

SOUTH CADBURY & SUTTON MONTIS PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report 2024/2025

The last year has continued in the same vein as the previous two years for the parish council from a financial perspective. The continuing financial challenges for Somerset Council with a budget gap, means that the council will again be using Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) as agreed by the Government to set a balanced budget for 25/26. With this impact the parish council have continued to monitor and manage our budget. This is to ensure if any services are devolved by Somerset Council there is opportunity these could be supported by the parish council.

We have had continual support from our Somerset Councillors Nicola Clark and Hayward Burt. Both have continued to work hard to support on our behalf in raising local concerns at a county level. The one major concern for the parish council and the wider community is the continued challenge of the excessive volume of HGV traffic on the very rural road between Sutton Montis and Queen Camel. This issue has adversely impacted the wider community in Queen Camel, Sparkford and Corton Denham. The working party formed last year within the four parish councils have worked tirelessly through meetings, letters trying to reduce/stop the volume of traffic. Unfortunately to date all efforts have proved to be unsuccessful in stopping this movement of HGVs.

There remains one Casual Vacancy for a parish councillor that we are hoping to fill by co-option and welcome applications from anyone who may be interested. If you want to find out more or wish to join please speak to the Clerk or any of the councillors if you require more information.

Two new defibrillators have been installed and commissioned in South Cadbury and Sutton Montis in this period. The parish council have again made grants totalling £1900 to both village halls committees, Citizens Advice Somerset, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, and the South Somerset Community Access Transport bus.

The Clerk continues to report to Somerset Council, highway disrepair matters such as potholes, roadside verge erosion, worn lines and signs and blocked storm drains and gullies. Note of concern that the road conditions are deteriorating in both villages. Unfortunately, owing to the financial challenges faced by Somerset Council work is prioritised according to urgency of need with no known timescale for repair.

Concerns have been raised by villagers with the excessive speeding experienced in South Cadbury. The Clerk met with the PCSO in March to discuss the concerns and options to help reduce this concern. This is to be discussed as an agenda item this evening.

Please continue to raise any concerns you may have with the Clerk, and we will do our best to address them on your behalf.

David Soper

Chairman

22/05/2025