

## **Annual Parish Meeting 2024**

### **Affpuddle & Turnerspuddle Parish Council Report**

At the last Parish Meeting, I was able to report that the Battle Farm application for Change of use of agricultural buildings to use Class B8 (storage or distribution), which had been referred to the Planning Committee, had been refused permission.

This was welcome news as the application had been vigorously opposed by a significant number of Parishioners. In July came the news that the Appellant was appealing the decision with the Inspectorate. Once again, the Parish Council meeting was attended by many Parishioners who urged the Parish Council to continue to object to the Application and make representations to the Inspector, which it did.

Residents' feelings were so strong that a group came together to employ an agent to make representations on their behalf. In March, we learnt that the Inspector had dismissed the Appeal. The negative impact that the planning application would have had across the Parish had it been granted saw many residents put in hard work and effort to highlight these effects to the Inspector, and it is particularly pleasing that the Parish's voice was heard.

The Parish Council also made representations concerning other large-scale Planning Applications, including Southover Farm Slurry Lagoon and Hurst Farm Gravel extraction proposals. The Southover Farm application was granted at the Planning Hearing, although members did support some of the Parish Council's proposals concerning planning controls. The Hurst Farm Application is yet to be determined.

The Parish Council organised the purchase and installation of a Speed Indicator device along the bends of the B3390 through Affpuddle. This is a particularly dangerous section of road and over recent years much greater traffic volumes and larger vehicle size have caused considerable safety concern. It is still early days, but it is hoped that the device will slow traffic down and make drivers more conscious of road safety issues.

The Community Speedwatch Group has continued to monitor speeds regularly of passing motorists at strategic spots and our thanks goes to all the volunteers who are out in all weathers to carry out this service to the community. The Group has highlighted a change to the rules surrounding 20mph limits and has brought forward a proposal to lower speed limits in parts of the parish. This initiative is ongoing and will be considered by the Parish Council.

For the new financial year, the Parish Council increased the precept. The effects of increased costs are being felt at a time when the Parish Council has a number of initiatives it wants to progress, such as a defibrillator at Waddock Cross. This means that tight budgetary control is required.

At our November Parish Council meeting, I informed members of the sad news that Mike Menzies had passed away. We have already heard tonight from other village organisation about the significant contribution he made over a long period. Mike was also a Parish Councillor some years ago and in this role too he sought to make a difference to the community by his service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who offer their time and expertise for the benefit of our Parish, including my fellow Parish Councillors and Clerk. Each person plays their part in making our community a special place to live.