**Annual Parish meeting May 2019 - Annual Report**

I would first like to introduce my fellow Parish Councillors, John Butler, Murray Stewart, and Martin Walker. Martin was coopted onto the Parish council after Elizabeth Anderson who had been on the Parish Council for nearly 8 years moved to Devon. We were sorry to see Malcolm and Elizabeth leave the village. Also, we are sorry that Audrey Telling decided not to stand again after 16 years on the Parish Council and thank her for all her work for the village over that time. Our parish clerk Julie Smart is also the Parish Clerk for Pill and Easton in Gordano and we are lucky to benefit from her extensive experience and the increased connection between the two parishes that this brings. Finally, I think that our District Councillor Don Davies needs little introduction, and I would like to congratulate him on his reelection and the fact that he has now been chosen as the leader of North Somerset Council. No one will blame him if he can now not give us as much time in the future as he has done in the past, but knowing Don as I do, I am confident that he will still carry out all his duties as our elected representative and we will not be forgotten.

This last year has again been busy with a number of local improvements taking place.

The Parish finances are in good shape under the attentive management of Julie Smart our Parish Clerk, and she will update you on that separately.

The joint Neighbourhood Plan with Pill and Easton in Gordano is steadily progressing well, and Murray Stewart is leading both councils on and he will update you separately.

There continue to be a number maintenance issues on the A369 that we try to work with the District Council to resolve. Often about blocked road gullies, clearance of cycle and footpaths, rubbish bins and potholes. The North Somerset Council Area Officer that covers this area is Shelley Julie has had regular meetings with Shelley to raise our current issues of concern. The most significant issue that North Somerset are aware of is the condition of Sandy Lane and they are trying to work out the best solution and when to carry out the works. The issue of parking on the verge below the George has been resolved.

There are a number of revised speed limits in the area that are being funded by Bristol Rugby Club through Abbots Leigh Parish Council as part of the development for their training facilities on Beggar Bush Lane which will be constructed soon. These are the reduction of the speed limit on the B3129 Beggar Bush Lane from the National Limit to 50 MPH as far as Failand as well as on Belmont Hill. Also, the speed limit on the A369 will be reduced from 50 to 40 MPH between Dennyview Road and Martcombe Garage. All the legal processes have been completed and an order has been given to the council's contractors to do the works which should be done within the next couple of months.

I would like to thank the record number of those of you who came out to help in the annual litter pick which does help to keep the verges of the roads free of litter and make the parish look a more cared for, despite the people passing through the village who throw their litter out of the car windows or fly tip.

The old phone box which houses the defibrillator has been kindly repainted by Drew Smith and if we want make use of the limited amount of space still available, we could do so if anyone has the ideas and will to do so. Thanks to Paul Whitehouse who is doing the required fortnightly checks.

Gigaclear have completed the installation of the main fibre network with eth exception of a few private roads, being Home Farm Road, Ashgrove Avenue and Blackmoor Road. Some residents have had their connections made and are getting the benefits.

Forestry England are planning to introduce Car Parking charges in Leigh Woods the next few months.

A lot of effort continues to be put into the Village Hall. Thanks very much to John Butler who does a huge amount for the Village Hall and the fact that it is in such good condition is to his and John Prodger's credit, with support from Jan.

With regards to Skittle Alley, our tenants the Fit Tank have had a successful first year and I am pleased to say that the Council are now starting to receive rent after the first year being rent free. The parish council have repainted the windows to the building on garden side and tidied up the approach with a new fence alongside the path. The Fit Tank have replaced the boarded-up window looking towards the bus stop.

The Parish Council together with the Civic Society have continued to work with Jason Cox of North Somerset Council in order to keep Abbots Pool as a treasure for the local community and continues to receive the annual Green Flag awards. The volunteer working parties continue very ably organised by Jo Chiverton and our thanks are to her for the hard work that she and the volunteers put in. The Parish Council with support from the Civic Society using a contribution from a filming company, purchased a pump to be able to increase the dissolved oxygen level in the water into the pond in order to reduce the chances of a fish kill.

We are very grateful for all the work that the Civic Society continues to do in organising several events throughout the year and in particular the popular Fireworks display and Festival in the Field. This partnership with the Parish Council whereby the Civic Society organises social events and the Parish Council deals with the routine and formal matters is very much valued and is of great benefit to our community.

The Civic Society did a great job running the monthly Tommo's Tavern until the George was reopened thanks to Pete Ascher and Dave Venables who took on the lease and employed Olly Slym to manage it. What a good job they are doing.

The website is a valuable asset to the village. Thanks very much to Paul Whitehouse who acts as the webmaster. Please keep him posted about anything that is happening and if you have not already signed up for emails, please do so. You can always unsubscribe if you do not want to continue to receive them

Murray and I are also on the board of the Pill and District Community Land Trust, which Don chairs, who are looking to build a small development of social housing which would be run by a housing association for local people. We are hoping to be able to host a public meeting in the near future to update people of our plans and to get some feedback.

Nigel Mail as the village orderly continues to keep the school field, the green and some of the verges trimmed back.

With regards to planning applications almost all planning applications that are submitted in the parish are extensions or replacements.

The developers of Leigh Warren Bungalow on the A369 near the cricket field are getting closer to achieving a development. Their appeal against their planning application refusal for two large, detached houses was dismissed. They have now succeeded in getting permission for the lawful permitted development of a 50m long extension being developed as two houses and they have now applied for a revised development of two houses near the footprint of the permitted development.

 A new stable block on land adjacent to Windrush on Sandy lane was turned down and the appeal was dismissed.

The outline planning application for two large houses on the site on Church Road next to the Village Hall was refused and the appeal dismissed. A summary of the planning applications will follow afterwards.

A summary of all the planning applications will follow later.

Simon Talbot-Ponsonby, Chair