

# **LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES**

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

**held at 7.30pm**

**Maud Heath Room, Langley Burrell Village Hall**

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Present: Cllr Robert Whitrow (Chairman), Cllr Rick Colthorpe, Cllr Katerina Johnstone, Cllr Julie Hoskins (Vice Chairman) and Cllr David Mannering

Also Present: Wiltshire Councillor H Greenman, Mrs Julia Mannering and Mr V A Vines MBE Clerk of the Council

**NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the Meeting was given in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972**

### **01/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the Rev David Kilminster.

### **02/18 MINUTES** Minutes had been previously circulated.

Those present received, considered and confirmed that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were a correct record.

**Cllr D Mannering proposed, seconded Cllr Julie Hoskins and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **03/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017**

There were no matters raised that were not included as later Agenda items.

### **04/18 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Robert Whitrow, reported on the Parish Council activities since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2017.

He reminded all that Langley Burrell was a very small Parish with around 335 on the Electoral Roll, of which about 114 reside in The Fairways Retirement Village and so there was only about 220 residents in what he called the historic Parish, however it managed to punch well above its weight on numerous fronts.

The past year had been another year of exceptional activity across the Parish, which continued to face substantial pressure from development and the expansion of Chippenham into the Parish. Major planning applications included: Barrow Farm/ Birds Marsh, Rawlings Green, Wavin and the Peckingell access road.

The Barrow Farm development (developers Robert Hitchins) was successfully defeated on appeal – a major victory. He thanked the Langley Burrell Residents Association and in particular Dr Rachel Hooper who worked extremely hard to build the case and represented the Parish very ably at the appeal (He believed she was even offered a job by the applicants team, such was her formidable performance).

A further major triumph was the successful completion of the Langley Burrell Neighbourhood Plan, while formally developed by the Parish Council, the vast majority of the extensive work was undertaken on behalf of the Council by the Langley Burrell Residents Association, and he knew that many were engaged in community support and feedback sessions. The Plan was finalised by the Residents Association and was formally 'made' in October, with very high community engagement and a high 42% turnout in the Referendum. The Langley Burrell Neighbourhood Plan was one of only 21 Plans made in Wiltshire out of 261 Wiltshire 'Parishes'.

A new updated Neighbourhood Plan was now being considered with the process kicked off and application being made to cover the same area as the current Plan, with the aim to include allocated sites to make it more robust if Wiltshire Council was unable to demonstrate a 5-year land supply.

On the personnel front, the Parish Council had experienced several changes. Brian Mifflin had stepped down as Chairman after some 30 years of service to the Parish, leaving a large hole in terms of his encyclopaedic knowledge of all aspects of the Parish, and his sage guidance and experience was sorely missed.

There had also been a change of Parish Council Clerk. Martin Helps had taken over from David Kilminster last year but stepped down earlier this year in February. Thanks were given to Martin for his services to the Parish during his tenure. Following his departure the Chairman was very pleased to welcome Viv Vines who had kindly agreed to act as the Council Clerk on a locum basis until a permanent appointment could be made. Viv had extensive experience as a Council Clerk, also worked in the "planning" world and was also currently Parish Clerk for four other Parish Councils, Kington St Michael, Chippenham Without, Seagry and Dauntsey.

On the financial front, at their January Meeting the Council had looked closely at their forward budget and budget pressures and as there was unlikely to be any further grant assistance towards updating the Neighbourhood Plan agreed to include £1,500.00 towards this. The Council also wanted to ensure that they could respond to grant requests from local organisations and retained £350.00 in the budget.

The precept increased by 8.2% last year. Partly because being faced with many unknowns the Council agreed to retain a figure of £1,500.00 under a Contingency heading, which could allow the Council to consider local priorities as Wiltshire Council did less and less. The level of Contingency retained by the Council had therefore increased over previous years but was currently still below the recommended level, and the Council will be looking to continue to add to it to reach the recommended Contingency levels over the coming year or two. A breakdown of last year's and this year's budget would be circulated later for information.

Langley Burrell remained a thriving community but was small and suffered from an above average mature population. It continued to face challenges on multiple fronts – not least from Chippenham's expansion and the opportunities afforded to developers, but also from increasing regulations and legislative changes and an ever decreasing level of financial support from Wiltshire Council.

Elsewhere the Parish continued to face the creep of urbanisation from Chippenham, and will face continued pressures and challenges across the Parish to retain this rural environment prized so highly.

The Chairman concluded by thanking his fellow Councillors for their actions and support over the past year.

#### **05/18 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2018-2019**

Copies of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year 2017/2018 and Budget proposals for the year 2018/2019 were circulated to those in attendance. The documents allowed a comparison of spending and budgets since 2016/17 to be made. The Chairman had highlighted some budget figures in his earlier Report. There were no questions raised by those in attendance.

#### **06/18 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL SUB GROUPS AND COMMITTEES**

The Council had no Sub Groups or Sub Committees during the last year.

#### **07/18 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**Langley Burrell Village Hall Trustees.** Katerina Johnstone (Secretary) reported that the Village Hall continued to thrive and was being used almost every day and evening. She advised that their bank balance was around £30,000.00 and work costing around £25,000.00 on the Kitchen extension was planned to start in August 2018. Grants had been received during the year and she particularly highlighted the grant of £12,000.00 from the Landfill Trust. Other grants and donations had been received from Tesco, the Co-op and the Chippenham Area Board. The Parish Council had agreed a £1,000.00 donation. A vote of thanks was given to Julia Mannering for her work and commitment in securing the grants during the year. Katerina concluded by mentioning Trustee spending throughout the year particularly mentioning drive improvements (£2,941.00), storage container purchase (£680.00) and flooring (£7,688.00). Katerina was thanked for her work as Secretary and Bookings Clerk during the past year.

**Maud Heath Trust Trustees.** Julie Hoskins (Trustee) reported that sadly the Maud Heath Causeway continued to be in poor condition. Proposals were still being considered for repairing railings and stone plinth to the main monument. It was hoped that work on the raised footway at Kellaways, particularly the arches and stonework would commence and be completed this coming year. Julia Mannering raised the issue of the provision and improvement of signage to advertise and promote the heritage and tourism aspects and Julie confirmed that this was being considered.

**St Giles Church, Tytherton Kellaways.** Julie Hoskins reminded all that the Church was within the Draycot Benefice and she briefly reported on the work of the Church and the Benefice during the last 12 months. She particularly highlighted the work required and planned for the reinstatement of the Church Bell that, hopefully, would be reinstated during the next year. The Rev Alison Love was thanked for her work and commitment throughout the past year.

**Langley Burrell Residents Association.** There was no report from the Association but those in attendance acknowledged the vital part they continue to play within the Parish, often supporting and aiding the Parish Council when necessary and supporting the best interests of the whole community.

**St Peter's Church, Langley Burrell.** The Rev David Kilminster had been unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and no report was available. However, for the record it was worth noting that the Church remains within the Greenways Benefice, together with St Paul's Chippenham and St Nicholas Hardenhuish. The Rev David was thanked for his work and commitment throughout the past year.

## **08/18 REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

Once again Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman was pleased to extend his thanks to the Parish Council for being a delight to work with. Once again too he reflected on a challenging year both locally and across Wiltshire. He wished it wasn't.

He commented that it often appeared that the area was particularly beset with planning applications which unavoidably change the face of our communities, some for good, and maybe some not so palatable. Locally we continued to have our patience stretched by the traffic signalisation of the Motorway Junction 17, which had taken a lot longer than expected. Junction 17 was of course the centre of traffic pressures from Dyson Technologies, Rawlings Green, and the Chippenham Gateway project, which had recently seen an outline planning application approval.

Howard mentioned last year the redevelopment of Chippenham Railway Station and unfortunately had to revise his report this year in that he thought the redevelopment work will be somewhat scaled down this year as budgetary pressures probably will mean expectations will need to be more modest.

On a more personal note he was pleased that across his County Division various Neighbourhood Plans were now progressing well. He recognised that there are conflicting views in some quarters over the need for the Plans, but was certain that Langley Burrell would benefit locally from the direction provided by their adopted Plan, one of relatively few still at that stage in the County. Decision makers should recognise the local community views when determining applications.

Again, personally, he had been pleased to Chair the Chippenham Area Board and Community Area Parish Forum, which goes from strength to strength and has been well supported by the Langley Burrell Parish Council.

Within Wiltshire Council the challenges continue with further budgetary cuts requiring savings of over £20 million and an increase in Council Tax of 5.99% including a Social Care levy of £3%. This would not be enough to shore up the Adult care need and resources however, so innovative means to provide needed services have to be explored including the Help to Live at Home Scheme, which so far has helped 6500 people to live independently at home. That said, Wiltshire Council had increased the Adult care budget by 11% over the last four years, or £13.5 million. In Wiltshire there was the third largest older population in the UK with 100,000 of the 475,000 residents aged over 65 years.

He advised that there are over 6000 volunteers across Wiltshire helping provide services from Libraries to litter picking and maintaining Rights of Way etc which is fortunate given that there will be increasing pressure on these services. Litter picking is a sad example of monies being spent unnecessarily costing all over £2.5million to service.

Fly-tipping was also an increasing issue so £669,000.00 was being invested to help improve all these Street Scene services, and he had personally initiated a program whereby the Chippenham Area Board will be acquiring CCTVs to help mitigate fly-tipping in this area by catching those responsible. These areas too will be covered by appropriate signage.

More than £300 million had been allocated in the Capital program to be spent on infrastructure to improve access and transport across the County and regenerate market towns etc.

He concluded by asking all to keep up the good work done and to continue to contact him if required.

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked Councillor Greenman for his advice, continued involvement and assistance during the past year.

#### **09/18 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH ISSUES**

Julia Mannering asked if there were any proposals to improve the Parish Website. The Chairman advised that the Council had agreed that a new user-friendly Web presence should be created and that this was being designed at the present time.

There were no further issues raised.

Julia Mannering, on behalf of the community, thanked the Parish Council for their work and commitment over the past twelve months.

#### **10/18 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Parish Council Chairman thanked all those who had attended the Annual Parish Meeting, looked forward to seeing them throughout the year at Parish Council Meetings and closed the Meeting.

Signed:

Date: **25<sup>th</sup> April 2019**