REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS TO PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2019

The Purbeck District Council meeting was held on 19th February where the 2 main items were the approval of the AONB Management Plan and permission was given for the Chief Executive to be offered a voluntary release on 31st March.

There was a full Shadow Council meeting in South Walks House, Dorchester on 24th January which approved the Constitution for the Dorset Council and a Briefing was given on the Budget for the Dorset Council. Other Budget Briefings took place in early to mid February so that all Councillors had attended. Another full Shadow Council meeting was held on 20th February in South Walks House, Dorchester, to approve the balanced Budget for the new Dorset Council and the Transitional arrangements for committees in April. A further full Shadow Council will be held in March to consider the staffing structures.

The Town and Parish Council briefing held on the evening of 6th February was, in my view, rather disappointing. I felt it to be of a very negative nature and had hoped that, as this was the final event of this nature, it would have ended on a positive note. On 12th March there is the evening for the Volunteer of the Year Awards at Purbeck District Council.

Mostly in the village I have been involved in sorting out highway potholes and still more hedge cutting. There were some very localised flooding issues due to the heavy but sharp storms we had. More planning applications in the village at the moment are causing discontent and I have had to meet residents on sites or have seen public in The Library on my Thursday mornings there. I am in correspondence and visits with Aster Housing Association and residents regarding fencing and garden maintenance also. I have been partially successful on this, but the matter is not totally completed.

As always I am happy to answer questions or listen to suggestions.

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WENDY MEADEN

The daily business of PDC continues with the Planning application for the Huntick Road site being determined on 27th. February. It is recommended for approval with a fair proportion of affordable housing. It will be important to keep pressure on the new Dorset Council to ensure allocation of those affordable houses favours residents of Lytchett and follows precedent that PDC applied in Wareham.

The balanced budget for Dorset Council approved on 20th. February allocates money to ensure front line services are not diminished. The new Councillors will have to decide what direction of travel they take. The fact that HM Government is undertaking a funding review for local authorities may have an impact on what is possible in the future. The volatility, and being the biggest share of expenditure, of Child and Adult care services is going to mean that other expenditures, especially the non-statutory ones, will continue to be squeezed. Inevitably towns and parishes will need to pick up some of the pieces through their (uncapped) precepts and accessing whatever grants are available.

The Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee, of which I have been a member, is concerned that the capital replacement programme for waste collection vehicles has been slowed down and could result in some degradation of service due to vehicle breakdowns. I hope we are wrong. If there are problems make sure they are reported using the online procedure.

From District Councillor Peter Webb.