

## REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS August 2018

### From Wendy Meaden

This should be a short report on my part as the Purbeck District Council meeting for July was cancelled. The August meeting has been rescheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> August from 7<sup>th</sup> August, but the agenda is very light so nothing to report on that at this time.

In my civic role I have been attending civic events. The Wimborne civic event was an afternoon bazaar with a 50s theme in aid of Macmillan cancer care. It was very well attended and has raised a good amount to put into the Mayor's Charity for the end of her year. I also have attended the AGM of the Dorset Scout Federation and the Jurassic Jamboree being held currently at Kingston Maurward. This is hosting thousands of Scouts from around the world and their project for this event is to uncover the Roman Road which runs from Dorchester to Wareham. They are doing a really good job on this. There are quite a few years of weeds and other overgrowth to get rid of. The road will be looked after from now and resume its purpose as a thoroughfare for the public to access. It is rather shameful that something of this nature can just disappear into the landscape and needs the really hard physical work of the Scouts to reinstate it.

A very heated meeting took place between Natural England, the Environment Agency, the RSPB and PDC to talk about the flooding of the Arne Peninsular. Further work is to be done on paper and another consultation will take place in early Winter.

I have been taking part in a debate about the NHS and Social Care, the outcomes of which are being sent to the government. This has been one of the more worthwhile events I have attended.

A Dorset Shadow Council update meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Adverts are out for the Dorset Council Chief Executive. Peter Webb is on the Budget Strategy group so will be able to fill you in on that and Peter Wharf is the head of the Human Resources Task and Finish Group so can update you on that.

The Audit and Governance Committee of PDC met on 24<sup>th</sup> July. The Council still enjoys a healthy financial position and received an unqualified external audit report which is excellent.

This Parish Council has continued to meet with PDC regarding the Local Plan and I think is fully up to date, ahead of many other parish councils, on this subject. This is one of the areas where I find myself very proud of the professionalism of this Parish Council and its representation of our village.

I was present at the Town and Parish Council Briefing at PDC on 14<sup>th</sup> August and it was good to see both the Chairman and the Clerk there.

In the village there have been some very minor hedge overgrowths which I have dealt with personally only needing a stout pair of gloves and a pair of secateurs. One heavier growth overhanging the pavement in Lime Kiln Road was reported to PDC and has been dealt with by the hedge owner after a PDC letter was received. There have been some problems with a few

refuse bins being missed by DWP but these were all promptly sorted well within the 3 working day deadline.

As usual I am happy to answer questions or respond to any suggestions.

From Peter Webb

I have very little to add to Wendy's report.

It is early days in the budget and Finance Task & Finish Group for the new Dorset Council. There is now a realistic prospect that the Council will not have to pay negative revenue support grant to HM Government and the arrangements for Council Tax harmonisation will not cause problems. These two factors will make the setting of a balanced budget for 2019/20 an easier task.

The Pre-submission draft Purbeck Local Plan is likely to go to Policy Group in September and to Council in October for consultation on its soundness thereafter.

There is little doubt that the revised NPPF and Planning guidance make achieving the kinds of policies we would like in the plan difficult. However having a Plan in front of the Inspector prior to the new Dorset Council coming into being will give Purbeck protection from speculative developments on unallocated sites.