's Report 2018

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to everybody here tonight.

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to all my fellow Councillors and especially the Committee members, and Councillor Noel for their hard work this year and the time that they so generously give to improve our community.

I am pleased to say that this year we have welcomed Kevin Ward and Jacqueline Hele Kergozou to the Council, and also Helen Marshall as our Clerk after Richard sadly resigned last year having served us so well for 11 years.

A big thank you must also go to Ros, who has not only supported our Council through our Planning and Parish Council meetings but also agreed to Chair a traffic committee that has been set up this year to try and address the problems we experience here along the A371, with heavy freight traffic and speeding. We are currently deciding how to gather data on our roads to make a case for improvements that might mitigate some of these problems. And we and the neighbouring Parishes are also looking at how we will deal with the withdrawal of the Speed Indicator Devices this year, by Highways.

On the subject of Highways sadly we continue to receive complaints about parking in Draycott and our advice continues to be that if a vehicle is causing an obstruction it should be reported to the police. There will be more on this problem in our next meeting.

We have recently submitted our comments on the draft Local Plan Part II, which are available on our website if you haven't yet had an opportunity to read them. We were most disappointed to see that Rodney Stoke was not included in the local areas identified for new development and the areas proposed in Draycott unfortunately appear to have poor access and infrastructure to support them. We await the outcome of the consultation.

Enforcement (Honeyhurst)

We are proud to have recently added a Garden of Remembrance to our Burial Ground and thanks must go to the Burial Ground Committee who have made this happen in such a short space of time. I understand that the base plaques are being installed this week. We are also still having discussions with the Diocese about expanding the Burial Ground, and we await their instruction!

I am very sad to hear that we will no longer be served by Jacky Smith our Village Agent, as regrettably the Community Council for Somerset have not secured enough funding for Mendip. I hope that this will be a short term situation, as Jacky has helped many people in our community.

We will be installing the memorial stone and plaque in the Rev Copley Memorial Field when the weather improves, and we have commissioned a specialist to tidy up the lime trees. The Sandringham Oak tree has been planted and the hedge has been cut back. The fence was repaired after a car incident last year.

This year we also hosted an NHS event for villagers at the hall and we continue to support the newsletter and hall and field committees.

(I am sure Ian will be informing you about the fingerpost signs, but it's reassuring to see a number of residents stepping up to help with such a worthy cause.)

Thank you for your rapt attention!