

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
Cllr Anthony Howell-Jones

22 May 2017

For the year 2016/17 we had notification of 20 Planning Applications, up from 10 in the previous year. We receive notification of all planning applications in our parish and nearly all those for adjoining parishes.

Many were variations of existing approvals although we had a few that were original. Most were associated with Saxon Brook and Moon Hill Copse. One resident appealed against the application for Redrow's marketing suite – this application was approved by EDDC and the subsequent flooding proved her arguments, as it had to be relocated early this year (which meant another variation application.)

We objected to an application for construction of a number of houses on the land north west of Kilmore House as we felt that if approval were to be granted, then it would be difficult to reject any future application for land to the south west of the house – EDDC agreed and rejected the application.

There is also pending an appeal to the Sec of State regarding EDDC refusal for the conversion of burnt-out steel framed farm buildings to 3 residential properties west of the M5 in Poltimore.

During the year Cllrs David and Carole Appleby and Cllr Colin Kirkman resigned early in the summer and Cllr Rebeka Baty-Harris and Esme Gibbins accepted to be co-opted, leaving the council with one vacancy for the remainder of the year.

We have had welcome and regular reports from County member Cllr Peter Bowden although it is some time since County Ward members Chris Pepper and Maria Hale have attended our meetings. Peter Bowden has now retired and is planning the move to Australia with his wife to be nearer family. We are looking forward to meeting our 2 County and 2 District Councillors following the recent local elections and boundary changes.

We had 2 requests for financial support from the Parish Council. However as both involved works on private land, the PC could not assist under the regulations.
Crime Report 7 , generally drugs, no insurance, abusive behaviour and theft.

We purchased a projector and screen under the Parishes Together Fund in support of our Clerks presentations, although I have to say that the image quality of plans and maps from EDDC leave something to be desired.

We funded 2 of the 3 Hand Dryers for Village Hall under the Community Rolling Project

We did not undertake our regular October Traffic Survey as the results would have been skewed by the construction and visitor traffic to Saxon Brook Development and elsewhere.

We have purchased a range of hand tools for use by parish volunteers together with safety equipment to replace the work undertaken by the Parish Lengthsman who is no longer funded due to budget cuts.

Throughout the year we had regular and welcome reports from Jonathan Wright, vice chair of the Poltimore House Trust.

Transparency Code – Website. Making slow and steady progress in improving our parish website, which we are obliged to maintain.

We had a interesting presentation by Simon Bates who is seeking HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) “Our Heritage” funding for a survey of the “Great Trees of the Clyst Valley” which I understand has just been approved.