

Chairman's Report 2019

Welcome.

As you know we are in an election year for the district and parish councils and due to the restrictions of Purdah, our District Councillor is not able to give a report this evening and that's why she isn't present.

*** If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor we do have some nomination forms available tonight!

The biggest event this year has of course been the closure of the Wells Road, which ultimately went well and was finished ahead of time. I know that many villagers enjoyed the relative peace in the village. Unfortunately though, we are now fighting to get the roads in Rodney Stoke and Draycott reinstated after the impacts of the diverted traffic – which we all predicted would happen and despite seeking and receiving assurances in writing from the County Council before the works started, we now find ourselves in exactly the position we worked hard to avoid. We continue to fight our corner.

On a more positive note we have however seen speed roundels painted in Rodney Stoke and an additional speed sign has, as we requested, been added to the top of Millway. We are also working towards protecting the visibility splay at the top of Stoke Street and the verge further down towards the Church by installing wooden bollards. In Draycott we have had bollards installed to protect the visibility at the top of the Street. We are working to address the signage on New Road and have been pushing for the shoulders and passing places to be improved for some years now. The road closure of course added considerably to those problems but we understand that it is due for 'substantial works' this year although it remains to be seen what they are. And we continue to seek speed limit reductions in the villages and to tackle the perpetual parking problems.

Thanks to a generous donation by a resident we are looking to purchase a Speed Indicator Device for the Parish and we have established a group who are very close to making a final recommendation. We are also pleased to see the Community Speed Watch team are active in Rodney Stoke.

Due to recent budget cuts, the Parish Council has now taken over refilling of the grit bins – although this may yet be reviewed.

Years ago we anticipated the need to expand the Burial Ground in Draycott and have held years of discussions with the Diocese to request a portion of the Glebe field. They have now refused our request, so we have let the PCC know and can only leave future arrangements to them.

We have very recently discovered that we have a new Village Agent, Bella Lapwood, and we look forward to seeing her at our meetings soon. We have contact details for Bella and we will publicise them in all the usual places.

The memorial stone and plaques are now installed in the Rev Cobley Memorial Field and the Sandringham Oak tree has been protected with a tree guard.

We are also in the process of applying for grants to add more equipment to the childrens play area and so far we have had a grant of £500 confirmed from Mendip Shape Community Fund.

Should you wish to inspect them, the accounts for last year are available and they are always available on our website, the financial statement to the end of February is also here.

Finally thank you to all my fellow Councillors and especially the Committee members, not only on the Council but for all the village groups.

Any questions?