

Shoscombe Parish Council - Vice-Chairman's report May 2022

Parish Council Meetings

The council recommenced in-person meetings in the Village Hall from July 2021 after a period of two years of holding remote meetings. This has made the carrying out of our regular business easier. Members of the community are always welcome to attend these meetings as they were during the period of remote meetings.

Planning

The council have considered and responded to Bath & North East Somerset Council (BNES) who are the decision makers on a sizable number of local planning applications. These have ranged from small extensions, redevelopment of agricultural buildings to demolition and replacement by a new build. Full details can be found in the Parish Council minutes and on the BNES planning portal website.

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and BNES have also commenced a new cycle of strategic and local plan updates during the past few months, which the parish council and local residents as individuals will have a chance to comment upon.

Village Hall and Recreation Ground

During the past year further improvements and maintenance work have been made to the Village Hall and Recreation Ground including decorating, flooring maintenance and installing a new picnic bench. Its good to see that Hall bookings have recovered well after a very difficult period of reduced activity.

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 and grant application activity they undertake.

Playground equipment

After many delays over the past year we have finally placed an order to purchase new equipment and commence improvements in the play area during the past few weeks. Hopefully this will be in place before the summer.

Climate & Nature Group

The Climate & Nature Group held a very successful Climate and Nature Day last autumn with good community engagement. It has also been active with tree planting, litter picks and in planning for the future. During the year this group has transitioned from being a Parish Council led working group to be a community led group.

Community Fund

The Community Fund has continued this year and received funding requests which were granted from a group planning the Platinum Jubilee Celebration and the Tree club. In addition an application is expected imminently from the Climate & Nature Community Group.

Council

Due to careful monitoring of our finances over the past few years the Council has again been able to keep the parish precept the same. Thus there has been no increase for the year 2022/23 in the Parish Precept element of the council tax BNES levy.

Finally I would like to thank all councillors who have served during the past year for everything they have done for the community & the council and to welcome the new councillors who have stepped forward recently to continue the work.

Ian Cannock - Vice Chairman Shoscombe Parish Council - May 2022