



### **Chairman's Report for 2022-23.**

As we settle into post-Pandemic life (WHO officially declared we are out of the Pandemic!), It is good practise to follow Covid 19 advice available on the Government website.

### **New Somerset Council**

The big change in Local Government is the formation of the **Unitary Authority of Somerset Council as of April 2023** with all District Councils now dissolved.

The main change for the community is the **contact details** for various departments like Planning, Waste Partnership. Please refer to the Somerset Council website for further information.

Where are we as a Parish Council this year?

### **Road Traffic Speeding Reduction in Bayford.**

The Parish Council is pleased to say the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are now in situ at each end of Bayford Village and seem to have the desired effect of slowing traffic.

### **Defibrillator**

This is being used a few times now. It is monitored by dedicated Guardians and regular reports are submitted to South West Ambulance Services Trust. The First Responders are also on hand to support in an emergency situation.

A successful Resuscitation Training Session was organised and paid for by the Parish Council during the year.

If residents believe this was useful, and another session would be beneficial, please contact Councillor J Garret who is the coordinator.

### **Footpaths**

The Parish Council, through Councillor Garrett and the Rights of Way group is in the process of improving the footpath signage, gateways, stiles within the Parish. For example, we have replaced two dilapidated stiles, with more accessible metal gates.

### **Planning**

All Planning applications reviewed by the Parish Council are available on the Somerset Council Website.

Planning permission has been granted for the Bayford Village Hall to build the small extension to the side of the hall for storage. Now the Trustees are looking for funding for this project.

### **The Parish Plan**

The Parish Council, via Councillor Garrett's dedicated work is in the process of updating this at the moment. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Residents' Survey which had a very positive response. The updated Plan will be available soon.

Meanwhile, Councillor Garrett asks if anyone has any recent photos of the Parish to please share with her, to include in the Plan.

### **Crime**

Timothy Russell, our dedicated PCSO retired last year. We thank him for his support in the past. The new PCSO contacts are available on the Somerset Council website. The Neighbourhood Watch Representatives for the area can also be contact if there is concern regarding any security issues. Crimes can also be reported online.

### **Finances**

The Parish Council is in a comfortable financial status at present. Anyone who may have suggestions to improve the community experience should contact the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors for discussion.

All the Government Grants received by the Parish Council were successfully used during the year.

### **Bayford Village Hall**

Thank you to the community for organising several events, some of which are new, making use of the Hall facilities. For example, Movies Nights, Book Clubs, Village Lunches, Jumble Sales are a few activities. Some private use such as Singing Tuition, Birthday Parties have also been arranged.

Now that the Hall has been granted Planning Permission for the Extension Build, the challenge facing the Trustees is funding the project.

The Parish Council thanks the Trustees of the Bayford Mission Hall Society for maintaining the Village Hall.

### **Finally,**

Thank you to the residents who organised the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III and the litter pick activity. The Parish Council was able to access litter picking kit for the group.

The Parish Council thanks Somerset Council, Somerset Association of Local Council for their support as we move into a new era of Local Government in Somerset.

Most of all we thank the Parish Councillors for their unwavering work and support during the year.

We also welcome our new Parish Clerk, Ms Kate Fullerton, who came into post at a particularly challenging time and has taken everything in her stride under difficult circumstances.

Niru Linsley

**Chairman**