

Chairman's Annual report for West Crewkerne Parish Council May 2022-May 2023

In May 2022 at the commencement of the one off five yearly term for West Crewkerne Parish Council there were only four councillors, however I am pleased to report that due to co-option by May 2023 we are now a full council of six councillors. With our two new councillors residing in Hewish and Roundham the council the resident's should have good representation within its boundary.

As from April 1st 2023 Somerset will be a Unitary Authority, and behind the scenes the past year the District Councils have been working towards this date. We have been kept informed of various working parties and intended initiatives, however as yet little would seem to be of much relevance too West Crewkerne.

Once again there have been few planning applications, with one still awaiting a decision from last September.

Highways have as always been discussed at all our meetings throughout the year. New gullies have been put in place along the B3165 from Clapton gate to Clapton Farm, however the all too often are blocked with debris with the silt blocking the drains. Indeed, in April they were cleared and jetted, only to become blocked the following week after a sudden downpour of rain.

Reporting of blocked drains and potholes by members of the public would be appreciated, the online process really assists with highway repairs, although it should be noted that sometimes it does take some weeks.

Before the January meeting residents in Roundham were delivered leaflets asking for their experiences with the traffic through this hamlet. A number did contact the clerk and also attended the January meeting. Following a discussion, it was agreed the clerk would contact both highways and the police to understand what was possible to mitigate speeding along this stretch of road. Highways response was to confirm they had no further measures they could take. However, a meeting with the Police person responsible for improving highway safety proved more positive. Two temporary speed indicating devices were put in place and at the March meeting it was reported that improvements could be seen in the speed of vehicles entering Roundham from both Chard and Crewkerne direction. The purchase (by means of a grant) and use of these speed indicator devices will be taken forward by the parish council.

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II a book of condolence was available for residents to sign.

I would like thank our clerk Rose Richards for her support through the year and also fellow councillors including both district and county councillors, equally for their support of West Crewkerne Parish Council.

Julia Borland
Chairman West Crewkerne Parish Council

May 25th 2023