

Shoscombe Parish Council - Chairman's report May 2023

Parish Council Meetings

The council has continued to hold meetings every two months in the Village Hall. Members of the community are always welcome to attend these meetings.

Planning Issues

The council have considered and responded to consultation requests from Bath & North East Somerset Council (BNES), who are the decision makers, on a sizable number of local planning applications. In doing so the council has considered the location, size and style of each application, any relevant published planning policy as well as information in the Shoscombe Village Plan gathered from local residents. Full details can be found in the Parish Council minutes and on the BNES planning portal website.

BNES have continued with their new cycle of strategic and local plan updates during the past year covering the period out till 2042. The parish council and local residents as individuals have and will continue to have an opportunity to comment upon these during 2023 & 2024 as evidence and proposals are published before they are formally submitted for examination by government officers in late 2024.

Village Hall and Recreation Ground

During the past year maintenance and further improvements have been made to the Village Hall and Recreation Ground including a new projector and a new piece of play equipment.

I wish to formally record thanks from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Management Committee for all they do to keep this valued community hub operating successfully and for the fundraising activity they undertake.

Second Defibrillator

A few years ago the council installed a defibrillator in the old phone box in St Julian's Road near the school. More recently we received a very generous offer from an anonymous donor in order to help fund a second defibrillator to be sited in the main part of the village. This has recently been installed near the AppleTree Public House. Training on how to use it is currently being arranged for residents who are interested and full details will be published soon. Many thanks to the local residents who do the regular checks on each unit to ensure they remain fully functional.

Footpaths and Highways.

The Council has continued to liaise with BNES throughout the year to ensure they repair and maintain footpaths and highways in the village and the surrounding area. In addition we have worked with the BNES highways department to achieve the long proposed introduction of the mandatory 20mph speed limit in the village.

We are always grateful to residents for reporting such issues as soon as they note them directly to BNE&S via their Council Connect system so they can be dealt with as soon as possible.

Climate & Nature Working Group

The Climate & Nature Group has continued with activity throughout the year advising on various issues, organising activities & talks, planning the planting of an oak tree and starting to investigate options about electric car charging points.

Community Fund

The Community Fund has provided funding this year for the Platinum Jubilee Celebration and the Climate & Nature Group. Residents are reminded that funding is available to support community activities and applications can be made via the Clerk.

Council

Due to careful monitoring of our finances over the past years the Council has once again been able to keep the parish precept the same. Thus there has been no increase for the year 2023/24 in the Parish Precept element of the council tax that BNES levy.

Finally I would like to thank the clerk and all councillors who have served during the past year for everything they have done for the community & the council.

Ian Cannock - Chairman Shoscombe Parish Council - May 2023