

NYNEHEAD NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL

Quarterly Report (December 2023 to February 2024)

In December Members unanimously approved the budget for 2024-25. Members spent time discussing the relative merits of different reserve values, with the prospect of Somerset Council ceasing to fund some services, termed 'Service Devolution' and the need to replenish reserves. This enabled the Clerk to set the precept demand at £8,617. This is an increase on last year due to: (a) the cost of the maintenance grants for the All Saints Church burial ground and the Jubilee Playing Field which Somerset Council will no longer fund and (b) the cost of the Nynehead Speed Reduction scheme.

Following the publication by Somerset Council of their list for Asset and Service Devolution in November, it is likely that their services may tail off throughout the next financial year (2024-25). Nynehead Parish Council will need to budget for these items in the following financial year (2025-26). The village website www.nynehead.org may be used to publicise Somerset Council's Asset and Service Devolution and to warn electors that they may see some decline in service level throughout 2024-25. If electors have any views they should contact their elected councillors via the Clerk.

Members discuss planning matters at every meeting, with additional in-depth knowledge from our Somerset Councillor, Gwilym Wren. There is some concern over the multiple applications for housing schemes on the northern and eastern outskirts of Wellington. The views of the Members are summed up in this extract from Nynehead Parish Council's recent response to one of these pre-planning consultations: *"We feel that the proposed schemes, amounting to almost 1,000 homes in all, as well as commercial outlets and the railway halt should be considered together. While there is clearly a demand for housing in our region, and access to more options for shopping and travel facilities may be welcome, there is also some concern that the rural character of the area may be impacted adversely, as well as putting pressure on narrow lanes, schools and other amenities. In particular, provision of additional health care facilities should be considered, bearing in mind that the Wellington Medical Centre already covers a very wide catchment area."*

Nynehead Speed Reduction Scheme - Mr M Vest compiled a detailed list of defects (mostly to the roundels) that was submitted to the Somerset Council Traffic Officer overseeing the scheme. She replied that she was sorry to hear that some of the roundels are peeling off and that she would be out with the contractor to inspect them in early January. She will also arrange installation of a National Speed Limit sign outside Lift Cottage and check the spacing of roundels and repeater signs from Nynehead Court to Haywards Farm.

Flooding of Nynehead Roads - Members agreed that the Clerk would keep a list of dates when the roads in to/out of Nynehead are impassable to non-SUV cars. It is thought that the Nynehead Road was closed due to flooding on 8 occasions in 2023. A list with dates could be a useful tool in achieving funding for both better signage and increased flood resilience for Nynehead.

Joe Frost, Footpath Liaison Officer gave the following report:

Dog poo is still a very big problem. Please clean up after your pets, dog mess can cause disease in our doggy friends. There are a lot of sheep in the Nynehead area at the moment, most will be in lamb so it is essential that dogs are kept away from the sheep. Also, would landowners and tenants please ensure that electric fences are properly signed where they are next to public footpaths.

A representative from Airband was due to attend the December meeting to give an update on the super-fast fibre broadband rollout and to answer questions. Unfortunately, this was cancelled by Airband on the day of the meeting. Very little information has been forthcoming from Airband regarding timing and extent of the fibre-broadband roll out. It seems that priority may be given to properties where the current broadband speed is less than 30mb/s. There is more information available at <https://www.airband.co.uk/broadband-coverage-checker/>

Somerset Community Foundation has granted Nynehead Parish Council £400 for providing a Christmas party and subsequent soup and roll lunches for people in our community. Together with previous grants, this will enable Nynehead Natters to continue until the end of 2024. Further funding for this valuable activity will be sought during 2024 with the hope of continuing well into 2025.

Mrs Rachael Ball Risk attended her last meeting in December before commencing her maternity leave. All Members thanked her for all her work on the Parish Council (especially regarding the village website) and wish her and her new baby well.

Vicky Hebditch

Clerk to Nynehead Parish Council - nyneheadclerk@gmail.com

GARDEN CLUB

Our first meeting of the year is on Monday 11th March at 7.30 pm when the subject will be 'The Healing Garden' by Dr Gavin Haig. The talk is highly illustrated and emphasizes the value of trees, hedgerows, birds, butterflies, and mammals to enhance our well-being and healing.

We have a busy schedule of speakers and trips booked for this year including:

Monday 8th April - Brian Carlson: a timely talk about hanging baskets.

Monday 13th May – Dr Burroughs: 'Illegal Immigrants', we welcome back a favourite speaker of Nynehead Garden Club

The 'Spud in a Bucket' competition this year starts in March when you take a bucket and potato and they are then weighed at the Flower Show in August, entry costs £1. The grower of the heaviest spuds will win £10, and we will have spuds and buckets available at the March meeting. If anyone would like to enter 'Spud in a Bucket' and cannot make the meeting, please contact Gordon Stead on 07818 003385.

The annual Flower Show will be on Saturday 10th August 2024. The schedule of classes and entry forms will be sent out in May.

Please come along to our meetings - the first visit is free so why not give it a try.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

At our last service we had to say goodbye to our vicar Rev Alan Ellacott after seven years, so this was a sad occasion. However, he has only retired to Crewkerne so we hope he will return to visit us sometimes.

Our new vicar took her first service in the Church at the end of February. She is Rev Suzanne Kirkham (known as Rev Suzy) and she will be living in Cotford St Luke, taking responsibility for Cotford, Heathfield, Hillfarrance, Oake, Bradford-on-Tone and Nynehead. We will be having a service in our church on the second Sunday of each month at 11.00 am. We will still hold a lay led service in the drawing room at Nynehead Court on the fourth Sunday of the month. This is very popular and everyone is invited to attend.

The churchyard has snowdrops and daffodils and looks lovely at the moment, so do visit it if you have time. One of the wooden benches is beginning to rot so we are looking for someone who would like to help renovate it, and also our wooden notice board needs sanding and varnishing. We are always happy to have people help us to look after the building and grounds. Remember that it is your village church and a

particularly beautiful Grade 1 building with Italian art treasures. Telephone Rachel Vest on 461758 if you wish to help in any way.

Nynehead Court will be opening its gardens for the National Garden Scheme on two Sundays this summer, and we always have the church open with people who are willing to show you around if you wish during this time.

Rachel Vest
Churchwarden

NYNEHEAD MEMORIAL CLUB

The Club, in February has nearly 90 members. The Open Mic nights have proven to be a big draw, not just from villagers, but others from Norton, Langford, Milverton etc. They really do enjoy our warm, friendly club. We call it special.

Our next Open Mic nights are on Saturday 16th March at 7.00 pm, and Saturday 20th April also at 7.00 pm. We try to keep it as the third Saturday in the month. We supply a P.A. microphones, drum kit and amplifiers for guitars. You literally can come along, plug in, and play!

The Open Mic night in February had 13 different performers, from solo singers without a backing track to three-piece, four piece and even five-piece bands. Everyone is welcome.

On entering the Club you will notice a big difference. We have been busy refurbishing the entrance hall and this is part of our continued renovation to make the venue as welcoming as possible. Without your support this would have not been possible.

The club is open every Saturday from 8.00 to 11.00 pm serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. It costs just £2 per year to become a member.

Wishing everyone reading a safe, healthy and enjoyable Springtime.

Mark Reynolds
Chair

CRICKET CLUB

Nynehead Cricket Club is holding preseason training nets in conjunction with Mass Cricket Club. We would love to see some new faces at the club, so if you are interested in playing village cricket please come along, introduce yourself and have a bat and a bowl. Your age and ability don't matter. Net sessions are £5 each. Details of the sessions are as follows:

WHEN Saturday 6th April: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
 Sunday 14th April: 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
 Saturday 20th April: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

WHERE The Castle School, Wellington Road, Taunton. TA1 5AU

Nynehead Cricket Club plays 40 over matches on Sundays and 20 over matches in midweek, usually on a Tuesday. If you have any questions, please contact our Chairman, Dave Jewell on 07786 926549.

Follow @NyneheadCC on Facebook, Instagram and X (Twitter).

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE -

Fraud? it's not going to happen to me. Is it? When you picture a victim of fraud, what do you see? An elderly person who lives alone? A vulnerable person being exploited? In reality, fraud does not discriminate, and all types of people can be targeted, from business professionals to university students trying to navigate adult life to overloaded parents doing their best to hold it together.

Romance fraud, courier fraud, cash point fraud, electricity scams, carer fraud, identity fraud and identify theft, impersonation of officials, power of attorney fraud, investment fraud, tax fraud and rogue traders. These are some of the ways people are being conned, ripped off or scammed, whether face to face, by telephone, by post or online.

Our Fraud Protect Officer Amy Horrobin explains: "A fraud can happen to anyone at any time. It can happen when we're busy and rushing, when we're stressed or preoccupied or when we're at our most vulnerable and feeling tired or lonely Scammers know there are times when we all let our guard down and sadly, that's when we are more likely to become a victim of fraud, or vulnerable to being deceived. It's time to re-write what a victim of fraud looks like and recognise that anyone can be a victim. People often think that they would intuitively know if someone was trying to scam them. However, these criminals are very clever, and their tactics are constantly evolving so they could easily catch any of us off our guard."

In 2023, the average age of victims of fraud, in Avon and Somerset, was 47 years old. The age category for most recorded fraud in our area was 18-39 years old.

Last year Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, received reports from 8,188 victims in our area.

However, Amy explains, this is unlikely to be the true figure. "This crime often goes under-reported because people may not be certain if what they have experienced is a crime or be embarrassed to admit they have been a victim. In addition, where victims of fraud are reimbursed by their banks, they often do not report fraud to Action Fraud or police. However, if a fraud has been committed against you, we want to reassure you that it is likely that someone else has experienced the same. We need people to report – the more individual reports we receive, the better the chances of fraudsters being arrested, charged, and convicted."

What are we doing about fraud?

Within Avon and Somerset Police we have a dedicated Fraud unit, with teams specialising in complex and volume fraud, who investigate a broad spectrum of this type of crime. We have also established a dedicated Fraud Protect team, who are working hard to prevent these types of crimes from happening and supporting people who have been targeted by fraud and who may be vulnerable to it happening again.

"We often work closely with other agencies such as Trading Standards, NHS Counter Fraud, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SWROCU), the Serious Fraud Office and the National Crime Agency." says Amy.

"Investigations may also be managed or supported by our Incident Assessment Unit (who deal with desktop-based enquiries) our Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Response Officers or Criminal Investigation Department, depending on the vulnerability of the victim and the complexity and value of the fraud."

At this point in time, we are conducting 295 live fraud investigations and supporting those affected in 67 fraud cases.

What are we doing to help prevent fraud?

Fraud Protect Officers (FPOs) like Amy help prevent people from becoming victims and aim to reduce the overall impact of fraud. They do this through:

- Enhanced Vulnerability Visits – engaging with the most vulnerable victims of fraud. This may include people who have complex vulnerabilities or may not realise/be in denial that they are a victim of fraud.
- Prevention – promoting a wide range of prevention material designed to educate and raise awareness about the threat from fraud and to proactively reduce the number of victims.
- Rapid Communication – working closely with Communications colleagues to deliver and contribute to awareness of fraud – locally, regionally and nationally.
- Emerging Threats – providing both a reactive and proactive response to victim vulnerability, identifying key trends and patterns of crime. We use an intelligence-led policing approach to help identify new threats in our area.
- Early Identification – Collaborating closely with stakeholders including safeguarding agencies, financial institutions, and schools and others to help identify victims early and provide support,
- Education – regularly attending meetings, seminars, conferences, and other forums, delivering briefings and presentations to help raise awareness of fraud.

What are we doing to bring fraudsters to justice?

“We work closely with Action Fraud, the UK’s national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, where all reports of fraud and cybercrime from England, Wales and Northern Ireland should be reported.” Amy explains. Action Fraud is run by The City of London Police, who are the national policing lead for economic crime, working alongside the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) who are responsible for assessing all reports, ensuring that fraud reports reach the right place and deciding if a police investigation is required.

“Our Vulnerable Victim of Fraud (VVF) coordinator will assess the reports received by Avon and Somerset Police and determine how we will support the victim, based on vulnerability, harm, loss and impact.

“We will manage investigations and often use key legislation such as the Fraud Act (2006), the Proceeds of Crime Act (2002) and the Theft Act (1968) to bring offenders to justice.”

Fraud offences are often complex and can be long investigations with specialisms required to effectively investigate, such as financial investigation, and cyber related enquiries. They may be additionally complicated if the fraud offences have been conducted overseas.

In addition, offences often have multiple victims associated and require a huge amount of material to be gathered, to enable the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to decide if a suspect can be charged, which can add to the length of the investigation.

Despite these challenges, of 915 outcomes we delivered last year, 38.46 per cent of these were positive. If you think you have been the target of a fraud or cybercrime, please report it to Action Fraud. You can use the online reporting service or call Action Fraud’s fraud and cybercrime specialists on 0300 123 2040. Avon and Somerset Police can be contacted directly via 101 or a report made online if you have met the criminal in person, or if any threats have been made against you during the fraud. Always call 999 if you are in immediate danger. If you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud and you need advice or support, there are resources available via Action Fraud and Victim Support. Please look out for Part II of our Spotlight feature tomorrow, when we will look at how we work with victims, protecting yourself from fraud and what to do, if you experience it.

Victoria Henderson - Police Community Support Officer

VILLAGE AGENT

Supporting Somerset's communities with the impact of Fuel Poverty has been a top priority for The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) this winter.

Our Village and Community Agents hosted 25 energy saving focused events across the County as part of National Energy Saving Week in January. They were joined by over 300 people and gave away 200 goody bags full of energy saving, warmth giving items donated by our partners. Several 'cooking on a budget' demonstrations were held and offered plenty of hints and tips with ingredients to take home, and many took part in free quizzes and raffles to win slow cookers, hot water bottles, warm bags and thermal cooking bags.

Our Knit for Your Neighbour campaign has been hugely successful with well over 250 hand-knitted, crocheted, sewn and donated blankets donated, 184 of which were distributed to the most vulnerable during our events. Thank you to everyone who continues to put so much time and creativity into producing these blankets for our campaign.

A big thank you to our partners from the Centre for Sustainable Energy, National Energy Action, Burnham and Weston Energy, Morrisons and ASDA, who kindly donated items and attended events. Don't forget, we are always here to support people with staying warm and well. If you are struggling, please pop along to your local Talking Cafe and have a chat with one of our Village Agents.

Your nearest Talking Café is Silver Street Centre, Wiveliscombe and your local Village Agent is Sharon Coles.

You can also find lots of free energy advice and information on a website www.ccslovesomerset.org

NEWSLETTER

This is your newsletter. If you would like to contribute, either in an article, with a picture or other format then please let me have it by the relevant editorial deadline.

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send me your email address and include your postal address so that we make sure you don't get a paper copy as well!

You can also find the newsletter on the village website (<https://nynehead.org/newsletter/>).

Rosemary Lea

DIARY

Event	Date	Venue	Time
Nynehead Natters	Friday 8th March	Memorial Hall	1.00/3.00 pm
Mothering Sunday service	Sunday 10th March	All Saints Church	11.00 am
Garden Club meeting	Monday 11th March	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Open Mic night	Saturday 16th March	Nynehead Club	7.00 pm
Gardens open for NGS Garden Scheme	Sunday 17th March	Nynehead Court	
All Saints Church open		All Saints Church	2.00/4.30 pm
Nynehead Natters	Friday 22nd March	Memorial Hall	1.00/3.00 pm
Palm Sunday – Morning Prayer	Sunday 24th March	Nynehead Court	11.00 am
Parish Council meeting	Monday 25th March	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Thursday reflective service	Thursday 28th March	All Saints Church	7.30 pm
Easter Sunday group service	Sunday 30th March	Holy Cross Church, Hillfarrance	10.30 am
Nynehead Natters	Friday 5th April	Memorial Hall	2.00/4.00 pm
Cricket Club nets	Saturday 6th April	Castle School, Taunton	11.30 am/12.30 pm
Garden Club meeting	Monday 8th April	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Morning Prayer service	Sunday 14th April	All Saints Church	11.00 am
Cricket Club nets	Sunday 14th April	Castle School, Taunton	4.30/5.30 pm
Parish Council meeting	Monday 15th April	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Nynehead Natters	Friday 19th April	Memorial Hall	2.00/4.00 pm
Cricket Club nets	Saturday 20th April	Castle School, Taunton	11.30 am/12.30 pm
Open Mic Night	Saturday 20th April	Nynehead Club	7.00 pm
Police surgery	Thursday 25th April	Memorial Hall Car Park	2.00/3.00 pm
Morning Prayer service	Sunday 28th April	Nynehead Court	11.00 am
Nynehead Natters	Friday 10th May	Memorial Hall	2.00/4.00 pm
Holy Communion service	Sunday 12th May	All Saints Church	11.00 am
Garden Club meeting	Monday 13th May	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Annual Parish Meeting	Monday 20th May	Memorial Hall	7.00 pm
Police surgery	Thursday 23rd May	Memorial Hall Car Park	2.00/3.00 pm
Morning Prayer service	Sunday 26th May	Nynehead Court	11.00 am

Nynehead Club is open every Saturday from 8.00 to 11.00 pm.

For membership details please call at the Club during opening hours.

USEFUL CONTACTS

	Telephone No.		Telephone No.
NHS – Non-urgent	111	Police – Non-urgent	101

Organisation	Contact	Telephone No.	Email Address
Parish Council			
Chairman	Jan Butterley	461349	jan@nyneheadfruit.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Malcolm Vest	461758	malcolm.vest@btinternet.com
Members	Amanda Harcombe	668653	amandaharcombe975@gmail.com
	Rachael Ball Risk	975826	rachaelnyneheadparish@gmail.com
	Jeremy Toyne	660827	
Clerk to the Council	Vicky Hebditch	461474	nyneheadclerk@gmail.com
Footpath Liaison Officer	Joe Frost	663909	sanJo7@talktalk.net
District and County Councillor	Gwilym Wren	400657	cllr.g.wren@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk
Police	PCSO Vicky Henderson	07889 655302	victoria.henderson@avonandsomerset.police.uk
All Saints Church			
Churchwardens	Rachel Vest	461758	malcomandrachel.vest@btinternet.com
	Robin Darby	663166	darby.hornshay@btconnect.com
Cricket Club - Captain	Simon Duncan	07737 921736	simon@sjduncan.co.uk
Secretary and Events	David Raybould	07967 657122	daraybould@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Gordon Stead	07818 003385	gordontstead@gmail.com
History Society	Sheila Rabson	666609	rabsons@btinternet.com
Jubilee Playing Field	Rachael Ball Risk	975826	nyneheadplayingfield@gmail.com
Memorial Hall Bookings	Denny Harfield	972723	nyneheadhallbookings@btinternet.com
Nynehead Club - secretary	Amanda Harcombe	668653	amandaharcombe975@gmail.com,
Village Agent	Sharon Coles	07947 901559	sharonc@somersetccc.org.uk
Nynehead News	Rosemary Lea	666166	rosemarylea912@btinternet.com

The proposed dates for the newsletter for the next year are as follows:

Deadline for copy

Publication date

Tuesday 21st May 2024
 Wednesday 21st August 2024
 Thursday 21st November 2024

Saturday 1st June 2024
 Sunday 1st September 2024
 Sunday 1st December 2024