

## **NOTES FROM THE MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The May meeting is our Annual Meeting, so the first agenda item was election of Chair. I thank my fellow councillors for electing me to the role for another year. I can only say I will do my best to fulfill their expectations.

I would like to welcome Alison Roberts as the new Vice Chair. Alison brings a wealth of experience, common sense and local knowledge to the Parish Council and I very much value her input.

Then bureaucracy kicked in! We did our annual review of no less than 12 policy documents which I won't list here but you can find on our website under the agenda for the May meeting. We also confirmed membership of our various committees, working groups and appointments to other organisations. Again, detailed information is on the website.

WE approved the purchase of 3 new noticeboards. One for the new David Wilson homes estate, one to replace the old leaking noticeboard opposite the school, and one to go in the telephone box at the corner of Quantock View which is going to be used to display a collection of old photographs of the village which I hope people will find interesting. So the phone box will now be a combined seed and history box.

There was good news about the War Memorial. The War Memorials Trust have agreed a grant to cover half the cost of cleaning. This will be done by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation from Wells using a pressurised steam system approved by the War Memorials Trust and will, I hope, be done during the summer.

I mentioned in my report on our March meeting that the owner of Sandhill Park Woods (16.8 acres of woodland and ponds) had offered to sell them to the Parish Council and that the first steps we needed to take were to establish costs for a chartered surveyor's valuation, an arborist's survey and solicitors' fees. This month, we considered quotes for these works amounting to around £4,000. I stress this is not what the woodland would cost – just the cost of getting the information we needed to proceed to the next stage. Some members saw this as an opportunity to buy a long-term asset for the village. Other members were concerned about the ongoing liabilities and costs. In the end it was agreed by a narrow margin not to proceed.

We considered a planning application from Wyvern Rugby Club to form a Rugby facility with associated car parking on land to the west of Dene Road and south of the A358. This would give us another sporting facility in the Parish and was enthusiastically supported.

As ever, please feel free to contact myself or the Clerk if you have any questions or points you would like to make.



Chair, Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council

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