

## Compton Dando Parish Council Chairman's Report 20th May 2014

We have 7 councilors from the various villages in our parish, though for part of this year we have operated with only 6, following the death of Cllr Tony Vest. For many of you, I dare say the Parish Council's work is invisible, unless you happen to have a planning application in the works. Planning applications come to us for our feedback, and this year we have had a number of appeals and enforcements as well as applications to deal with (the ongoing unauthorized gypsy site in Queen Charlton, a log cabin in Woollard Lane, various matters concerning Hinton Organics, to name a few). We also represent the parish in BANES consultations, for example the Core Strategy, Placemaking Plans, Broadband provision, and the Gypsy and Traveller site planning policy.

Then there's the day-to-day concerns - street lighting, potholes, flooding, road surfacing, footpaths—some of which we manage directly, some of which we report to BANES to encourage action on their part. And BANES have limited budgets, so we are not always successful, especially after the last couple of years of flooding and landslips.

We are Trustees for the Parish Hall: we've had a difficult eighteen months since the floods in November 2012, and we've worked together with hall committee members and other parishioners to find the best way forward for the hall. We have pursued Lottery funds to rebuild the Hall, ultimately unsuccessfully, and are working on charity registration. In the meantime, it has remained a resource of which the parish can be proud, and we owe a debt of thanks to the Hall Committee members who give so generously of their time and energy in order to manage hall affairs and keep it flourishing.

The adopted telephone kiosks in Burnett and Compton Dando, now owned by this council, are used by residents variously as information points, book exchanges, footpath map displays, and storage for umbrellas for those waiting for the bus! Queen Charlton residents are still considering their options.

This year we again held annual meetings in each of the villages to share information and raise local concerns: the results of these meetings, together with the annual parish meeting tonight, will be carried onto council meeting agendas in the forthcoming year. The adopted Parish Plan included a list of actions and concerns which the council have continued to take into account in our deliberations and decision, and this year we have completed and submitted to BANES a Placemaking Plan for the Parish setting out the characteristics of Compton Dando, and what we want to see preserved. A copy can be seen on our website, which also carries links to related sites, news stories, and planning application information.

All in all, another interesting and challenging year. My thanks to all the councilors, our District Councillor, our Parish Clerk, and the Hall Committee for all the hard work during the year, and to you all for your continued support and interest.