

Parish Council 1.12.10 Charles Milner-Williams in the Chair; Councillors Windsor, Davis, Phillipson, Bradbury and Foynes in attendance, and Phil Lashbrook for TVBC.

It seems that part of the County Council's web-site is designated for **Pot Holes**, so one is free to nominate for attention. The Clerk noted a few of the worst specimens.

The continuing failure to complete **The Stream Bank** repairs is a source of anger verging on fury. Ray Bradbury described it as a total disgrace that this has dragged on for 4 years, where it seems that Highways can't even control their own contractors.

There was commendation for Councillors' work in preparing the **Phone Box** for painting and discussion of the next moves in getting this feature ready for its new role in life.

There had been no further move re St. John's Lane, but, having been offered a Grant, it is hoped to get ahead with other **footpath work** including the one from Village Street to Beech Close.

Charles spoke about the official opening of the new **car park** at the Sports field /School. On a sunny morning there had been a good turnout of Councillors, and other interested parties. This included The Mayor & Mayoress, Phil Lashbrook, and Mrs. Pat West, members of the Sports Trust, children from the School led by Pam Simpson, the Head. Charles described senior councillors having fun on the play equipment. The subsequent good news is that the car park is being used, and staff and P.T.A. are said to be "delighted with it". The **Mobile Library** survey had been co-ordinated and sent in, with the implied comment that, while some modification of the service might be justifiable, complete withdrawal would be not acceptable.

New **Grit Bins** had arrived in Lambourne Close, and at the Halcyon Drive entrance. The Council is anxious that Villagers realise that the content of these bins is for public roads and pavements and not for private areas. Otherwise we might not get re-fills.

For the Borough Council, Phil Lashbrook spoke about the the vast tonnage of salted grit that Highways had laid. Nevertheless he had reported **ice** on carriageways, and they had promptly denied it! He also spoke about changes in **Police** organisation in our area. It's a matter of "watch this space" for news. The Clerk reported that the Council's **reserve funds** (nearly £11,000) had been retrieved from the Bank of Ireland, with no interest since 2009, and were now available for a safe, interest-bearing, easy access account, which John Davis is organising.

On **PLANNING**, tree works at the Churchyard and at The Green have been approved, but the main interest is in the outcome of **The Appeal** concerning the Showman's Site at Thrupton Down. The verdict is now well overdue. Our complaint to TVBC regarding the weak presentation of our case for rejection has had a rather feeble and ambiguous response. In the event of an adverse result this may have to be pursued. It is understood that Quarley Council will also take it further. Both the Chairman, and Phil Lashbrook, felt that the outcome could still go either way.

On a happier note, Phil reported that the work at **100 acre roundabout** is "way ahead of schedule" and the distribution site will be active by September.

Debi Foynes asked if Council could have another go at getting some sort of **weight restriction** on vehicles, especially those likely to encounter the newly-repaired (if ever) stream bank. This had been sought before, and is a "long and costly procedure". Finally, as Councillors prepared to take a well-earned festive glass, Charles thanked them all for their work and support during the year, and specially asked your editor to convey to all our esteemed readership **Christmas Greetings** from the Council. Phil Lashbrook, on behalf of Pat West, Ellie Charnley, and himself asked the same from County and Borough. We are happy to do so! Next scheduled meeting is on **February 2nd**.

Remembrance Service. Led by ex-Army Chaplain Revd. Paul Abram, and with Ross Mallock providing the Last Post and Reveille, this was a well attended and memorable occasion. The Church was able to send a donation of £ 323.82 to The Legion and this has been acknowledged from the R.B.L. Village at Aylesford in Kent.

As we reach the end of another year, your Editor wishes to extend grateful thanks to our **Delivery Team**: Joan Savage, Phyllis Collins Sue King, Jackie Salmon, Sandra Coward, Janet Hopkins, Marion Hoskins, Doreen & Donald Anderson, Pam & Ken May, Ron Pennells, Pam Alderson, and our Chairman himself. Without whom.....this would all be a bit of a waste of time.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO

ALL. We shall be back in January although there is no scheduled Council meeting.

**" Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone "**