

Affpuddle & Turnerspudde Parish Meeting 10th May 2023

Affpuddle & Turnerspudde Parish Council Report

From the Parish Council's point of view, the year has been dominated by 2 large-scale planning applications, the effects of which were and are considered detrimental to the Parish.

The first was for the "Change of use of agricultural buildings to use Class 8B (storage or distribution)" at Battle Farm in Throop. The application was considered at the June 2022 Parish Council Meeting at which in excess of 70 members of the public were present. Many of those present spoke in opposition to the application, and subsequently, over 90 letters of objection were received by the Planning Authority. The Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the application and after due process, the application was refused by the East Dorset Planning Committee in April 2023.

Throughout the process, the Parish Council continued to make representations of objection to the application and once the outcome had been determined, Councillors received some generous and complimentary feedback from Parishioners for the work they did. In reality of course, it is the Parish Council that is very grateful to Parishioners for coming together and stating their view so clearly and offering unfaltering support to the Parish Council.

The second planning application, which came forward in September 2022, is a retrospective application to retain a slurry lagoon which had been built over 3 times larger than the grant of permission permitted in 2019. The Parish Council objected to the application on various grounds but at this time the application is yet to be determined and the Parish Council continues to press for its refusal.

This application too, has brought Parishioners together in objecting to its harmful effect on our community, but I'm very happy to say that this year we have also come together in order to celebrate. We have celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the new King's Coronation. In large part, we have our community groups to thank for organising these events and making them so successful and enjoyable.

An important initiative has come forward as a result of concerns expressed about traffic and speed throughout the Parish. The Speed Watch Group has been formed, and a close link has been established with the Parish Council. As a result, the Group is now active and has been provided with equipment and training. They can be spotted in high viz jackets regularly carrying out checks in different locations and over time their findings will provide the evidence needed to secure further initiatives.

On a sad note, I reported at our December Parish Council Meeting on the death of Councillor Charles Barter. Charles had been a Parish Councillor for some 45 years, many of those years as Chairman. Charles was a true friend of the Parish, for which he cared deeply, and he is sadly missed.

Cllrs Stuart Chorley and Graham Lightfoot decided to step down from the Parish Council during the latter part of the year and I'd like to thank them both for their service and the significant contribution they both made to the Parish Council.

We have been very lucky to welcome our Parish Clerk Matt Soul to the role and David Neudegg to his position of Vice Chairman. This year has brought its difficulties and challenges and I'd like to thank both Matt and David for offering such solid support and guidance to me personally.

We have heard tonight from community groups within our small rural Parish. On behalf of the Parish, I'd like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who willingly offer their time to make our community the very special place it is.

namely a retrospective application at Southover Farm relating to a Slurry Lagoon which had been built 3 times larger than the planning permission that was granted in 2019