

## Chairman's Report 2026

I decided to try to make my report more positive and upbeat than the previous 3 (or perhaps 4) years which have all highlighted the problems that have blighted, and continue to blight the Parish Council, so the good news first!

In June we introduced Karen, our lovely new Clerk who has well and truly risen to the challenge of filling the shoes of her predecessor, Kathy. A tough act to follow. We all wish Kathy well and give thanks for her hard work and commitment over the years.

Our lengthsman, Clive continues to carry out essential maintenance and repairs and will be taking on more work in the future. We are having '20 is Plenty' signs printed which he will put in place when we have permission from Highways.

We welcomed Alan Rundle back as a councillor after an election which cost the council over £2200. Due to 10 registered parishioners having requested one.

We are hoping to install a memorial plaque to Phill Worth and have asked parishioners for suggestions for a suitable site.

The double yellow lines were eventually painted; however, we have concerns about whether they are sufficient.

The P3 grant came through eventually, nearly 12 months late.

We have 2 fully trained Road Wardens and a third in training. We are sharing equipment with Malborough and have some tools and tubs of tarmac.

Having had to abandon the beach shower, it was decided to apply to spend \$106 money on a South Huish Parish circular walk, hopefully in conjunction with the History Group.

When SHDC removed the bins from the ladies' toilets, a sustained campaign by local photographer, Becci Hey saw them not only reinstated but bins provided in all toilets across the South Hams

In the other news, having delayed our application to update the Neighbourhood Plan to replace the wording 'Primary residence' to 'Section 106', for the best part of two years and having received overwhelming support from the public consultation, SHDC are now telling us that if we proceed with that we will be unable to add any more amendments just as we are hoping to update the whole plan! I quote *'The Local Planning Authority only receives funding for one review every five years on each plan. Therefore, if you amend your plan now this restricts how quickly you could make further amendments (since we would be charged for the examiner/referendum at any subsequent reviews within that 5 year period, but be unable to obtain reimbursement for either the costs or the Officer time/support). So if you feel that you are likely to review again and allocate*

*sites within the next 5 year period, you would be advised to undertake all the changes in one go.'*

The composting scheme was abandoned due to lack of support and a suitable site.

We have made decisions on 33 planning applications and 3 appeals.

The parlous state of our roads and lack of repairs to potholes continue to dominate the agendas and despite the suggestion by the new Leader of DCC nearly 12 months ago that they were going to take pothole repairs 'inhouse' because the current contract was costing 3 times more per pothole than a neighbouring county - for sub-standard repairs. (£180 in Devon compared with £60 in Somerset!) We are now being encouraged by them to carry out our own repairs with no additional funding and free voluntary labour, despite them receiving the lion's share of our Council Tax including the additional second home council tax. Burleigh lane has become a 'no go' area for many locals and we are informed that it will not be resurfaced for at least two years. Priority is being given to the tidal road at Aveton Gifford.

Now that new Unitary Authorities are being imposed on us, we face the possibility that those making the decisions will be even further removed from the requirements of local communities. As this is scheduled to happen in 2028 I can see all the promises/plans made for us by DCC and SHDC being conveniently kicked into the long grass. SHDC have made a one off offer to transfer the two assets in the parish, namely the public toilets and the Fisherman's car park to SHPC under a 999 year lease.

Lastly, I thank the Clerk, my fellow councillors, volunteers and parishioners for their hard work and support for the parish and the council.