

## **Croscombe Parish Council**

### **Clerk's Report to 18 Nov 24**

The biannual deployment of the SID (speed indication device) was carried out by St Cuthbert Out Parish on behalf of Croscombe Parish Council. The device was deployed at the western approach to Croscombe and monitored the speeds of passing traffic over a period of nine days in mid-October. The report produced was forwarded to councillors. The invoice for the deployment was received and settled.

The Clerk attended a free SALC webinar given by a tree surgeon on the responsibilities of councils which own trees on their land. The webinar was concerned in the main on assessing mature (twenty years old or more) for health and safety, as well as for situations such as housing developments. There was not a great deal of immediate relevance to our parish, except the general point that councils which own trees have a responsibility to assess and mitigate any risk posed by the trees in terms of health and safety.

The Clerk also attended an online Somerset Council update on two topics – the devolution of assets and services from central government to unitary councils such as Somerset and the changes being introduced as a result of the Boundary Commission review. The former was of little immediate relevance. The Boundary Commission review will mean a move from 55 divisions with 110 councillors in Somerset to 96 divisions and 96 councillors.

Access to Parish Online was arranged for councillors Hargraves and Hodge.

An automatic search was defined at the Somerset Council planning portal which will run regularly and provide and email update to the Clerk identifying the outcome of any planning application relevant to Croscombe parish.

A series of films of a survey of the Long Street culvert were published on the Flood Document Archive page of the council website. They covered Inlet to Node 1, Node 1 to Node 2, Node 2 Back to Node 1 Upstream, Node 2 to Manhole 1, Manhole 1 to Manhole 2, and Manhole 2 to the Outlet.

The Clerk attended a Code of Conduct training course. This was mainly involved with the need for councillors to complete a Register of Members Interests form, to be retained and published for the public on the Somerset Council website with a link from the parish council website. Councillors are also required to update the form as necessary if interests change, and that includes such interests for spouses or partners. It covered particularly the need to be clear about pecuniary interests, highlighting the fact that failing to declare a pecuniary interest, or being involved in discussions or voting on an item in which there is a pecuniary interest, is a criminal offence. It also covered the need to address non-registrable interests. The course also touched

on the fact that the Code of Conduct covers behaviour between councillors as well as between councillors and members of the public, highlighting the requirement for mutual consideration and respect.

An advert was developed to secure a new clerk to Croscombe Parish Council. This was posted on a range of channels to help ensure the widest publication and likelihood of a number of appropriate candidates. It was sent directly by email to every parish clerk, or parish representative, in Somerset; advertised on the SALC website; sent to council website subscribers via Mailchimp; posted as a website blog; and posted on multiple Facebook pages (parish council, Croscombe Zummerzet, What's Going On Croscombe).