

LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES

Annual Parish Meeting

held at 7.30pm

Maud Heath Room, Langley Burrell Village Hall

17th April 2023

Present: Cllr Julie Hoskins (Chairman of the Meeting), Cllr Rick Colthorpe, Cllr Katerina Johnstone and Cllr Mark Meredith.

Also Present: Howard Morland 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

01/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Wiltshire Councillor H Greenman.

02/23 MINUTES Minutes had been previously circulated.

Those present received, considered and confirmed that the Minutes of the Virtual Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2022 were a correct record.

Cllr Katerina Johnstone proposed, seconded Cllr Rick Colthorpe and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

03/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

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

04/23 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

The Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Julie Hoskins, reminded all that she should not be making this report but as Cllr Robert Whitrow, the Council Chairman, had so sadly died in January, it had landed in her lap. Robert had done a huge amount for the community, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Resident's Association, most especially in the last year of his life and everyone was indebted to him.

Hitchens' appeal for approval for the development of housing at Barrow Far was ongoing and was being vigorously opposed by Langley Burrell. There had been no more news about the situation at the Rawling's Green development but it was known that Upper Peckingell Farm had been bought by the developer.

The Council's financial situation is good and the Council had voted for a very small increase in the precept for the 2023/2024 budget. So far, the Council had spent about £260,000.00 of the CIL Money on various projects.

Robert Whitrow had considered a number of ideas during the past year and the Council had decided against taking on responsibility for Birds Marsh Wood as the deal offered had the potential to be a long term financial liability.

The revival of the Cricket Club was very good news for the Parish and CIL Funds had invested considerably in infrastructure and equipment for the upkeep of the pitch and grounds. And of course a new pavilion was planned.

Another of Robert Whitrow's projects, the Heritage and Kilvert Trails to be followed through the Parish, continued at a pace.

Three defibrillators are now installed, in the Bus Shelter, the Village Hall and outside of St Giles Church at Kellaways.

Speed restriction warning signs are on order, the Village Hall had new security lights installed and a new children's play area had just been created.

Various suggestions had been made regarding the flooding at the bridge over the River Avon. However, nothing seemed to deter some determined drivers and once again several cars had been stranded after the river broke its' bank recently.

In conclusion she recalled that, sadly, Rhian Lavery had resigned as a Parish Councillor this year but, happily, all positions were filled with the co-options of Mark Meredith and Karl Eaves and they are very welcomed.

05/23 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2023-2024

A copy of the Parish Council's Approved Budget for the year 2023/2024 was circulated. The document allowed a comparison of budgets and required Precept since 2017/18 to be made. There were no questions raised by those in attendance.

06/23 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL SUB GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

The Council had no Sub Groups or Sub Committees during the last year. The CIL Panel consisted of all Council Members and had met when necessary to determine CIL Grants and Funding throughout the year.

07/23 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Langley Burrell Village Hall Trustees.

Katerina Johnstone (Chairman) reported that it had been good to have the Hall open and back to normal use for the past 20 months and seeing their regular groups return after the final Covid lockdown in the summer of 2021. Their bookings were back to pre-covid levels and advance bookings for 2023/24 were looking very healthy.

They had planted a tree for Charles Fremantle, who had been the Hall Chairman for over 10 years and on the Committee for a number of years prior to that. He had died in January 2022 and was a pillar of the community, he was very much missed.

They had renovated the fabric of the building, by having the outside walls painted and new PVC fascias, soffits & gutters. They had also purchased 6 new Gazebos.

This June had seen the Country celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and over the Jubilee weekend they had held a Street Party at the Hall with picnics and games

including wooden skittles & children's sack racing. The Hall Committee planted four trees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and the Parish Council provided a new bench, 2 picnic benches and 2 tree benches, all very much appreciated and received for the community.

In July they had held their Hall & St. Peter's Annual Fete, the sun shone and with their usual stalls, horse rides and Maypole dancing from the children of Langley Fitzurse, a great time had been had by all. Their raffle ticket sales and prizes were very generously supported by the wider community. They had raised a net total of £2440.00, which was split evenly between the Hall & St. Peter's Church.

They had also hosted a new group to them, of bikers over a weekend Rally in August, who had paid very generously to have exclusive use of the hall & field. They had also made a very generous donation of £500 to St. Peter's Church, the Hall's nominated local charity. The bikers planned to return next August (2023).

The Trustees had agreed via the Scott-Ashe Estate a 25-year lease on the playing fields, which will enable them to look at more long-term projects for the hall and community. Langley Burrell Parish Council would be funding the total costs for the hall lease via CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies. The Parish Council had also purchased 2 new metal containers for Hall storage and were looking at other projects to finance for them including updating the toilets & CCTV. The Parish Council had also provided the Hall with one of the 3 Defibrillators purchased for the village.

CCTV had been installed in January 2023 and in March 2023 wooden playground equipment was installed & paid for by CIL Parish Council monies.

Last Autumn, the idea of reviving the Langley Burrell Cricket Club took place and had now been established with members from the village & surrounding area. With great financial support from the Parish Council CIL monies, a number of large pieces of equipment had been purchased to revitalize the playing field grounds and 3 large containers to hold all the equipment.

The Committee had lost some members this year but had also gained 3 new members. They were still short of members to help with the running of the Hall, key rolls, including Vice-Chair & Treasurer. Running the hall & grounds was very time consuming and more jobs needed to be spread across the Committee. She reminded all that they were very fortunate to have this great community asset here and hoped that with enough support, they can carry on.

On ending, she wished to add that the Committee was very saddened of the death of our Queen, Elizabeth II, who had ruled and worked tirelessly for 7 decades and would be missed. Long live King Charles III as he took on his new responsibilities. The Hall Committee had arranged a Coronation Street Party for all on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Maud Heath Trust Trustees.

Julie Hoskins (Trustee) reported that the Trustees were very concerned about the state of the stonework on the Listed arches by the River Avon. It now transpired that the stone used for the recent repairs was defective. The contractors, CDL Stone, had accepted this and had gone back to the quarry to investigate.

The pathway between East Tytherton and the canal was in a dire state but the representative from Wiltshire Council was being very helpful and making efforts to repair the damage.

Routine clearance of the Causeway continues and the benches will be refurbished this year.

2024 was the 550th Anniversary of the Causeway and they were working with Emily Malcolm of “Yesterday’s Story” to mark the occasion.

St Giles Church, Tytherton Kellaways.

Julie Hoskins (PCC Member) advised that, at last, the defibrillator was now in place and working and the PCC would like to thank the Parish Council for their support. The heating system had been repaired and was also now working.

The wrong paint had been used on the cupola when it was reinstated and was now flaking. The PCC were investigating ways of repainting and also replacing the clapper for the Church Bell without using scaffolding, which at the present time it could not afford.

The new Vicar, the Reverend Suzanne Grindrod, started in the Draycot Benefice in December 2022.

Langley Burrell Residents Association.

There was no report from the Association.

St Peter’s Church, Langley Burrell.

Howard Morland (PCC Member) reported that in 2022 St Peter’s Church had continued to hold worship services, but only on the first and third Sundays each month, due to the unavailability of licensed clergy or lay ministers. A small but dedicated congregation became more involved in taking responsibility for various tasks and this had continued to evolve, strengthen and encourage the fellowship.

St Peter’s continued to be outward looking and very aware of the need to link with the local community as much as possible. In 2022 they were pleased to welcome some new people to the congregation from the Birds Marsh development.

During the year there were 5 baptismal services - including an adult as well as young children. These naturally attracted family and friends from the local area. Unusually, there was only one wedding in 2022 - there had been three in 2021 and up to eight in previous years. The Church website and also its proximity to Langley House and Kin House had attracted couples from well outside Wiltshire and in November of this year another London-based couple were to be married at St Peter’s, after they had fulfilled legal requirements for attendance.

Three funerals were held in 2022, including that of Cmdr. Charles Fremantle, who had been a faithful member of the Church for many years. Of course, more recently we all had greatly mourned the loss of Robert Whitrow.

It was in no small part due to Robert that St Peter’s received a grant from the Parish Council Community Infrastructure Levy fund. This was closely tied to, and dependent upon, the development of the Parish Heritage Trail. St Peter’s was one of the most

significant buildings in the village and already attracted visitors from a wide area. Some of these, such as the Theakston family of brewing fame, had a memorial in the Churchyard which drew them to Langley Burrell; others have a fascination with history or the architecture. They may or may not share the Christian faith that the Church represents: All are welcomed. But one essential feature of the Trail was lacking, and most inconveniently so, especially for those who may have travelled far: A functioning and accessible-to-all toilet.

The grant would put that right and they are currently working their way through all the administrative hurdles entailed with such a project. A proposed plan was to be considered by the Diocesan Advisory Council later this month. Once they give the go-ahead, and then a few other organisations, they could go to tender. Howard wished to record thanks on behalf of the District Church Council to the Parish Council. They will continue to support village initiatives where they can, including of course the Annual Fete, with special thanks due to Katerina in particular for all her hard work. He thanked all and in closing he reported his concerns in regard to fly-tipping and car-wheelies in the Church car park.

Langley Burrell Cricket Club.

Mark Meredith provided an update on the continuing success of the re-formed Cricket Club. The Club wished to place on record their thanks to the Parish Council, paying tribute to the Late Robert Whitrow who had been so supportive of the Club. In their inaugural season the Club had played 10 games being victorious on 2 occasions. He was pleased to say that one of the games had been at Home in September 2022. Arrangements had been made for 12 fixtures this season, 4 of which will be at Home. The Club's first game would be played on the 17th May 2023 with the season ending in September. The Cricket Club now had 17-18 Members with age profile being 15 years to 65 years old. Practice nights still took place at Sutton Benger as the interim measure. The Home cricket nets were being constructed. All present wished the Club continued success.

08/23 REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman had been unable to attend the Annual Meeting and had provided a written report that was read to attendees.

He commented that we seemed to be gradually emerging from the grip of Covid19 although there could be no doubt a dark era that has left its' mark. That together with the continuing war in the Ukraine and recent industrial unrest had faced Wiltshire Council with some challenges on a number of fronts. He would deal with a couple of them; the first one coming with an invitation too.

There was little doubt that the NHS had experienced considerable pressures on their capacity and waiting times across the spectrum of health provision had suffered as a consequence. One area in which necessary support could be given was that of providing a safe environment for those well enough to leave hospital, but not yet ready to return home. This may be because they were waiting for adaptations to be made for their home, or simply because they need time to recover or gain confidence. Wiltshire Council were working closely with the NHS then to launch a new service, the 'Shared Lives Home from Hospital Service'. Wiltshire Council were looking for Shared Lives Carers to help deliver this very important service for periods of up to 12 weeks. Shared Lives Carers were paid £850 per week per person, for the Home from Hospital service. Carers were self-employed and eligible for tax breaks and could claim mileage, and have access to a range of other Wiltshire Council benefits.

He posed the questions. Could you help ensure that our hospitals run more efficiently and that our doctors and nurses were not run ragged, and additionally that patients were able to recuperate well? More information was available at 'Becoming a carer- Wiltshire Council'. Thank you.

He advised that Wiltshire Council's budgets were under pressure too although happily Wiltshire Council were not suffering the budgetary difficulties some neighbouring authorities were, with external auditors and responsible finance officers alike refusing to sign off the budgets. There was no room for complacency though, although their budget of £465m was well placed to ensure a balanced operating budget for the next few years. Budgetary spend and increases of particular note were;

- Whole Life pathway (mental health, autism, learning disabilities) £96m, an increase of £11m.
- Living and Ageing well (adult care) £83m, an increase of £15m.
- Families and Children, £63m, an increase of £2m.
- Environment which includes waste and recycling, £48m, an increase of £4m.
- Highways and Transport £41m, an increase of £3m.
- Education and skills £29m, an increase of £6m.

On another note he had received a number of emails reference waste and recycling over the last year, and was conscious of some areas of concern and in fact complaint too. It had been suggested to him that Wiltshire Council needed to be more focused on food waste recycling and he agreed, although it was an expensive service to implement. He was hopeful though that by his next report Wiltshire Council will have a food recycling program in place. In the meantime he asked for people to please note that Wiltshire Council were offering discounted food composters called a Green Johanna for £60 (normally £129.99). More information was online at 'Reducing your waste and composting- Wiltshire Council.'

There had been some complaints too about refuse collectors investigating the contents of bins to ensure the contents were in the correct bin. Wiltshire Council received £2.24m in the first six months of this year for recycling commodity. However this sum was very much reduced if there was contamination so by way of reminder he asked people to please note the following:

- Only recyclables are put in blue bins, not general waste or nappies.
- Flexible or soft plastics such as bread bags and packaging film or carrier bags should be placed in residual waste.
- Polystyrene and non-paper wrapping paper to be put into residual waste.
- Scrap metals such as biscuit tins can be recycled but car parts cannot.

And finally, Wiltshire Council had now introduced a kerbside battery collection service. Batteries such as DC, AA, AAA, 9V and button-type batteries could now be recycled. Please put them in a sealed transparent plastic bag on top of the blue lined bin.

On a personal note he continued to serve on the Health Select Committee hence his passion for the Shared Lives Home from Hospital service above, and he remained Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee which had seen a number of challenges

from planning applications over the last year from Waste Incinerators and Solar Farms to large scale house build programs.

As an authority they continued to be under the cosh with an apparent shortfall in the five year housing land supply, which was a government set target for housing delivery. He had made a number of representations to central government including writing directly to Michael Gove MP over this unfair metric, which did force in his view house build programs in communities where it would be inappropriate. Correspondence he had received from The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities assured him that planning policy was changing in this regard. However, what it also made clear was the continued need to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place. He was pleased to report that although greater weight had been given in the past to Neighbourhood Plans of less than two years old, that would be dispensed with, and more authority given to the decision maker, that being Wiltshire Council. In his view then Neighbourhood Plan Teams have everything to play for and must continue to secure their own Neighbourhood Plan for their own communities particularly where there was not one in place at the present time.

In conclusion he thanked all once again for their time and support too over the last year. The Parishes he represented once again had proved a delight to work with, and made his job a lot easier and more pleasant in the process. Should anyone need his help or advice please contact him on his Wiltshire Council email address.

09/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH ISSUES

The Heritage Trail: There was no report, although it was known that significant progress had been made in the project.

The Kilvert Trail: There was no report, although it was known that significant progress had been made in the project.

Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean (Litter Pick): As usual the Keep Britain Tidy information had been received and a successful litter pick weekend had been organised with volunteers turning up to pick around the village. There remained a need to ensure that the Parish was regularly litter picked. Equipment was available if required.

Defibrillator Project – S W Ambulance Trust Training Session: The Council was pleased to confirm that the three defibrillators within the Parish and part of the 4-year lease agreement with the S W Ambulance Trust had now been installed. Positions were, The Bus Shelter, the Village Hall and St Giles Church, Kellaways. It was now possible to make arrangements for a training session later in the year in the Village Hall.

Community Safety/Neighbourhood Watch/Emergency Plan: Cllr Mark Meredith had taken on the role of drafting the Emergency Plan that would require volunteer assistance to cover the whole Parish. The Council had now deployed their email database that circulated community messaging and the like. Attendees were urged to sign up for the distribution list.

Traffic Speeds – the provision of Autospeedwatch Tools: The Parish Council had purchased 2 solar powered devices. There remained a need for more volunteers to assist with Community Speedwatch.

Community Speedwatch – the Speedwatch Scheme volunteers: As part of the efforts to reduce traffic speeds throughout the Parish there was a need to identify volunteers to form a Community Speedwatch Team and a Coordinator for them to take the required training. This could not proceed until the results of the recent Traffic Survey were known that hopefully would give the go ahead to form the CSW Team.

Speed Identification Devices (SIDS) - the provision of SIDs: The Parish Council had agreed to purchase two ElanCity Radar Devices and erect in the Parish at identified “hot spots” to provide advance warning to drivers and collect data in efforts to reduce speed levels. This decision was made in advance of the official authority from Wiltshire Highways.

King Charles III - Coronation Celebrations: Cllr Katerina Johnstone updated the attendees on proposals to hold a Coronation Street Party for all on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Neighbourhood Plan: There was no report, although it was known that LBRA had made progress in employing the assistance of Place Studio as their consultants.

Recreation Ground Facilities: Progress had been made on a number of projects and discussions were soon to take place on the sports pavilion and Village Hall improvements.

Rights of Way – Footpath maintenance – Community Warden: There was no report, although it was understood that a Community Footpath Warden to oversee all Rights of Way had been found.

Fly Tipping: The issue of fly tipping in a number of areas of the Parish, including within the grounds of St Peter’s Church was raised. The Parish Council had no powers to assist and instances needed to be recorded with Wiltshire Council via the MyWilts App system. The matter would be raised with the Parish Forum when they next meet to seek an overall picture and agree a corporate approach.

10/23 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Parish Council Vice 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 at 8.29pm.

Signed:

Date: