

TORMARTON PARISH ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

The Parish Council met on 11 occasions during the year and dealt with numerous items of correspondence, including written responses to 12 planning applications.

The procedure followed by SGC in reaching its decision to permit a gypsy/traveller site on Norley Lane (PK17/2008/F) was successfully challenged by the Tormarton Action Group. Consequently, the original decision was quashed by SGC and the planning application was considered anew. Despite the PC repeating its objections this planning application it was eventually approved at a SGC Planning Committee meeting on 23rd August 2018. No further action on this application is planned.

Vehicles speeding on Church Road and Marshfield Road continue to be of concern and on several occasions throughout the year temporary speedvisor signs and police monitoring of the traffic took place. These measures have had only a limited success with slowing down vehicles and a more permanent solution to this problem is sought.

Regretfully, on 24th September there was a fatal accident at the Burton Road/Marshfield Road cross roads, where poor visibility due to excessive vegetation at the cross roads was a contributory factor. The parish council, supported by two councillors from Nettleton, submitted detailed recommendations to SGC for improving the safety of these cross roads and these were promptly implemented. A further request has been made to SGC to extend the 30mph speed limit along the Marshfield Road from Tormarton to the Burton cross roads and a 40mph speed limit from the cross roads to the A420.

On 29th January Cllrs. Jane Smart and John Wells, accompanied by Cllr. Sue Hope attended a meeting with Emma Blackham, Alice Jenkins and Carl McClure to hear the latest SGC position with regard to a proposed Park & Share site south of J18 of the M4. As SGC is unable to fund this facility the money would need to be provided by a commercial development, such as a shop or petrol station. At present such a development is not possible because this land is in the Green Belt and if it were removed from the Green Belt the land would become highly attractive to developers and there would be no guarantee that a Park & Share site would ultimately be developed.

In February the PC arranged for a defibrillator to be installed in each of the two villages, one outside the Major's Retreat in Tormarton and the other next to the red telephone box in West Littleton. This was followed a few weeks later by a training session in the Parish Hall conducted by Louise Cooper (SW Ambulance Service) on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillator operation. This session was well attended by residents from both villages and now these communities are better equipped to deal with a cardiac arrest than previously.

Eight homes in West Littleton are still not connected to high speed broadband whilst all the other parishioners in both villages benefit from this service. Cllr. Katy Pool has lobbied strenuously for these last remaining homes to be connected to a broadband service which in this day and age is essential for effective communications, especially with respect to rural businesses.

The PC adopted an expenses policy for councillors (September) and the SGC Code of Conduct (February).

Over the years the stone work on the bus shelter has weathered and this was expertly restored by Ray Roberts.

The following grants were given by the PC during the year:-
£500 towards the cost of restoring the playing field pavilion
£100 to the Lifeskills charity, which benefits students in local schools
£385 for the purchase of chairs and tables in West Littleton

The village marquee was hired once during the year and the proceeds from this transaction were shared amongst the parish hall, the playing field, the church and the village pond.

This year Katy Pool (West Littleton) and Simon Stevens (Tormarton) were co-opted onto the parish council and in October Charlie Orchard, who had served on the PC for 30+ years, resigned.

The Chairman wishes to thank Cllr. Sue Hope for her much valued input to Parish Council meetings during the year and to wish her well on her retirement as a SGC District Councillor. He would also like to express his appreciation to Ros Wilson for carrying out the internal audit on the accounts and to Gill Penberth for her work as Clerk to the Parish Council. Finally, he would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for regularly attending Parish Council meetings and for their support throughout the year.