REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL June 2018

The verges have still not been cut, but the tractors are on their way round. The junctions have been done by the mowing teams ready for the tractors to take on the more rural verges.

The first meeting of the Shadow Council was held in South Walks House, Dorchester two weeks ago where the Chairman and Vice-Chairman plus the Interim Chief Officers were appointed. They are the Chief Executive (known as Head of Service), Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer. They will be in post until the new Unitary Authority, Dorset Council, takes over on 1st April, 2019. Currently there are 206 councillors, County and District, in Dorset but some of them are both (double hatters) so there are actually 176 different councillors. There were some apologies, but not many so the meeting was attended by more than 150 councillors. All had electronic voting meters and it was recorded by audio and vision. The Chairman is a current County Councillor, the Vice- Chairman is from West Dorset. The Head of Service and the Chief Finance Officer are both from the Tri-Partnership (which is West Dorset, North Dorset and Weymouth & Portland) and the Monitoring Officer has come from Dorset County Council.

The last Purbeck District Council had nothing weighty on the agenda and would have been completed quickly except for the last item which was in private session and took over an hour to reach a decision on. A deputation was heard regarding the proposed flooding of part of Arne by Natural England and the RSPB which is most definitely not universally popular.

There has been a few elderly well known village residents who have passed away just recently, Pam Whallen, Margaret Macdonald (no relation to Angus) and Stan Witherden. Mr. Witherden was a Parish Councillor for many years. He was Chairman and was responsible for the Parish Badge being commissioned, I believe in 1978 although I would stand to be corrected on that date. I knew he was in his 90s but I was told that he was 98.when he died.

I addressed the Primary School Assembly in my role as Vice-Chairman of Purbeck District Council and stressed the role of the Parish Council. I only had 10 minutes so everything was very brief, but the questions afterwards were very relevant. In my opinion we have definitely got some budding political talent there.

That concludes my report. As usual I am happy to answer questions or listen to suggestions – Councillor Wendy Meaden

While the PDC June Council meeting was light on content the ongoing focus of attention is putting in place the arrangements for the new Dorset Council to operate from 1st. April 2019 with a balanced budget and Council tax. There is likely to be little change in how services are delivered immediately after 1st April However I anticipate that after the Council elections on 4th. May 2019 how services are delivered will be the prime task of the new Council and making savings made possible by the formation of Dorset Council.

PDC Councillors are working to make sure that there will be local knowledge input in decision making on matters affecting Purbeck residents.

Work is ongoing in gathering the evidence base needed for the Purbeck Local Plan which is expected to be put to Council later this year with the intention of submitting it to the Planning Inspector during March 2019.

Peter Webb