

Dumbleton Parish Council APM. May 2019

Chairman's Annual Report

The councillors are as follows;

Helen Povey (Chair Person)

Kate Risdale (Vice Chair Person)

Jim Harmsworth Cowles

Kate Hending

Richard Price

John Russell

Viv Thomas

The year May 2018 – May 2019 has once again been a demanding one and I would like to thank all the Councillors for their time and commitment on behalf of the Council.

Barry Lucas resigned for health reasons in September. The Council would like to express their appreciation for all the work he put in during his time as a councillor and in the support he gave to the Chair.

Unusually, during the past 15 months, the Council has had 2 casual vacancies. Often these vacancies are filled by application and interview. In these instances, 10 residents requested that elections be held and 3 and 2 candidates, respectively stood forward.

In the first election Jim Harmsworth Cowles was elected and in the second Richard Price was elected with a large majority. Both these councillors live in Dumbleton, which is the largest village in the Parish, so it is very appropriate that Dumbleton should have increased representation and the existing Councillors welcomed such able candidates to the Council.

During the past year the following work has been completed;

- The notice boards in in the villages have been repaired
- The moveable Speed signs continued to be maintained and the operator has continued to work efficiently to move and maintain them
- All planning applications have been discussed at PC meetings or extraordinary meetings and site meetings have been held when appropriate. DPC comments have been sent to TBC, particularly in regard to the current planning legislation, protection of the environment and local conservation rules.
- Councillor Russell and DPC clerk have reported on the planned extension of the A46
- Further Legal advice was received in relation to issues with WVS following the Council's decision in March 2017 that it could not lease the Open Space for legal reasons, and also for the completion of the Easement granted to John Russell for access over

the Village Green. This included registration of the Village Green plus the additional piece of land in front of the Farm gates, with the Land Registry

- (The Village Green in total was registered with the Commons Commission in 1976 and 1982 under DPC ownership, but for the purpose of clarity for the future, the whole of the Village Green, plus the additional piece of land, is now being registered with the Land Registry)
- The legal expenses incurred in the last 2 years have reduced the Council's financial reserves. The Council has a duty to maintain a healthy reserve and prudent financial management over the past few years, has ensured the Council is still in a sound position. However, in order to maintain a responsible level of reserves, the Council has decided to increase the precept for the first time in 4 years
- Dog waste bins have been purchased for each village strategically situated in accordance with the residents' preferences and recommendations
- Risk assessments have been carried out on trees, benches etc in the Parish and work commissioned as appropriate
- Weekly checks and monthly reports have been carried out on the defibrillators in each village in the Parish
- Repairs and replacement pads etc have been provided for each of the 3 defibrillators
- A financial grant have been given to St Peter's Church in Dumbleton.
- Conditions of the roads and bridges etc in the Parish have been monitored and any dangers or required repairs have been reported to Highways and the subsequent actions are followed to completion.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the Councillors, to thank our clerk. David has worked tirelessly to provide the Council with such efficient administrative management, sound legal and procedural advice and unswerving support. The Council would not be in such a strong position without his efforts.

Helen Povey