

# FLAX BOURTON PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### **Finance**

Against a precept of £23,000, expenditure was £19,787 with a further £1600 allocated for additional notice boards for non council parish notices/flyers. Precept to be held at the same level for 2011/2012.

#### **Housing Development**

Close monitoring of national/local plans continue with attention now switched from the Regional Spatial Study proposals to North Somerset's update of the Local Development Plan. Appropriate Core Strategy briefings attended by Councillor Higgins and responses to the formal consultations made via the website.

#### **North Somerset Showground**

We continue to pursue a policy of ensuring the land remains for agricultural use only and does not acquire any permanent showground status. We believe the society is in breach of three planning regulations and are endeavouring to persuade NSC to take enforcement action – but this is hard work. There have also been licensing irregularities which appear to have been sorted by the time of the last annual show. Councillor Mrs Jane Moss co-ordinates our work regarding the showground issues.

#### **National Grid – ‘Pylons or Pylons’**

In support of neighbouring parishes, we are lobbying strongly for an underground or sub-sea option to be pursued. We are an observer at the Hinkley Connection Group Meetings – Councillor Paul Lillington is our representative.

#### **Flax Bourton Primary School**

Our strong links continue including Councillor Mike Windo's role as a governor. Currently the school is endeavouring to put in place a school crossing patrol on a voluntary basis and Councillor Mrs Jane Moss is attending regular meetings to explore possible support that the Parish Council can give.

#### **Flax Bourton Youth Group**

Our support continues with about one third of our funding allocated.

#### **Footpaths**

A regular item during the year regarding maintenance, stiles and occasional new/re-routing paths. Resident Dr Hamish Batten is the main link with the PC on footpath issues.

#### **Litter and Grit Bins**

Additions of both provided during the year.

#### **A370 Speed Limit Increase proposals**

Strong protest made to NSC regarding the proposed increase from 30mph to 40 mph between Cambride Batch and the Station Road junction

#### **Parking**

The issue that has generated most telephone calls / E Mails from residents. Police made aware of these concerns and some letters have been sent to parts of the village.

My thanks to our small band of hard working Parish Councillors, our clerk Ruth McNaught and to our District Councillors who attend our meetings regularly and provide strong support

Roger Higgins, Chairman