

**HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016.**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

Welcome to our Annual Parish meeting. I, as Vice-Chairman, am standing in for our Chairman, David Talling, who is unable to be with us this evening and before I review the year gone I would like to refer to David's position. For the past 8 months The Parish Council has granted David leave of absence, at his request, due to his difficult personal situation. David had always hoped that his situation might improve and that he could take up his duties again, unfortunately this has not proved to be the case and he feels that he now must resign as Chairman and Parish Councillor. I know that you will all join with me in thanking Councillor Talling for his work and service to the Parish Council. We shall miss his careful Chairmanship, his fair and considered approach, his wry humour and the odd mischievous comment, and certainly whilst he been absent his wise counsel on difficult matters. We wish him well for the future.

Before I begin my review I would also like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their work and commitment during the past year and also our Clerk Philip Brimson for his wisdom and guidance and also his calming way when I have had one of my irascible bouts of ill humour. I was very sad to report at the last meeting that Philip has decided to retire during the course of this year. I would also like to thank our County Councillor Hugh Davies and our District Councillors Sue Goss and Chris Morgan for their unstinting support of our Council's work often in the face of heavy criticism when it has not been their fault!

Now to our review; it gives me enormous pleasure not to mention the gorse at Kilton Cross in a derogatory fashion but I note that it is growing again! The matter of Superfast Broadband remains a confused and badly managed issue, following our disappointment of last year when we were denied the ability to proceed on our own BT and CDS have continued to deliver misinformation, the latest being that Superfast was now available in Holford Combe it as far as the church after that performance collapses and BT had the temerity to fly post residents to confirm availability. We are now looking to install our own radio link system.

I attended a joint meeting with Kilve Parish Council which was called to question the conduct of the CIM Fund representatives from EDF and

WSC attended and after initial jousting the points of disagreement were noted; it was a poor meeting with little understanding of the problems displayed by the EDF and WSC attendees. I have heard nothing since.

The state of Alfoxton House continues to give concern with no action from our approach to WSC

AONB issues over cycling quad biking and fly camping and tipping remain with the AONB staff having difficulty in policing the Quantocks due to financial constraints.

The ongoing uncertainty over Hinkley Point C continues to frustrate our residents; Cllr Ayre continues to attend the Hinkley Point Forum as our representative. One sometimes two Councillors attend the Area Panel Meetings.

Now the “good bits”!

Defibrillator Project now financed thanks to Cllr Hugh Davies and Cllr Chris Hayes.

Dog Pound Refurb Project to start in May 2016

Bus Shelter Refurbished thanks to Cllr Ayre and Cllr Hayes.

Action to deal with traffic and road signage commenced with Somerset County Highways next meeting on 12 May 2016.

Road accident rate at Hack Lane/A39 reduced due to improved road surface condition.

The HPC Planning Committee dealt with 4 non-contentious Applications and 2 more difficult ones.

The “Hunt Liaison Scheme” led by Cllr Hayes seems to be working.

Your Parish Council supported the Holford Village Christmas Party, organised by Councillor Salvidge as H&D Village Hall Representative, with a financial donation.

Your Council also continues to support the H&D Village Hall project.

Your Parish Council is becoming more concerned by the financial position of West Somerset Council and to some degree the Somerset County Council. It appears that a number of activities previously carried out in the villages have either been cut or reduced due to these constraints.

We have decided to act ourselves to keep our village looking neat and tidy as befits an SSSI and Conservation Area within an AONB. We have decided to appoint a Lengthsman (Village Handyman) in our own right. You will remember that we tried to do this last year in conjunction with

Kilve and West Quantoxhead to no avail but with great help from Hugh Davies and David Peak of Somerset Highways we have secured a grant of £3000.00 towards equipment for this post to do it ourselves. Also we increased the Precept this year to facilitate paying for this post for 12 days per year initially. We have further planning to do but we shall shortly be recruiting.

Following the Parish Meeting the following Parish Council Appointments were made by ballot:-

Chairman Cllr D. Salvidge. 741578

Vice-Chairman Cllr C. Hayes 741652

Parish Councillors

Cllr N. Venner 741310.

Cllr G. Weed 741382

Cllr T. Ayre 01823 432 439

Cllr P. Grandfield 741233