

OLD CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – MARCH 2025

At this time of year we read much about planned increases in council tax. At the time of going to press we know that Somerset Council has been granted permission to increase council tax by more than 7 per cent, but we await the final figures.

The parish council share of your council tax is increasing by approximately £1 per month – which we hope you will agree is a modest amount. The money raised is used to directly benefit our local community. For example, we look after the Washford Recreation Ground, where we are investigating replacing the play equipment, providing new picnic benches, supplying new football goal posts and replacing the fencing at the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). We also intend to purchase Puthills Copse in Washford to establish a wildlife area.

We support the Youth Club and Cricket Club in Roadwater, the Blue Anchor Toilets and Old Cleeve Community Orchard. We are responsible for the War Memorial at Dragons Cross, defibrillators and bus shelters – quite a variety but all important to the local residents.

Our role is also to advocate for the community on matters of concern – for example Roadwater lost all communications and power during the recent storms. We are pressing for an uninterruptible power supply for the mobile phone mast to enable residents to call for help in critical situations.

Old Cleeve residents have been rightly concerned about speeding traffic since the closure of the B3191. The police are aware of the situation and we have requested additional signage. Our Speed Indicator Device (SID) is useful to record the quantity and speed of vehicles, but we do need to train more volunteers so that we can reposition the SID throughout the parish, wherever speeding is a problem. The more information we capture the more pressure we can bring to bear. If you are concerned about the traffic where you live, and want to help your community in this practical way, please contact the Clerk.

It is often frustrating that Somerset Council does not seem able to respond to our concerns, but there are exceptions. After the recent flooding, road drains became clogged with mud and debris – the council swiftly responded to requests made through the online portal and sent a ‘sludge gulper’ to clear them. We have also successfully argued that the dog waste bin near Dairylands, Old Cleeve, should be re-sited as it was completely inaccessible to most people.

These examples may not be the most exciting, but they do make a difference to our community. If you would be interested in becoming more involved, we do have vacancies for parish councillors in Old Cleeve and Roadwater – more details can be found on our website

www.oldcleeveparishcouncil.gov.uk

Our meetings are open to the public, so you can come along and see what is involved.

The March meeting will be on Monday 17 March at 7.00pm at Washford Memorial Hall.