FIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report 2012/2013

Fiddington Parish Council, having increased the precept last year to allow for the Village Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, have taken the step of agreeing a modest increase this year, in order that contributions towards future election costs are placed in reserves, rather than having to face a large precept every four years. Councillors are also aware that in future pressure will come from District and County Councils to take over some services at a cost to our precept; a situation that will be resisted unless appropriate.
Fiddington has, despite the increase, one of the lowest per capita precepts within Sedgemoor District.

We have had a modest year on the planning front, with 16 formal and other minor planning applications to consider. With your help we have successfully "seen off" a 40 acre Solar |Park, a large Wind Turbine (now small scale solar panels), and delayed an open Waste Slurry lagoon while real improvements are made to odour emissions. In addition much time has been spent in consideration of EDF Hinkley Point C as has happened for the last four years. Moves are afoot to replace RLT2&3 with the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), which would increase the charge to build in rural areas by up to 10 times

After the lengthy Infrastructure Planning Committee consultation and recommendations, as you all know, Planning Permission has been granted for Hinkley Point C; However our wish for the New Bridgwater Bypass has not, been successful. We now await the discussions between EDF and government, concerning the price we will all have to pay for nuclear derived electricity before the final "go ahead" takes place

Councillors have regularly attended both SALC and Cluster meetings, keeping abreast of new government legislation for local councils, EDF proposals, the drive for increased broadband speeds, traffic control on the A39 (all still ongoing) and much more.

Tonight *may* be the last Annual Parish meeting that our long standing Parish Councillor, and Vice Chairman, Mike Short will attend. While I trust Mike will continue to contribute for as long as possible, in the quite splendid way that he has done for many years, I would urge all villagers to consider who they might like to have as a Parish Councillor when Mike moves away
I would again like to thank fellow Councillors who have shared the workload of external Committee and Planning meetings, and our Parish Clerk, Tina Gardiner for keeping once again keeping us all (especially me) in order

FIDDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

20TH MAY 2013

PARISH COUNCIL AGM REPORT

Since the report last year there have been further changes to the committee. Mary Elliot resigned from the committee having had a successful period as chairperson and I was voted on to take her place. Kim Buller also left. Paul Mathews joined, representing the church. Presently we have 10 members and hope to get a couple more.

I took over being chairperson in October 2012 having only been on the committee 1 year. So I apologise if I get things wrong or miss things but I am still trying to work out the politics of the village and who does what!

John Patterson has continued with the Health and Safety checks.

Mike Short continues to maintain the playing field ground for free and we would like to thank him for doing this. He is thinking of leaving the village and so this situation is likely to change in the future. The grass cutting of the drive to the hall has been taken over by Mark Husband who also cuts the grass for the church. We were able to get a grant to help pay for this for which we are grateful.

The Play Matting was upgraded by NoMow in January. I hope you agree that it has tidied up the area and at the same time reduced the critical fall height risk.

We have had a couple of new cleaners in the last year but we feel the present cleaner – Sheena Shirley - is working out well. The male committee members continue to take care of the floor polishing.

The Xmas Dinner was again a success. John Taylor organised a micro pantomime which proved very entertaining and we hope there will be a similar performance this year.

It was decided not to do the fete this year due to lack of committee members free to help with it but hope to rectify this next year. However, we are holding a Quiz Evening, Bingo Evening and an extra Jumble Sale so hopefully this will keep the finances buoyant. There will be the other usual events like the Treasure Hunt and Flower Show. Plus we have continued with the Book Swap where there are also some local crafts sold at times. This is held the first Saturday of each month.

The Hall is booked also by a couple of Brownie Groups, 2 Art Classes, WI, The Wrinklies Group, The Church and the Parish Council. This is over seen by Richard Brazier who took it on from Kim when she left, Kim having got the system well organised. We have the Fiddington Web Site, kindly set up by Ian Barrow which has proven popular with photos of

events, The Village news letter, promoting the hall with listings of charges and down loading booking forms etc. Also relatives and friends who live away from Fiddington like to use it to keep in touch with what's happening in the village.

The Village News Letter has continued to be produced thanks to Alan Burland. EDF 'Hinkley B' are now printing it for us without a charge. Unfortunately Alan would now like a break from this job but trying to find someone to take his place has proven difficult. We only have 2 more letters to go and then it will stop if we cannot find anyone to take over the job.

We have recently tried to find ways of reminding people of the events that are due in the Village Hall. We are getting another banner made up as these seem quite effective and will be used at the top of Fiddington to promote events. I have also spoken to Mike Evans about putting a sign on one of the grass verges which he has agreed to provisionally but this needs further discussion. I feel we need to constantly remind people of events and also to make the holiday makers aware in order to make the events successful and a permanent sign, I feel, is one way of helping with this.

We are a small village and despite this, there is a lot of activity, I feel. We need to keep as many people as possible involved in the events and the organisation of them and we will continue to work towards this.

H. Hawley
Chairperson.

Church Report for the Parish Council 2013

Following the resignation through ill-health of the Reverend Philip Rahilly in 2011, a new Rector, the Reverend Nicky Morgan was appointed. She was actually the only applicant for the post: clergy for country parishes and benefices are hard to come by as work in larger towns and cities is often seen as a greater challenge for ambitious clergy. I think this may be something of a misconception, since, with the size of benefices growing all the time, and the influx of ageing retirees to the countryside, there seems to be more than enough to stretch our team, only one of whom is full-time.

We have 24 members on our Church electoral roll, six of whom live outside the parish, but come to Fiddington as they prefer a more traditional style of worship.

The full PCC met 5 times during the year and there were additional fund-raising activities during the year, including quizzes,a wine and cheese evening, a strawberry tea, a cream tea and the popular 200 club.

Our new Rector was inducted by the Bishop of Taunton at the end of April. We have not had a completely smooth ride, as although Nicky has worked in a country benefice before, I think she wants to make changes very quickly, and sometimes does things without due consultation with the various parishes. She is keen to involve the wider benefice rather more, sometimes we feel, at the expense of the individual parishes. We had a beautiful and uplifting Holy Communion service on Easter Day, but it had been arranged that there would be one United Benefice service, inevitably at West Quantoxhead or Stogursey, as they are the only places big enough. We do have United Benefice services on the fifth Sundays in the month, and venues for these alternate around the Benefice, which works well and they are happy occasions. We also had one when we had unfortunately to bid farewell to our house-for-duty priest, Marion Hance and her hard-working husband, John; and again this was a happy and very well-attended service.

Fiddington has to face our quinquennial inspection during this year, but since the church was renovated so extensively last year, we hope that the architect does not find too many things which need doing. We still have not solved the problem of the spoiling of the render on parts of the tower, but it is in hand. Again we would like to thank the Parish Council for their donation of £300 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.