

Taynton Parish Council Chair's Report

8th May 2025

Planning

The application for a Solar Array 49.9MW at Moat Farm Newent has still not come before the Development Committee. When, and if, it does, the Parish Council has asked to present their thoughts. The PC objects to the proposal on several grounds, not least the cumulative effect on the local countryside of two large Solar Arrays immediately adjacent to Taynton Parish. The Council's response is available to read on the FoDDC Planning Portal. (P2061/21/FUL)

There have been no other contentious planning applications, although a retrospective Planning Application was received for Drews Farm. The Parish Council was disappointed that this was the second retrospective application from the owner of Drews Farm and raised concerns with the FoDDC. The concerns were answered and permission, with conditions, was granted.

We still have some outstanding issues with Enforcement of Planning Decisions and Highways problems.

Highways

The flooding of the Huntley to Newent Road which had been a problem since October 2024 was finally resolved. It had caused significant problems for drivers.

We are still awaiting resolution to the problem of the railway sleepers, and rope and stakes, on the north side of the road at Hown Hall towards Moat Lane. We understand that Gloucestershire County Council Highways are pursuing a legal resolution.

Councillor Vacancy

The PC still has a vacancy for one councillor which, despite advertising in the Village Link and May Hill Newsletter, has not been filled. We welcome applications from residents who feel they have something to offer their local community.

Our Parish Clerk, Jo Badham, is in the process of obtaining appropriate qualifications to support her Clerk Role and Duties.

Precept

In the past year, the Parish Council has become responsible for the care of Common Lands in the parish. This includes an assessment of trees and whether any of them will require felling. Unfortunately, one tree at Glasshouse Green did fall and damaged a car. This may result in a claim to our insurer.

This increased cost, and potential for further financial outlay, has required an increase in the precept to £7145 per annum. Other costs include increase in Clerk's salary, membership costs and training costs.

Finally, there has been a significant increase in the paperwork and bureaucracy relating to Parish Councils over the past few years which has increased complexity and the time spent by all of us on PC business. There may be changes to Local Government e.g. a unitary authority in Gloucestershire in some guise, which may have a significant effect on how Parish Councils operate and the funding required.

David Sillince

Chair, Taynton Parish Council