Chairman's Report – 13 September 2021

1. Community Renewable Energy

This is now a joint project with Limpley Stoke PC covering the whole of the local community.

BWCE had undertaken an initial paper look at the possible options and are looking to contact landowners.

Now that the summer holidays are over, the Scoping Study should be able to move forwards.

2. Land Behind the Glebe

There is no substantive news on progress – still waiting for the BANES internal processes for formally declaring this land as surplus.

3. Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council was legally required to hold the AGM during a period when face-to-face public meetings were not able to be held.

An online APM was held as a Q&A session with the commitment that a face-to-face Parish Meeting would be held when circumstances allowed.

The PC needs to agree a date for this meeting, probably during August.

The Parish Council is requested to agree to a parish Meeting being held in mid to late October, subject to availability of the Memorial Hall.

4. Village Fete

There will be a PC stand at the village hall running the usual games. All councillors who are in the village on the day should help to man the stall for a short while.

5. Bins

A number of verbal comments have been received over the state of the bins. The main comments received have been:

- Rubbish being left on the wall to the Memorial Hall car park
- Bin collections seem to be intermittent
- The bin by the memorial hall is impacting the wildflowers, and contains dog mess

The issue of rubbish on the Memorial Hall car park wall has been raised with the Memorial Hall.

The bin collections are intermittent due to staff shortages arising from the Covid-19 situation.

The Parish Council is requested to look into moving the bin outside the Memorial Hall car park to a different location, such as by the carp park entrance pillar.

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6. Railway Garden

The station garden is looking fantastic now and credit must go to the tenacity and hard work of Rowena Wood, ably assisted by the station volunteers.

It is possible that a plaque will be obtained for the garden,

Severnside have suggested that the space behind the fence on the Winsley side of the station could contain raised beds for vegetable production for local consumption. Whilst this sounds like a fantastic opportunity – a key question is how to obtain the manpower from the local community for this project.

GWR are paying a visit later this month to Freshford Station to review maintenance requirements for this area.

7. Village Agents

Whilst the deadline for funding decisions has passed, the deadline was extended to allow for more time to be given to consideration of some of the funding bids. No word has been received on the outcome of the WERN (West of England Rural Network) bid for village agents covering Freshford enabling the community element of preventative health care being implemented.