

**LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Virtual Annual Parish Meeting**  
**held at 7.45pm**

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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, Rhian Morley 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**

**01/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no Apologies received.

**02/21 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2020**

There was no Meeting held due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**03/21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Robert Whitrow, reported on the Parish Council activities during the last year. He reminded all that Langley Burrell was a very small Parish with around 320 on the Electoral Roll, of which about 100 reside in The Fairways Retirement Village and so there were 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 somewhat unusual with the Covid-19 restrictions severely curtailing the normal activities of the Council and resulting in the Council being unable to hold regular face-to-face meetings. He was delighted that these restrictions now appeared to be easing and he had increasing confidence that all would resume normal practice in the near future.

Notwithstanding these limitations 2020/21 had been yet another year of exceptional activity across the Parish, which continued to face substantial pressure from development and the expansion of Chippenham into the Parish.

The Parish continued to face pressures from the urban expansion of Chippenham, and all the major developments affecting the Parish continued to be 'current'. These applications included: Barrow Farm / Birds Marsh - Rawlings Green - Wavin (Parsonage Way vs northern perimeter road) - Peckingell access road.

Despite their previous failure to gain approval for their plans for Barrow Farm last time around, Robert Hitchins had now submitted a revised proposal for housing development to the north of Barrow Farm and importantly being to the north of the 'perimeter road' (Kilvert's Way). It was unclear at this stage whether Wilts Council were supportive of this new application and we await information accordingly,

however if Wilts Council were against this development we anticipate a further fight to get it rejected – the issue being that Wilts Council are not currently able to demonstrate the 5yr land supply required.

### **GDPR communications**

The Parish Council would like to ensure it is able to communicate more directly with Parishioners, using email where appropriate, and therefore has commenced a process to capture the relevant information from residents, while also ensuring GDPR compliance. This is an ongoing process and will continue throughout 2021.

### **Parish Boundary Changes**

Parishioners may not be aware of the forthcoming boundary changes, which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. In essence this will mean that Langley Burrell Without will lose part of its' Parish area to Chippenham Town, comprising the housing development area to the south of the perimeter road along the north of Barrow Farm and the Rawlings Green area.

### **Langley Burrell Neighbourhood Plan**

As Parishioners will be aware Langley Burrell Neighbourhood Plan is being revised - while formally developed by the Parish Council, the vast majority of the work is being undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council by the Langley Burrell Residents Association as before. However the LBRA had recently had a number of membership changes and is currently regrouping to ensure it is able to ensure proper engagement in community support and feedback sessions. The revised Neighbourhood Plan would reflect a smaller 'Designated Area' which would again exclude the land on the west of the A350 and would also reflect the new Parish Boundaries. The aim is to include allocated sites to ensure more robust Plan if Wiltshire Council are unable to demonstrate 5 year land supply.

### **Finances**

I am delighted to report that the Parish Council is currently in a reasonably robust financial situation. Parishioners will be aware that because the Parish has a 'made' Local Neighbourhood Plan it receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy ('CIL') funds that are payable by developers for each new house in the Parish. Because of the extensive developments at Barrow Farm [and possibly Rawlings Green] Langley Burrell Without has received a significant amount of CIL related funding, and the current balance held for CIL funds is just over £446k. This CIL funding can only be spent on CIL qualifying criteria and needs to be spent within 5 years of receipt (otherwise they get returned to Wiltshire Council). Under the qualifying criteria the CIL funds can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities. This definition allows the levy to be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, open spaces, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes and police stations and other community safety facilities, and the Parish Council is interested in any suggestions from the Parishioners for the application of these funds. The normal (ie non-CIL related) funds, which are used for the usual running of the Parish Council are around £28k at today's date. This primarily reflects the benefit of an increase in overall income from the short-term increase in the number of residents within the Parish from the new developments (who will be lost following the boundary changes in April).

Parishioners will be aware that the level of financial support and the work undertaken by Wiltshire Council has been reducing significantly over the last few years, and the Parish Councils are now being asked to undertake significantly more work themselves. This unfortunately results in an inevitable increase in cost for the Parish Council, which coupled with national guidance to ensure each Parish Council maintains adequate reserves/contingency for unexpected expenditure, has resulted in the precept being increased by c15% for 2021. However it is believed that the current financial position is reasonably robust and any future increases can be kept to a minimum.

#### **Other matters**

Elsewhere the Council has pressed ahead with measures to counter the issue of speeding through the main village. Autospeedwatch recorders are now in place and the Council is expecting to install two new ElanCity Solar Radar speed cameras in the coming months. There are now two new noticeboards in the Parish and another to be erected at the Village Hall and work has been done to support the development/crystallization of information about Kilvert's countryside and Maud's Heath Causeway.

Langley Burrell remains a thriving community but is small and suffers from an above average mature population. We continue 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 we continue to face the creep of urbanisation from Chippenham, and will face continued pressures and challenges across the Parish to retain this rural environment we prize so highly.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their actions and support over the past year, which has not been easy.

On the personnel front the Parish Council membership has been very constant. Mr Viv Vines MBE position as Parish Clerk was made permanent last year and he has continued to keep us in order accordingly.

There will be one change following the recent Election process, in that David Mannering is stepping down as a Councillor. David and Julia moved away from the Parish in the summer and he is therefore no longer eligible for re-election. I would like to thank David for his dedicated service as a Parish Councillor. His input and sage counsel will be missed.

I am however delighted to welcome Rhian Morley to the Parish Council, and I have no doubt I speak for my fellow Councillors when I say that we all look forward to working with her over the year ahead.

#### **04/21 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2021-2022**

A copy of the Parish Council's Approved Budget for the year 2021/2022 was circulated. The document allowed a comparison of budgets and required Precept since 2017/18 to be made.

#### **05/21 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL SUB GROUPS AND COMMITTEES**

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

#### **06/21 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

**Langley Burrell Village Hall Trustees.** Katerina Johnstone (Trustee) reported that the Village Hall along with so many others had had a difficult 12 months following the introduction of Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions. It was likely that with the potential

relaxing of restrictions it could take at least 12 months to reach full capacity again. The closure had allowed for maintenance work to be carried out. Although closed, with the grant aid available, the financial impact, including additional from the Parish Council, had not been serious. Several future Capital projects were being considered. There appeared to be CIL Fund opportunities in the short term. Concern was expressed about the future in regards to volunteer support and the need for additional Trustees to be found to manage the Facility and it was mentioned that at some stage a professional manager might be required. It appeared to those present that Katerina almost ran the Village Hall single handedly and support must be found especially if additional facilities were provided.

**Maud Heath Trust Trustees.** Julie Hoskins (Trustee) reported that sadly the raised footway at Kellaways, particularly the arches and stonework, although recently repaired already showed deterioration and the cause was now being investigated. Interpretation display boards had been provided to advertise and promote the heritage and tourism aspects. The Trust was looking for new younger committed Trustee/s, particularly from the Langley Burrell area.

**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 difficult pandemic 12 months. The Rev Alison Love had left in December 2020 and a part time replacement post was being considered. The Parish Council had been thanked for their Section 137 grant towards Open Churchyard grass cutting and for the provision and installation of the Community notice board within the grounds.

**Langley Burrell Residents Association.** There was no report from the Association but those in attendance were aware of the vital part they needed to 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 Church remained within the Greenways Benefice, together with St Paul's Chippenham and St Nicholas Hardenhuish. The Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions had meant a difficult 12 months. The Parish Council had been thanked for their Section 137 grant towards Open Churchyard grass cutting.

## **07/21 REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman was pleased to attend to give his 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Report ending a year fraught with Covid-19 problems. He extended his thanks to the Parish Council for their work and congratulated them on how they adjusted to holding Virtual Meetings. On a personal note he was sad that the Community Area Parish Forum, well supported by the Parish Council, had been unable to meet.

Covid-19 had taken a toll on all levels of service provision at Wiltshire Council particularly in Adult Care and Social Services but an urgent additional funding intervention had assisted, although the repercussions would impact over the next few years.

Having said that, through Central Government support Wiltshire Council would be able to invest further in Adult Social Care (£8.6m), Children's Services (£8.4m), Waste Services (£2.6m) and Leisure Services (£4.5m).

In addition a 10 year Capital Program was agreed for 1000 new Council Houses (£50m), Wiltshire road maintenance (£22m), Schools (£23m), Health & Well-being (£20m) and Energy Improvements (£7m).

He was looking forward to the year ahead, following the lifting of Lockdown when things returned to normal and 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.

## **08/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH ISSUES**

**Parish Council Elections 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** It was confirmed that there would be no Election as 5 eligible persons had stood for Council. The new Council would be formed by Richard J Colthorpe, Julie Hoskins, Katerina J Johnstone, Rhian J Morley and Robert W G Whitrow.

**Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean:** As usual the Council had received Keep Britain Tidy information and there was a need to ensure that the Parish was regularly litter picked. With Covid-19 restrictions now being lifted it would become possible to organise litter picks throughout the Parish.

**Defibrillator Project:** The Council continued to pursue the provision of three defibrillators within the Parish and part of the 4-year lease agreement with the S W Ambulance Trust allowed for a yearly training session. Hopefully on completion of the project it would become possible to make arrangements for a training session later in the year.

**Community Safety/Neighbourhood Watch/Emergency Plan:** The Parish Council would be considering how to attract volunteers to fulfil important roles within the Parish.

**Traffic Speeds – the provision of Autospeedwatch Tools:** The Parish Council had purchased and installed 2 solar power Tools. Data was now being collected to identify persistent speeding offenders.

**Community Speedwatch – to consider a Speedwatch Scheme:** 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 for them to take the required training.

**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.

**Covid-19 – Impact on the Parish:** The Pandemic and repercussions had affected Parishioners and businesses within the Parish, including the closure of the Village Hall. Local volunteers had assisted vulnerable people and continue to do so when required.

**Gigaclear- Super Broadband installation and reinstatement:** The Parish had been included in the Gigaclear works program. Despite all of the problems during the

works to date Parishioners could soon begin to take advantage of high broadband speeds that would be available.

**Public Rights of Way-Footpath maintenance:** The importance of the designated Rights of Way within the Parish was acknowledged and it was stressed that the Parish Council and volunteers would need to protect and enhance them so that they remained open for use. There was a need for proper signage and safe stiles. Comment was made that some adjacent Parishes had formed volunteer groups, that the Rambling Association could be of assistance and that "Community Payback" could be of assistance. It was emphasised that there was a need for the sensible control of dogs when crossing fields that contained livestock. Concern was expressed that some unlawful blockages, such as electric fences, were in place that needed resolving with landowners, perhaps requiring the intervention of Wiltshire Council. The issue of access to "Common Land" was raised and the legal right of access to this.

There were no further issues raised.

#### **09/21 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 at 20.56pm

Signed:

Date: