

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MONDAY, 18 APRIL 2005

Chair: Mrs Shirley D Beazer

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MONDAY, 18 APRIL 2005Chair's Report (Mrs Shirley D Beazer)

The brief reports you are about to hear from our Committees by no means portray the enormous amount of “behind the scenes” hard work they entail throughout the year. The day to day running plus improved and efficient function of the Parish is, of course, our main priority but we also endeavour to keep up the pressure on innumerable unwelcome “outside” issues which we hope will never materialise, but nevertheless we have to monitor and provide input.

Firstly, I am delighted to say – at last the first phase of providing the long-awaited **Footbridge** at the Bybrook has taken place. (I hope you’ve had the opportunity of looking at the plans displayed on the boards). I would like to pay a special tribute to Philip Harris who has worked so tenaciously for goodness knows how many years (and even harder on his retirement as Chairman) towards this successful outcome. Congratulations Philip on a job well done. Philip will report on this in detail later.

You will be pleased to hear the **Parish Precept** has been reduced this year. A promise the Finance Committee said at last year’s meeting it would endeavour to carry out. Details will be given later in the Finance & Administration Report.

Some of the “outside” issues which could notably adversely affect us are the proposed **Park and Ride** at Lambridge, **Rugby Pitches on the Bathampton Meadows** and proposed **Link Road** and I am therefore extremely pleased to welcome Steve Mackerness who has literally just been Co-opted onto the Parish Council. He has tremendous background knowledge on all these issues already in his capacity as Chairman of BROLAC (Bradford Road and Ostlings Lane Action Committee) and I know will serve us well. Steve will also report on this later. I also take this opportunity to once again thank Philip Harris who has also contributed so much towards these contentious subjects.

Notices of Intent to provide **Double Yellow Lines** at Ashley Road, Dovers Park and Keep Clear areas have been advertised. (These are also on the boards). Complaints have since been forwarded to B&NES by us and by individuals I believe regarding the insufficient time lapse between display of the notices and possible objections. For us, double yellow lines were a last resort after all other methods of trying to introduce co-operative parking and to date we’ve waited almost 4 years for action.

[Memo:

- a. Fire Engines = 2.5 metres wide (approx 8ft) x 10 metres long (approx 30 ft)*
- b. Info. Re Double Yellow Lines attached.*

It’s heartening to know that the **Post Office/General Stores’** threatened closure is being tackled in a determined manner by a large group of enthusiastic volunteers and we wish them every success. It’s still the same message – Use it or lose it. A brief report is also on the Agenda.

I don’t think you can fail to notice that a lot of work by volunteers (and I stress volunteers) under the masterly guidance of Martin Wright is going into the refurbishment of the Kitchen

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and Bar here at the **Parish Hall**. I would like to thank them all, for what will undoubtedly be an impressive asset for its many users.

A lot of work by a dedicated team has also gone into the progress of the Parish Plan. I applaud their stamina and determination. A report on this is also on the Agenda.

I would like to mention **Christine Woodyatt**, who sadly died earlier this year. Christine did so much for the village she loved, and who loved her in return. A stickler for litter of any kind when Best Kept Village came around (which we won several times) but always willing to help anywhere she could - and did. A gentle lady with a gentle smile.

Following the sad closure of **Tyndale** as a Residential Home for the Elderly, and a Public Meeting (very well attended as to its proposed temporary use (maximum 2 years) as a Day Centre for Adults with Learning Difficulties), I can report that the Carrswood Authorities responded immediately and with full co-operation towards solving our concerns about traffic movement, safety and parking. However, we will remind Somer that following this 2 year temporary use, we asked that Tyndale be used as Affordable Housing. We have also requested that the **basement of The Manor** might be used for the same worthwhile purpose. A survey is at present under way by the Somer Property Investment Team.

Plans were submitted by Somer Housing (Fiona Hull Tel: 366019) and subsequently approved for **3 houses** on the top rank of the present garages of **Mountain Wood** to be let under the "Local Letting Policy" ie local houses for local people. The lower rank of garages are to be inspected - some will be used as garages and the derelict garages demolished.

*[Note: Rents anticipated = 2 x 3-bedroom houses = approximately £84.00 per week
1 x 2-bedroom house = approximately £70.00 per week]*

Lt Cdr Peter Downing and his wife moved house recently out of the village. Peter (an ex Chairman of the Parish Council, Co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch, a great part of the Bybrook renovation team, to name but a few) gave a great deal of his time to the Parish for many years. We wish them happiness in their new home.

There are plans for the future uplift and general accessibility of the **Parish Office** situated in the basement of The Manor. At the moment I doubt if many people even know where the Parish Office is? We hope to remedy that.

A word of praise also for our Village Handiman (Roger Millbank) who I am sure you will agree does an extremely efficient job of grass cutting. Unfortunately, we still have to encourage or hassle as the case may be for B&NES to follow his example.

The **Mowing Schedule** of the grass verges (carried out by B&NES) usually starts middle to end of April each year. Two cuts per year, but depending on the growth rate – may be requested to be more frequent.

Resurfacing Programme for 2005: From the Bradford Road Junction with Bathford Hill up to the Post Office ONLY to be resurfaced and "patching" of the stretch of road from Dovers Park to the Community Centre. I have also asked for the sunken ground outside the Post Office to be repaired.

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And last, but by no means least, I sincerely thank all my fellow Councillors for a year of tremendous hard work and commitment. I look forward to even greater progress working with a team of Councillors “who can and who most surely will”. Thank you.

Notes:

1. **Beat Manager - P.C. Roger Parker** (Tel: 842413 or 842554
Voicemail 01225-842496 (Prompt) 7 – 1675)
Website roger.parker – at – avonandsomersetpolice –dot - uk)

2. **Fiona Hull (Somer Housing)**
Tel: 366019

3. **Next Sweeping Date:** Thursday, 26 April 2005 and thereafter every 2 weeks

1. ***RE: PROCEDURE FOR DOUBLE YELLOW LINES – As at 2000

The Review will probably take place within the next 12 months. This Review will cost approximately £80,000.00 for about 50 locations.

Public consultation will be carried out by B&NES as part of the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) process.

TRO = Lengthy statutory procedure
Consultation with the Police
Public advertising
Consideration by the relevant Committee if objections to the proposals are received

Only a small number are processed each year.

2. FOLLOWING DECRIMINALISATION - AS AT APRIL 2003

Now via Dorothy Miley (395234) – Parking Team Leader

a. I sent her a copy of proposed Double Yellow Lines for Ashley Road and Dovers Park in March 2003.

b. Her reply dated 28 March 2003:

“Unfortunately I was not aware of this request. I will therefore include this in future proposals. I cannot estimate a date for processing yet but I will include it in a larger review that our consultancy will process. I shall keep you informed of it and the Parish will be contacted during the consultation.

B&NES suggestion the Parish Council contribute £2,000.00 towards Double Yellow Lines refused!!

HIGH STREET TRAFFIC CALMING - PRIORITY POINTS 1, 2 & 3

19 NOVEMBER 2001

Approved by Parish Council.

Displayed in the Post Office.

Put in Bathford Bulletin: Any comments to go to Nick Jeanes (Area Traffic Engineer (394256)).

Subsequent Action:

- a. Plan No 1: Mr & Mrs Rideal (just above Prospect Place) objected to Priority Point and it was subsequently moved (by B&NES) to just above New Road.
- b. Plan No 2: Residents of approx Nos 59-62 High Street objected to Priority Point and it was subsequently moved (by B&NES) to British Legion.
- c. **Traffic Calming Phase I (3 x Priority Points in High St) eventually installed February 2003.**

Subsequent uproar about Priority Point 1 (at British Legion) after 2 accidents but after Parish Council request to remove it, B&NES refused to remove it for at least 6 months.

- d. As at April 2004: Provision of 8 humps suggested by B&NES rejected by Parish Council for High Street.

Opted instead for:

- (i) Permanent Flashing SLOW DOWN 30 mph hour box (£6,000.00) – sited prior to approach to No 87 High Street (Wiltshire border entry to High Street).
- (ii) Resiting of 30 mph speed signs further back towards Wiltshire border.
- (iii) Additional build-out (£2,500.00) prior to Dovers Park to reduce traffic speed going DOWN.
- (iv) Provision of “Regular Speed Check” sign or similar.

As at April 2005:

- 1.. Still waiting for para.4 (i)-(iv) to be provided.
- 2. Priority Point 1 (British Legion) still in place.