

2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WINTERBORNE ST MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council have commented on planning applications referred to them during the year since the last annual parish meeting. The Parish Council does not determine applications but merely makes comments. These are then forwarded to West Dorset District Council who makes the decision. Applications may be found on the Dorset-For –You website.

The speed at which vehicles are driven through the village continues to be a concern. A volunteer traffic monitoring group has from time-to-time been in operation to check the speed of vehicles travelling through the village and have reported those exceeding the speed limit to the police. The police also carry out random checks of the speed at which vehicles travel through the village and are able to levy fines for those breaking the limit. In the interest of safety the Parish Council urge all drivers to heed the speed limits.

The lack of footpaths in the village especially from Mallards Green into and from the village is a serious concern and we hope to meet the new local County Councillor to discuss the matter in the near future to see if any measures can be put in place to improve the situation.

The haphazard parking along the highway near McDonalds Restaurant is another problem that requires solving. The area falls within the parish boundary of Winterborne Monkton. The problem affects users of the C53 road generally residents of property in Winterborne St Martin and in an attempt to solve the problem a meeting has been held with a local representative of the Duchy Estates who agreed to discuss the matter with his colleagues. Sadly no response has been received to date. A further letter has now been sent to the secretary for the owner of the land seeking his help to resolve the problem.

During the year the Parish Council has rejoined the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC). This organisation keeps local councils abreast of changes in the law and other matters relative to Parish Councils.

In the need to keep people informed the Parish Council now have a website, created by Mr Graham Herbert, on which the business of the Council is reported. This can be accessed at anytime.

The Parish Council has replaced the fence around the bus waiting area at Mallards Green and will look to keeping the grass cut and the fence maintained. The Washing Pool, a listed structure, is to be repaired under the guidance of a specialist officer from the County Council. Temporary work has been carried out and the complete repair work will be carried out as conditions permit later in the year.

An entry into the Tidy Village competition was unsuccessful none-the-less an entry has been made into this year's competition. Help to keep the village tidy by picking-up litter and placing it in the litter bins will be appreciated and perhaps lead to a prize this year.

Following the resignation from the Parish Council of two members, Mr David Gargrave and Mr Andrew Whitty, an election was triggered to find replacements. In that regard two new Councillors were elected from three candidates. Members duly welcomed the successful candidates, Mr Martin Usherwood and Mr Michael Hall to the Parish Council.

The contribution made by Mr Gargrave and Mr Whitty to the work of the Parish Council during their time in office is greatly appreciated.

The Parish Council continues to report highway problems to the County Council including the poor condition of carriageways, dangerous potholes and blocked drains. A particular concern that has been reported is the poor condition of the surface of North Rew Lane. Follow-up letters have been sent resulting in a promise that work will be carried out to bring the surface to the standard of a Bridleway Open To All Traffic.(BOAT).