

Goathurst Parish Council Annual Report - meeting 23rd May 2016

All existing Parish Councillors were reappointed.

A brief overview of parish council activities and decisions over the past year with verbal reports on roads and footpaths following.

- Investigations into a 30 mph speed limit or restriction through the village have been frustrated by the apparent need for eight to ten signs and a contribution of over £2,500 by the parish council
- The parish council has looked into issues of fly tipping, rubbish and littering over the past year and has had to be in contact with the district council several times about this
- Emergency Community Contacts were put forward by the parish council as a request by the local authority as part of their emergency planning and these contacts are: Jo McDonagh, John Capell, Isabel Shute and Ann Manders.
- The parish council gifted RLT2 funds (a housing development contribution) to North Petherton for an outdoor play area.
- In July the parish council received news of grants available (up to £10K) for the refurbishment of village halls and this was passed on to our Village Hall Committee. Subsequently, as an application to renew the village hall roof was agreed, the parish council approved match funding of £1,500 over three years – and an increase in the parish precept of just over 18% (£4.71)
- The parish council noted concerns about traffic diversions through the village during the year

- The parish council dealt with many planning applications over the year, the majority of which were listed building consent for ongoing restoration work at Halswell House. There was one objection only: to a planning application at the Old Farmhouse behind the house (and not related to) and this was subsequently withdrawn however the parish council had to further contact the planning authority regarding this objection when work on the site continued without permission.
- Under Transparency Code requirements, the parish council is required to have a website and thanks very much to our Clerk, Ann Manders, for creating one for us located at www.goathurstparish.org.uk
- The parish council took up an offer of free daffodils from the Clean Surrounding team at the district council and these have been planted around the verges in the village.
- The parish council took part in the consultation on the Local Plan Review Stage One and put forward a comment that we would wish the village to be defined as 'countryside' rather than the existing 'Tier five' definition. We are awaiting an update on the publication of the plan.
- The parish council continues to express its support for the restoration of Halswell House and the renewal of Millwood where 4,400 trees were planted early this year.
- Finally, the parish council is supporting the PCC in their arrangements for the Queen's birthday celebrations in June.