

Kilve Parish Plan

Kilve --- A village within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty situated between the Quantock Hills and the Bristol Channel



A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years.

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INTRODUCTION

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Two views of the A39, one as it is now and one as it was 100 years ago. The current view, taken from higher up Lager Hill illustrates the enormity of slow change which takes place, whether we like it or not.

The Parish Plan is one way in which Kilve can prepare for this inevitable change.

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1. THE PARISH PLAN

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years. It:
reflects the views of all sections of the community;
identifies which features and local characteristics people value;
identifies local problems and opportunities;
spells out how residents want the community to develop in the future;
prepares a plan of action to achieve this vision.

Who decides?

The Parish Plan gives everyone a chance to say what they think about the social, economic and environmental issues affecting their community, and how they'd like to see it improved in the future. It is important that the whole community has the opportunity to be involved in producing the plan, not just those people who usually come along to Parish Council meetings.



Sign Post in the centre of the village

What's it leading to?

The Parish Plan needs to consider local problems and opportunities as a whole. It makes the links between these issues and sets out a broad vision for the future – where the parish wants to be in 5 or 10 years time. But achieving this vision will require action. This includes both: action which the parish itself proposes to undertake; policies, decisions and action carried out by other bodies which the plan might influence.

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Why create a Parish Plan?

Parish Plans are a Government supported initiative to give those living in villages a way of deciding for themselves how they would like their village to develop. It reflects the views of all sections of the community.

The Kilve Parish Plan is a vision of how we would like our parish to be. It is a statement of how the community sees itself developing over the next few years and includes social, economic and environmental issues. Its creation has been championed by the Parish Council.

Our Parish Plan provides us with:

- A way to influence decisions by local authorities and other service providers
- A basis for planned action by people in the parish
- A possible route for winning funds for local initiatives and activities
- A framework to help the Parish Council decide what their community needs them to focus on
- A way in which everyone can be involved in taking action to ensure the parish thrives and develops in the way they want it to.

In short, it is your say in how we develop as a community. The Parish Plan seeks to ensure that any future development is based on an understanding of the parish's past and present. Its aim is to draw attention to the characteristics of the buildings, the open spaces and their setting in our village in order to avoid unsympathetic development. It gives the residents a say in the future of the parish by producing clear and specific guidance regarding these qualities.



Kilve from the Quantock Hills

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The issues and opportunities we identified through the consultation process have been summarised. The process of creating this plan, which will develop and change as we tackle some issues and when others emerge, will also help to ensure the whole community is involved with, and committed to, the future prosperity and quality of life of our community.

How we produced our Parish Plan

- The Parish Plan is used to provide guidelines for influencing local development plans and community strategies
- The Parish Council is taking forward the actions together with other individuals and groups within the community or other service providers and statutory bodies
- The Parish Plan is to be reviewed on an on-going basis and will be reviewed every two years, as is practical and appropriate

This document is the culmination of many months work by a Steering Group of volunteers from the Parish, set up by the Parish Council. All residents in the Parish in April 2012 were asked to complete the questionnaire distributed to every household which gave the residents of Kilve an opportunity to express their views.



Kilve in relation to Minehead, Bridgwater, Taunton and the M5 corridor

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2. THE PARISH SURVEY and SUMMARY of the RESULTS

182 questionnaires were hand delivered with 81 being returned to the shop or at the monthly coffee mornings held in the Village Hall. This is a 44.5% return, according to other Parish Plans this is considered to be a good response for self-returned questionnaires. However, it must be pointed out that over half the households in the Kilve, for whatever reason failed to complete and return a questionnaire.



The Parish of Kilve

The following comments are based on the number of respondents for each question as not all questions were answered by all the members of a household. For example 8 questionnaires were returned with question 1 left blank.

Only 3 out of 70 were non-residents, few (3) lived in houses built in the last 12 years. 1901 to 1939 and 1981 to 1990 most popular with 1953 to 1970 a close second. Only 3 dwellings were listed.

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Only 7 residents moved into Kilve in 2011. Almost two-thirds had lived in Kilve longer than six years with over a third having lived in Kilve for over 15 years.

Gender of residents was slightly biased towards female, (52%). The age of the population was heavily weighted to the 30+ groups. The biggest concentration was the 31 to 65 group (45%) with the 66 to 75 group at 27%. The 76 to 85 group was 12% and the 86+ group 8%.

These figures follow a similar pattern to West Somerset, though the under 16 group is 8% compared with 14% for West Somerset, 17.6% for the South West and 18.7% for England.

There has been a fall in the percentage of younger people in the region whereas there has been an increase in the number of pensioners over the period 2001 to 2010. (Source - Office for National Statistics ONS)

Almost half the residents have never attended a Parish Council meeting: 42% were not interested, 10% weren't sure what the Parish Council does and 21% were not sure when meetings were held.

26% thought the Parish Council publicised its activities and decisions well, 39% badly with 35% having no opinion.

Planning application publicity – sufficient 27%, not sufficient 54%, no opinion 19%

From this data the Parish Council needs to publicise itself and its activities better, especially with regard to planning. (See results). It has a clear mandate to increase the precept in order to support community services.

Only 3% use the bus service on a weekly basis, no-one on a daily basis with 86% having never used the bus service. Occasional users accounted for 14%.



A view of Kilve and the Bristol Channel

The most preferred form of transport for travel to work/study was the car/van.

Those in paid employment or self-employed worked more than 30hrs/week (65%) with 21% between 15 and 30 hrs/week and only 17% working less than 15hrs.

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Almost two-thirds of residents were retired, with three tenths employed or self-employed. No-one was unemployed. This is far lower than the 2.4% claiming job seekers allowance in West Somerset. (3.0% in the South West and 4.1% in England). These figures are for February 2012 (Source ONS)

Types of employment to be encouraged were for small businesses but only by a small margin. Small office spaces were not favourably considered, neither were small workshops. Support for tourism was fairly evenly balanced.

	High	Med	Low	None
Tourism	26%	29%	19%	26%
Small businesses	25%	35%	24%	16%
Small workshops	10%	20%	25%	17%
Small offices	7%	25%	31%	37%

Of those villagers who worked or studied 43% did so from home, with another 12% working in Kilve. 25% of the workers travelled within 15 miles with 20% travelling more than 15 miles outside Kilve.

14% used the mobile library and all those were aged over 60. There were a number of comments saying that villagers were not aware of the service.

30% of respondents wanted permanent electronic slowdown signs, with 25% wanting to extend the scope of the 30 mph limit. 15% also wanted to improve the road warning signs. Written comments indicated that villagers wanted to extend the 30 mph limit the full length of Sea Lane.

6% of respondents felt unsafe in Kilve (94% felt safe). Various reasons from road safety, burglary, lack of footpaths to long response time for emergency services.

A small number of villagers indicated difficulty in getting to the range of medical services in the area (3%).

72% were in favour of regular Health Clinics based in the Village Hall. Due to the constraints of the NHS this request has proven to be impractical.



The Parish Church of Kilve – St Mary's

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The village church, St Mary's, was considered a valued asset; though 25% thought of it as an historic building, 17% as a place of quiet reflection and 15% for traditional services. It should be noted that the number of villagers who considered St Mary's important for traditional services far outweighs the number who attend the traditional services.

38% use the shop on a daily basis, with 44% on a weekly basis, 38% for mainly top up shopping, 36% Post Office and 24% for newspapers.

The Hood Arms was used for drinks on an occasional basis by 42% with 32% never buying a drink. For meals, 28% never used the Hood though 55% said they had the occasional meal there.

37% never visited the Chantry Tea Gardens though 63% did on an occasional basis.

Local businesses were used by villagers, with Motor Vehicle Repairs, Gardeners and Handymen being the most popular by far.

Most respondents indicated that shows, plays and films were most likely to attract them to the Village Hall.

Again the responses do not reflect the reality of numbers attending film nights and plays or shows.

Computing, sports and keep fit were the most popular requested educational classes. Again caution must be used as if the same turn out for other events at the Village Hall was replicated the courses would not be viable.



Kilve Village Hall

41% of respondents use the facilities at the Village Hall between 1 and 6 times a year, with 30% attending once or twice a month. 15% of residents never go to the Village Hall.

Kilve News was the most popular format for local communication with Notice Boards and Village Website also popular. (33% to 20% each for the last two).

Over three-quarters of respondents never used the KHARS service, with 3% using it on a regular basis and 11% occasionally.

78% of respondents were in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

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60% of villagers were worried by speeding, with 15% not worried at all. 17% were worried about theft; this does not correlate with local crime figures. (One household burglary in 8 years). Area statistics show that burglary is 0.2% which is well below the South West and England figures.

Footpaths were used on a daily basis by 37%, 25% used these occasionally, 20% weekly and 17% never used them.

A strong feeling was expressed in written comments throughout the questionnaire for footpaths to connect the various parts of the village to avoid people having to walk along the A39. Path maps should be available with better signing and maintenance. Also a desire for gates to ease access for people and dogs, rather than stiles was expressed.

Most households have a computer with broadband access. Most respondents have e-mail and mobile phones. A small number had a Facebook account.



The annual Kilve versus East Quantoxhead cricket match

The most popular local activity was the Gardening Club in Holford. Villagers were prepared to travel outside Kilve to follow their personal interests with Sports and Fitness being the most popular.

There was some support for 'affordable housing' for younger people and perhaps a few small businesses. Far more support was for recreational facilities, in particular a play area for children.

3. THE PARISH OF KILVE

Like many other English villages, the origins of Kilve are obscured by the mists of time. However, parts of the village were mentioned in the Domesday Book. There is, however, no certain origin of its name. The shoreline has changed little, but no really accurate maps date back more than about 200 years. The village had four separate sections or hamlets which are now amalgamated into the civil parish.

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What is more certain is that, over the last 400 years or so, Kilve has acquired many of the curious attributes which play their part in defining an English village. Currently it has a thriving Public House which has been operating for more than 300 years: it has a charming small church, a large stately house, an old ruin with a dubious tale about its demise and a poem written by one of the nation's greatest poets.



Kilve Pill and Beach

The BBC programme presented by Alan Titchmarsh, “A History of Britain” and the video of the theme song to “Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves” both have views of Kilve Beach. There was a hunting sport which was practised only in the village and a literary dragon which lived on the hill. It is also very likely that it suffered seriously in the Bristol Channel tsunami of 1606, and it has potential riches in its soil. What more can one want from a village?

Brief History

The name KILVE probably has its origins in Anglo-Saxon Old English, when CYLFE means a club-shaped area (possibly the Hilltop ridge).

Although it may be conjectured that the first resident of Kilve lived in the Bronze Age, the first known facts are of three settlements mentioned in the Domesday Book (1085), when CLIVE (Kilve), PERLESTONE (Pardlestone) and HILLE (Higher Hill) are mentioned. The first Lord of the Manor of Kilve was Roger de Corcelle: it is reasonable to assume that he came from Normandy, and was given large tracts of land over much of the South West of England by William the Conqueror for his part in the invasion. Another Lord of

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the Manor was Simon de Furneux who in 1329 paid for five Chantry priests to pray for him and his family in perpetuity.



The Chantry before restoration work started

The Lordship of the Manor of Kilve was passed down through the centuries, the last known holder being Daniel Badcock who lived at Kilve Court. He died in 1915, and when his widow sold the house in 1920, the Lordship was not conveyed.

Occupancy of the land was connected to the Manor, but in 1664, large portions of the land were sold off – some to John Cunditt, and the southern portion to John St. Albyn of Alfoxton: this portion included Pardlestone Farm and Priory Farm. The Parkhouse (originally Poor House) Farm ownership took a separate route through one of the Luttrell family. In 1920, Pardlestone Farm and Priory Farm were sold by the Alfoxton Estate.

It is interesting to note that despite the history of farming in Kilve, none of the farms is now managed by a farmer living in the village.

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Putsham (originally PUTSOME) was not mentioned anywhere until 1782, yet by the 1830s it was regarded as the most populated part of the village with the Minehead to Bridgwater turnpike running through it, and at about the same time, Priory Farm became known as Putsham Farm.

The village had a population of around 250 during most of the 18th century, which declined at the turn of the century, but then rose steadily from about 1920 to a total of around 500 today. In that time, a number of properties have been built, but there have been only two small housing developments – Putsham Close with 8 properties, and Millands Lane, with a total of 17 properties.



The Hood Arms and Kilve Village Stores

The local inn, The Hood Arms, was originally called The Chough and Anchor. It has always enjoyed an important part in the village activities. We are fortunate in having a good record of the village activities through the various owners of the Inn during the mid-20th century, and Kilve clearly enjoyed a period of relatively high activity. At one time in the 1920s, the British Legion branch had 100% membership of former soldiers and was nationally recognised for it. Sporting activities were very much to the fore in the 1930s when the local football team won a significant cup. After the war years in 1945, many village activities thrived, with much dancing, whist drives, amateur dramatics and other events including a Gala, taking

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place. In 1985, the Kilve cricket team progressed to the semi-final of the national village competition, and a couple of years later, the village skittles team (based at the Hood Arms) won every local title.

Geography

The village of Kilve lies in a 'bowl' with land rising on three sides within the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Approaching from the east (from the direction of Bridgwater), the A39 descends to the crossroads with Pardlestone Lane/Sea Lane. Pardlestone Lane inclines steadily and steeply for about a mile onto the Quantock Hills. Sea Lane to the north is a distance of one mile to the beach. Continuing westwards towards Minehead, the road rises steeply up Lagger Hill.



Pardlestone Lane Post Box

A stream from the Quantock Hills runs alongside Pardlestone Lane, then through a culvert in Kilve Court and under the centre of the village, it re-emerges near the top of Sea Lane and then joins the main stream. The main stream, flows from the Quantock Hills forming part of the parish boundary with neighbouring Holford. It is bridged to the east of the village under the A39 and flows alongside Sea Lane into the Bristol Channel at Kilve Pill. A leat runs from near the parish boundary with Holford under the A39 and into the pond at The Old Mill after which it feeds back into the main stream. There are further leats down Sea Lane, one behind Great Hanger House and the other at the junction with Hilltop Lane

The beach itself is recognised nationally as an important geographic feature. Its rocks contain an abundance of fossils and the cliff face shows history of the various rock formations over millions of years.

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The soil around Kilve is ideally suited to arable use and many dwellings are at least partially self-sufficient in home-grown vegetables. The area is also designated as a site of specific scientific interest, (SSSI).

Land Use

The village contains an abundance of arable farmland stretching from the beach along Sea Lane, to the east, west and south sloping upwards towards the Quantock Hills. Apart from crops, cows and sheep graze the hills to the north and west.

The remainder of the land is devoted to housing.

Environment

Kilve is a Somerset village which straddles the A39. It is equidistant from Bridgwater and Minehead. The county town of Taunton lies 16 miles due south. Residences are spread widely and can be broken down into four main areas: houses along the A39 itself, those along Pardlestone Lane leading onto the Quantock Hills, Sea Lane (with Millands Lane leading off) running north to the beach and Hilltop to the left on leaving the village in the direction of Holford. This geographic spread presents a challenge in maintaining a close knit community. This is a particular difficulty with Hilltop as there is no recognised footpath to the centre of the village.



Hill Top Oak Tree

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The A39 itself presents problems and opportunities. It brings passing trade, critical for the village pub, shop and B&B establishments. The amount of traffic makes the road both noisy and difficult to cross. In common with similar main road villages, vehicle speed is an issue. It is too dangerous to walk or cycle safely which isolates houses to the west of the village and those on Hilltop Lane.

Buildings and Public Services

The Village Hall was built in the early 20th century and extended in the 1950s. A number of upgrades and repairs were completed in the first decade of the 21st century. These were mainly facilitated by grants from various sources but also by local fund raising events. The Village Hall remains an important meeting point for the villagers but, like many similar village halls, struggles to remain financially viable. Attendance at village hall events is biased towards the older age group.

St Mary's church is the oldest building in the village, dating from the 11th/12th century. The houses and cottages in Kilve date from the 15th century up to the late 20th century. The majority of houses were built in the 20th century, the most recent plots being Millands, Putsham Mead and Hilltop Lane.



Kilve Court Residential Centre

The most prominent activity in and around the village is farming, both arable and livestock. Kilve Court brings employment and vitality to Kilve by running residential courses mainly for school age children. The main house is off the A39 in the centre of the village and activities are performed on the extensive lands extending up Pardlestone Lane. The village pub The Hood Arms and Kilve Stores are critical village facilities. Both remain successful businesses but depend on passing trade in addition to support from the residents of the village. There is a car repair business on Sea Lane, and on the A39 there is a Land Rover

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and Range Rover sales and repair business, and a seasonal farm produce stall. The Chantry Tea Gardens close to the beach serves cream teas, light snacks and ice creams. A number of holiday cottage and bed and breakfast business are sprinkled throughout the village.

Residents rely for doctors and dentists on surgeries at Williton, Watchet and Nether Stowey. The nearest hospitals are at Bridgwater, Minehead and Taunton.

PEOPLE

The Parish is about the people who live within its boundaries and the total number and diversity of their activities is the essential element in planning for the future. Without an assessment of the future population, housing and employment, no Parish Plan would be credible. Within this assessment, there will be an expressed consideration of the desired size of the parish to sustain it as an active and happy community over the next decade or two.

Population

In 1900, the population of Kilve was 150. Throughout the 20th century, the population rose steadily to around 500 at the present time. There were boosts when small estates of houses were built, but generally, the population increase has been very much in tune with the rest of Britain.



The Village Hall set out for a Wedding Reception

The population of the village creates and sustains the life of a village in terms of its support for activities. At the moment, Kilve has a strong group of active individuals who provide events of various kinds: it hasn't always been so, and most villages have spells of greater and lesser activity. Yet while Kilve has this excellent level of activity, it is noticeable that there is insufficient support for some events: the film nights

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have been reduced through lack of support, and there has been a very poor attendance at some Take Art! Productions. So is Kilve operating at near capacity for the local population? Could the Village Hall be in financial difficulties if village support dropped, or if there was a shortage of talent to manage and maximise its use?

The most recent increase was in Millands Lane, where the estate brought a number of newcomers to the village. Many of these have yet to show interest in village activities.

Threats to participation in the life of a village lie in television and internet usage. Social networking sites can prove attractive to those who are not determined to venture to village activities at times when weather is not enticing. It is not unreasonable to expect that the proportion of people supporting activities might decline somewhat – even 5% might be significant in a small village.

The population of Britain is forecast to grow by about 10-15% by 2030, and the question needs to be answered whether Kilve should reflect the national trend, or restrict the population of the village from growing too far.



Village Hall Luncheon Club

It is a fact that the population age structure for Kilve shows a high proportion of older and retired residents. As a result of this, facilities provided for and within the village are biased in that way, and the village therefore tends to appeal to older residents.

The survey results suggest that there is some support for the idea that this imbalance be addressed, especially to encourage young families with children.

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Due to the needs for young families, eg affordable housing, play areas etc. not being available it is not envisaged that there will be a significant increase in the number of young families in the Parish.

Housing

Housing in Kilve reflects the growth of population, and it follows that the majority of Kilve's housing was built since 1900. The fact that the latest group of housing in Millands Lane was purchased by those from other places could be taken to suggest that there was little demand for housing from the local village residents. However, this needs more careful analysis, as it appears that any private property offered for longer term rental does attract a significant number of applicants.

National figures of house sales suggest that a property changes hands, on average, about every 12 years – that suggests that one might expect 14 houses to be sold every year in Kilve. In fact, the more realistic figure is around 5 or 6. So owners of properties in Kilve are generally reluctant to move or sell. The employment in Kilve is strictly limited, so that there is little demand from those who think it is a good idea to live near their place of employment. Thus demand is suppressed by the availability of employment

The survey results show that there is a body of opinion (20 comments) which suggest there should be 'affordable' development. Against this, there are 10 comments which stand firm against any development at all

Employment

Population, housing and employment are all interlinked. Kilve Court is the biggest employer in terms of numbers of employees, and others are employed in the service sector in the Hood Arms, the Chantry Tea Gardens, the village shop, and a couple of motor repair businesses. There is now no farmer living in Kilve, although land is farmed. So do we need new businesses in Kilve?

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Oil Retort

There was some support for helping existing businesses, although this tended to be more in encouraging their use, rather than expanding them.

Tourism is an activity which has been present in Kilve since the beginning of the twentieth century, and in that respect, Kilve seems to have a firm appeal as a place to visit. The survey shows some support for specialist holidays (e.g. horse riding, walking) to be developed, but this was overshadowed by 12 respondents who were specifically against any development in tourism.

4 Summary

Approximately 45% of questionnaires were returned – a respectable level of response for a survey of this type. These have been extrapolated as representing the views of the village as a whole. The overall picture presented is of a stable community, almost half of whom are over 66 years of age with a similar size group in the 31 to 65 years age range. The general flavour is of a population who feel safe and secure and are generally content with things as they are, with no appetite for any significant change. There are two clear concerns which are reflected in the questionnaire results: safety concerns relating to the roads in and through Kilve and the availability/standard of public footpaths.

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Kilve viewed from the direction of Holford

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parish Council:-

To be more open and proactive, especially in the publication of its workings and election of new councillors.

(Since the collation of the results of the questionnaire there have been changes with regular articles in Kilve News, publication of agendas, minutes and links to planning applications on the Village website).

To arrange the purchase and erection of permanent electronic slow down signs and placed by the side of the A39 in the centre of the village.

To liaise with local landowners, farmers and local council to continue to improve the roads and verges.

To improve the standard of the current footpaths and bridleways within the village.

To actively pursue the creation of new footpaths so that all villagers can safely walk to the shop, pub and village hall.

To facilitate the provision of recreational facilities especially a children's play area.

As this is an evolving document the Parish Council is to review the progress of the recommendations and consult villagers on future development plans on an annual basis.

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6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Particular thanks are due to:

Kilve Parish Plan Steering Group

Brian Woolley
Jim Reilly
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Kelly Stone
David Molyneux
Cllr Peter Gill
Cllr Elizabeth Grigg
Cllr Alan Keen

Kilve Parish Council

Maps from Parish Online

7. Results from June 2015 Review.

- a. Page 4. Action Plan requirement removed.
- b. Page 6. Parish Council publicity.
 - Regular articles appear in Kilve News.
 - Publication of meeting agendas, minutes and links to planning applications on village web site.
 - Requirements for new Councillors appears in Kilve News
- c. Page 7. Health Clinic in Village Hall.
 - Not possible to have a clinic but we do have a Village Agent scheme. She is available for social/care issues. She attends the Village Hall Coffee Mornings, her services are regularly publicised in the Kilve news. The Parish Council actively supports Care in the Community.
 - KHARS scheme in place to assist with medical visits.
- d. Page 18. Includes reference to local businesses. A vital requirement is high speed broadband. This requirement is being actively championed by the Parish Council.
- d. Page 19. ref Road Safety.
 - Erection of permanent electronic 'Slow Down' signs to be installed in the village. Approved, waiting for council to install along with road signs.
 - Improvement of footpaths. Permissive path from Village Hall to top of hill implemented. Permissive path from village to Hill Top being discussed. Waiting for land owner to agree. Funds available for works.

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-A Parish Councillor is responsible for condition of local footpaths and reporting issues to the Council.

-Effect of the proposed Hinkley Point works is frequently discussed with special emphasis on the increase in traffic expected and potential problems.