

## **BUTCOMBE ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025: Chairman's Report**

It's been quite a busy year for us, with the usual mix of Planning Applications and lots to do on highways related issues. John Rodaway, who is away at present, has kindly given me some details of what we ~ (and especially he) have been doing, so I'll just give some headlines

**Planning** Another busy year, not necessarily the volume of applications but issues we have needed to address with North Somerset Council, particularly a growing number of cases where planning regulations appear to have been disregarded or planning conditions not met. This is very frustrating, no doubt Council resources are inadequate but lack of prompt action only makes matters worse.

**Airport Planning and Parking** As you may be aware the Airport is seeking agreement for further expansion. We have responded to the recent consultation – apart from environmental issues, traffic growth is causing increasing problems. Unauthorised parking continues to be a serious concern. We will continue to raise such issues with the Council, but there needs to be a much more joined up approach. It now seems New Road is being used as a Car Park.

**Highways and Drainage** John continues to do a great job on this, and has established a very positive relationship with the Highways team. Potholes are a continuing issue, but generally we get prompt action. It will continue to be a problem unless the Council can invest in better quality repairs.

**Minor Works** We recognise that North Somerset Council's desperately limited resources mean that we're unlikely to get things done unless they are essential. We are prepared to fund small pieces of work if necessary, or to make a contribution to council costs – we did this with the Slow signs at the bottom of Yew Tree Batch following a number of traffic accidents.

At the moment we have adequate reserves to make a start, but our Precept is one of the lowest in North Somerset, both in total and per household. Meanwhile, North Somerset Council plan to devolve responsibilities to Parish Councils where appropriate.

### **Defibrillator**

We are in conversation with Community Heartbeat Trust, the supplier, about updating the procedures to make it easier to activate in an emergency, and also to undertake another training session for residents. Unfortunately staff changes at the Trust have delayed matters.

### **Councillors**

As ever, I am grateful for the support and dedication of my fellow councillors, together with Colm, our clerk, but we would love to see other residents showing an interest in becoming Councillors. It doesn't have to be a huge commitment, but it is an opportunity to do something for our community.

As I said last year, we are all very privileged to live in such a lovely village, and we will do our best to keep it so.

Dick Whittington

Chair, Butcombe Parish Council

May 2025