

# NYMET ROWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

## Chairman's Annual Report - Nymet Rowland Parish Council 2018/19

The Parish Council held a total of five meetings during the 2018 period. These took place in the Village Hall on the following dates Wednesday 28 March, Wednesday 16 May, Wednesday 11 July, Wednesday 12 September, Wednesday 14 November. The next meeting will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March '19.

There were a number of matters that were the subject of various meetings on an ongoing basis, as part of the process of their being addressed and resolved. These included;

### **Community Roads Monitor and Pothole Repairs.**

Councillors Babs Channing and David Gruncell, have lead the appointment of a community roads and snow warden. Training and the funding of tools & materials has been funded by the DCC Community Road Scheme. MOP resident Mr Oliver Williams volunteered to deal with the ever recurring incidents of potholes within the parish boundary. All tools and materials are held by Mr Williams, who is now trained.

With this situation still ongoing, the repair of a series of deep potholes, proved to be a persistent problem particularly on the Barton Hill Road to Allerbridge. Despite multiple requests via a number of official channels over many months, no repairs were undertaken until recently, when some repairs have now been made by Devon Highways contractors. But more potholes still need attention.

Past history shows that this damage to the road will persist until drainage for water springs under the road are provided. In addition to the damage, the volume of surface water presents a serious risk to road safety when the entire road surface freezes over, on a steep gradient hill.

To compound the issue, a secondary problem of foul water runoff from an adjacent field persists on this stretch of road. During periods of rain, the liquid continues to run down the road edge to the bottom of the hill. The land owner concerned, has been formally asked by Councillor Babs Channing to deal with a blocked land drain. Despite a number of approaches, nothing has been done and the problem persists.

Environmental Services will have to be notified if not resolved very soon.

### **Road condition**

The road surface from Eggesford Cross to Hawkridge and Eggesford had suffered very severely. This was the result of heavy farm machinery, spate flooding of the River Taw at Hawkridge Bridge and heavy transport trucks being diverted to use the road during long duration repairs to the A377 at Eggesford. Despite questions and communications to MDDC, requesting the restriction of heavy vehicles, there were a number of incidents of close coupled rigid / trailer trucks negotiating and damaging the Grade 1 listed bridge. At some points, the road was reduced to resembling a ridged agricultural track. The PC repeatedly flagged the damage and requested repairs via Devon Highways and MDDC. The road has now been resurfaced.

### **Snow Warden**

MOP Mr Oliver Williams has volunteered as a snow warden and his name was passed on to MDDC. However, nothing further has been heard on this.

## **Emergency Plan**

In line with MDDC policy, Vice Chairman Councillor David Gruncell was responsible for the production of a comprehensive village emergency plan. MOP Ian Binnie volunteered to prepare the plan, which was completed in July. His past experience was greatly appreciated.

## **Website**

The village website was prepared and completed by Councillor Anthony Odhams in March '18. Google Analytics have reported hit rates up to 350 per month. The reports indicate these peaked during the A377 closure at Eggesford, with visitors seeking more comprehensive information on road diversions, than was provided elsewhere.

## **High Speed Broadband**

Following the original appeal by Councillor Anthony Odhams to BT Regional Management and the subsequent connection of fibre to a newly installed cabinet, further effort was required. A number of subscribers remained unable to connect to the service. For seven months, AO coordinated the final resolution of the problem by raising the issue with Connecting Devon & Somerset, Mel Stride MP and BT management. Satisfactory broadband connection remains an issue for outlying farms, businesses and properties. Airband have been approached.

## **Defibrillator & CPR Volunteers**

An emergency cardiac defibrillator was purchased and installed in 2016. A second training session on use of the defibrillator and CPR technique was arranged for volunteers by Councillor Anthony Odhams in February '19. A quick reference guide and list of ten volunteers, ready to provide assistance in an emergency, was then circulated to every household.

## **Annual Village Litter Pick**

This event is coordinated by Mr Oliver Williams and manned by volunteers. It takes place in April each year. The date for 2019 will be announced shortly in the village magazine and website

## **Planning**

There was one planning application made and approved during the period.

## **Finances**

Regular monitoring and discussion of the PC financial resource took place at each meeting and there was nothing exceptional or untoward to report. Finances are independently audited annually. Appropriate contributions towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Village Hall, The Church and graveyard and the defibrillator were made.

## **Public Notifications and Recording**

All the statutory notices, agendas and meeting minutes were duly prepared by the Clerk and published on the village notice board and website.

Anthony Odhams on behalf of The Chairman      26<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Nymet Rowland Parish Council