

# North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

## Highways Report January 2023

Last week I received a visit from John Nicholson, Manager Highways SSDC, and we drove around the parish and the following issues were discussed.

**Slip road onto the A303** - apparently there is still an issue with the ownership of this piece of road, it is accepted that it now falls within the responsibility of Somerset County Council but the deeds are missing !! until they can be found a refurbishment order cannot be issued. John has promised to expedite a resolution to this problem but does tell me that the state of the road is not such that an emergency repair is warranted. This is, of course, outside of our parish.

**Parish Hill drainage** - the promised power jetting of the culvert and drains on the right hand side of the hill (facing up the hill ) has never been carried out due to lack of available equipment. It was quite fortuitous that the road was flooding during the visit so the problems were exacerbated and John has gone away with the message that this needs to be attended to asap.

**Possible gritting facility** I have discussed the possibility of providing a grit box somewhere near the top of Parish Hill. Apparently it is the PC's responsibility to source and finance a box and if we have the Montgomery's agreement for a suitable location the County Council will provide the grit on an ongoing basis - all we have to do is advise them when levels are low. I mentioned the question of liability and John confirmed to me that there is no liability on anyone using the grit on the road surface. There is no legal requirement for any body to grit the rural lanes.

**Junction of Long Street and Hearn Lane** The drainage issue here has been dealt with and the two new drains are operating effectively but the road surface is in dire need of refurbishment and John agrees that the whole junction needs to be done. In view of the amount of work involved this will have to fall within the next year's budget which commences in April - it has been suitably diarised.

**Frog Lane** there is considerable flooding along much of this lane and John has agreed to write to the landowners on both sides to ask them to clear the ditches.

**Bus Stop on A359** we discussed the possibility of providing a bus stop near to the Orchard Inn but I am told that a proper shelter would become the responsibility of the parish council and it was considered a better solution would be to divert the bus route through Galhampton and then provide a bus stop at the top of Long Street. This is something we have already discussed and I think it is now up to the Councillors responsible for Galhampton to enter into a meaningful discussion with the residents as to the way forward.

**Signage** I notice that there has been damage to several signs on the A359 close to the Three Ashes bend, the relatively new 30mph sign has been hit and is now facing the hedge and one of the chevron signs on the bend has been destroyed. It is too much of a coincidence that vehicles have hit both these signs and I suspect the damage has been

done by a hedge trimmer. I wrote advising Andy Barron, emphasising the importance of these signs bearing in mind the history of accidents on this bend and he has replied advising me that there is no budget to repair the signs until the next financial year but it will be given priority under the new budget.

**Road Closure** The Dodinal House road is currently closed and will remain so for some three weeks. This is to enable all services to be installed for the Hill Ash Farm development.

**General State of the roads** During the visit John Nicholson and I drove around all the lanes in the parish and John considers that they are in quite a good state in comparison with many. Potholes are beginning to appear as a result of the cold weather last month followed by the extreme wet conditions recently - reporting these potholes is now very easy and we have recently seen some very quick response times.

John Rundle