

Parish Council Report to Annual Parish Meeting – May 2026

I would like to talk this evening about the year ahead, but before I do I would like to thank my colleagues for their contribution as Parish Councillors. In particular I would like to thank our Parish Clerk for the work he does for us in what is an ever more demanding role with increasing responsibilities and complexities that go with the job.

The work of the Parish Council is considerable in scope and sometimes these day to day responsibilities dominate our thinking and the business of our meetings. However, it is important and rewarding for us to have some longer term aims and objectives to make a difference to the quality of life for our Parishioners. With this in mind I would like to highlight a few aspirations for the coming year.

A comprehensive review of Parish Footpaths and Bridleways

We understand that Dorset Council have limited budgets and this includes the resources of their Rights of Way Officers. It would appear that no proactive work is done meaning that any issues must be reported by members of the public before any investigation or remedial work is undertaken.

I am very aware that the amenity value of our Parish is very important to our residents and as such I plan to undertake, with the help of residents, a full review of our footpath and bridleway network so that we can instigate an informed and coordinated dialogue with Dorset Council about the work that needs to be done to maintain a safe network of local public access.

There will be more to come on this and how individuals can contribute to this important project.

Parish Annual Litter Pick

The annual litter pick will be resurrected. This clear-up was previously scheduled in March each year before vegetation starts to grow. The next annual litter pick will take place in March 2027. More information will be available nearer the time.

Traffic and Speed within the Parish

Approval was given to the application to reduce the speed limit in Briantspuddle from 30mph to 20mph and the scheme went live on 14th April. Anecdotal evidence is that it has had a positive impact on driving speeds, although there are those who honour it in the breach rather than in the observance! With this last point in mind, it has been decided to reactivate the Community Speed Watch group, just to reinforce the message.

There is also a move to commence Speed Watch activities in Throop, subject to there being sufficient community support.

In the meanwhile, the Affpuddle Speed Indicator device continues its successful operation – in combination, these actions will hopefully improve safety in the parish for all road users.