

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2016

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

General Matters

The Parish Council fulfils a vital role in the local community. It provides an important link between local residents and the larger organisations that deliver services in the area such as the District and County Councils, the Exmoor National Park Authority and the Police Authority.

The Parish Council is invited to comment on all planning applications put forward in the Parish. It can also help to resolve problems that arise with highways, rights of way, land drainage etc, by providing information and communication at the local level.

Election 2015

Following the election In May 2015, the Parish Council experienced some difficulty in finding enough Councillors to allow it to function. Initially there were only two people who came forward to stand as Parish Councillors and this meant that a second election was held in June 2015; a further two people came forward at the second election. Another three Councillors were then co-opted on to the Council in September, filling all seven of the available seats.

There has been a recent resignation and the Council has advertised this vacancy; anyone interested in standing as a Parish Councillor should contact the Clerk.

Titholes Orchard

Work is underway to develop the Titholes Orchard site which is owned by the Crown Estate. The development will include a children's play area which will be equipped and managed by the Parish Council and a lease agreement has been put in place detailing the Parish Councils rights and obligations for the area. Work on the site was delayed recently pending the relocation of electricity cables and a transformer. However, it is hoped that, once this has been addressed, the development of the site will recommence in the near future.

Website

The Parish Council has recently set up a website so that it can, amongst other things, display information about its meetings including minutes and agendas etc. Details of the website have been circulated throughout the Parish and it is hoped that it can be developed into a valuable means of communication for the people of Withycombe. In time, the Parish Council would like to allow the website to be used by other community groups in the village and anyone interested should speak to a member of the Parish Council.

Any questions??