

LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
Annual Parish Meeting
held at 7.30pm
Langley Burrell Village Hall

15th April 2024

Present: Cllr Julie Hoskins (Chairman of the Meeting), Cllr R Colthorpe, Cllr Katerina Johnstone and Cllr Karl Eaves.

Also Present: Wiltshire Cllr H Greenman, Lucinda Whitrow, James Burrell, Jon Whitby, Folke Pope, Mark Griffiths, Jon Mason, Heather Maynard, Rachel Bar, David Baldwin, David Spencer, Vinitha Algewatta, Sheila Franklin and Mr V A Vines Clerk of the Council.

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

01/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Rosemary Waterkeyn.

02/24 MINUTES Minutes had been previously circulated.

Those present received, considered and confirmed that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2023 were a correct record.

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

03/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

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

04/24 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Julie Hoskins, welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting, reporting that the last year has sped by and it only seemed like yesterday that we last met.

Talking of speeding I am so pleased that volunteers to form the Community Speedwatch Team, led by Karl Eaves, has been formed and will receive training and could be soon out watching traffic which will hopefully slow people down when they see the Hi-Viz jackets and speed gun but also, importantly, potentially lead to a reduction in speed limit. And to assist them we hope to get the Autospeedwatch devices will be registered with the Police and that progress can be made in the installation of the Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) flashing signage that I know has proven successful in other Parishes who suffer from the blight of speeding traffic. These will take photographs and record speeds that should lead to culprits learning a lesson.

While I'm talking of warning signage, I am pleased to report that the Council has agreed to investigate the installation of solar powered advanced warning signage in several locations to warn motorists well in advance of flooded roads in extreme

weather conditions. The added advantage of these warning signs is that they can also be used to advertise local events as well.

Last year, sadly, I needed to record the death of Robert Whitrow, the last Council Chairman, who had done a huge amount for the community, and the Council and others have continued with many of the projects that he started.

Also, I commented on the Hitchens' proposals for approval for the development of housing at Barrow Farm and the ongoing appeal and despite being vigorously opposed by Langley Burrell the case was lost and planning permission given. Sadly, it appeared that the sole reason was the lack of a 5-year land supply in Wiltshire. If only the Government had changed the Rules to a 4-year land supply, as they did in December, a few months ago, I am sure the appeal would have been dismissed.

Whilst on planning there has been little news on the Rawling's Green development but unfortunately I think it is only a matter of time before the dreaded haul route will be in operation ruining our day to day lives. It will be essential that ongoing road repairs are carried out during the course of the work and on completion a complete restoration of all affected road and verge surfaces.

Moving on to more pleasant things I am pleased to say that the Council's financial situation is good with the precept for the 2024/2025 budget rising by only £1.18 per Band D property per year. A later agenda item provides you all with a complete breakdown on the Council's Budget. As you know as a result of the huge housing developments in the Parish the Council has received large amounts of Community Infrastructure Money (CIL money) that can and are being spent to benefit the whole community.

Of course all of these land areas that were built on are now in Chippenham Town and no longer in the Parish, and with these altered boundaries there is a need to update the Neighbourhood Plan and I thank the Steering Group who are taking this forward and you will hear more about this and progress made later in the evening and how your help is needed when consultations take place.

I am pleased that revival of the Cricket Club continues, which is very good news for the Parish and CIL Funds continue to be invested in infrastructure and equipment for the upkeep of the pitch and grounds. Part of the infrastructure was to be a new sports pavilion, but I believe the decision to incorporate that within extensions to the Village Hall is a sensible one so that the whole community can benefit.

Other projects continue to move forward with the Heritage and Kilvert Trails coming to fruition and many more things are happening and I'm sure they will be mentioned by others later on.

Although things move slowly the Council continues with plans for more litter and dog poo bins, salt/grit bins and also the provision of Village entrance gates to not only potentially slow traffic but to advertise that people have reached our historic Village.

Just to publicise the fact again, we have three defibrillators in the Parish, installed in the Bus Shelter, the Village Hall and outside of St Giles Church at Kellaways. I hope that they will never be needed but they are there in case of emergency. As part of the defibrillator leases we are entitled to a free training session each year. Last year we joined with Seagry Parish Council and held it in the Goss Croft Hall and it would be really nice if we could hold one this year in our own Village Hall and get a good attendance.

Another pleasing thing is the re-introduction of the Parish Newsletter, which following

the success of the first edition, is to be continued on a quarterly basis. So if you have any news that you think the Parish should know or be interested in let Karl Eaves, the Editor, know.

You will hear from the Village Hall Trustees later on but we must all thank them for their efforts in keeping this wonderful facility open, particularly after the Covid problems, and wish them well for the future.

Perhaps a more mundane thing to some, but I think it's important for you to know, that the Council fully integrates itself with other organisations and bodies, some of which are the Chippenham & Villages Area Board, the Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum, the North Wiltshire Operational Flood Group and the Local Highways & Footpath Network Group. So the Council needs to keep abreast of what is happening in Wiltshire and the local area and to have a say on your behalf when necessary. Meeting with others creates a network where we can all learn from experiences, both successes and problems, and being "at the table" can often lead to getting things done.

There are still outstanding things for the Council to do, like the creation of an Emergency Plan and Flood Plan, but we are small and need help so if you think you can then please come forward and perhaps volunteer.

This winter has been the wettest for ten years and the flooding has closed the bridge over the River Avon on numerous occasions causing disruption to all those who use our roads.

In closing, I need to thank all the Council Members for their work and commitment over the last 12 months, and the Parish Clerk who keeps us on the straight and narrow, but sadly have to report that Mark Meredith needed to recently resign from the Council and you may have seen a Council Vacancy Notice displayed and if you think you might like to be a Council Member then please contact the Clerk who will give your more information on the role. You would only serve for 12 months as in May 2025 there will be Council Elections and the whole Council will need to be elected again.

Thank you for listening to me. If there are any questions I'll try and answer them or find someone who can.

05/24 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2024-2025

A copy of the Parish Council's Approved Budget for the year 2024/2025 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.

06/24 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.

07/24 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Langley Burrell Village Hall Trustees.

Katerina Johnstone (Chairman) reported on the year's activities and reminded all that the Langley Burrell Village Hall Management Trust was established by a Trust Deed dated 21 August 1951.

Description of the Property - Katerina reminded all that the construction of the main Hall was completed in 1954 and over the intervening years the building and its facilities have been progressively improved, extended and refurbished to meet changing needs and expectations.

General Notes - The last 12 months have been a good year booking wise for the Hall, as we are back to pre-Covid activities & advance bookings for 2024/5 are already looking healthy, with most of our annual users already booked. We are taking more group bookings for field events from LB Cricket Club, Caravan rallies, Motorcycle rallies, dog shows & parking facilities for a Running Club, all of which bring in a good income.

Our first Monday of the Month is our Community Cuppa Morning. This has been running for several years now & is always well attended by members and non-members of the community, who enjoy a friendly chat and get-together. Thank you to Alberta, Jane & the team who give up time for this to happen.

In Sunday 7th May 2023, we celebrated with the village the King's Coronation weekend. The weather was good, and we had a good turnout. We decorated tables and were able to have the event outside. Lots of games were organised by Heather Maynard and proceedings went on until late evening.

In June, we welcomed back the Shadow Monkeys, a free event for the community and Tom Grimshaw supplied the food & drinks. A great time was had by all.

The first weekend in August, we welcomed back the Mayflower Motorcycle Rally Group for the second year. Feedback from the Group last year was that they wished to engage more with the village community, so it was decided to hold our Annual Fete on that Saturday. However, due to heavy rainstorms that were predicted to come over that weekend, we decided to postpone the main Fete to the following week and just have a scaled down afternoon, offering them Pimms, Tombola, Bric-a-brac & Raffle ticket stalls. The Group also made a generous donation to St. Peter's Church as their nominated charity.

The following weekend, 12th August saw our Annual Fete take place. The weather wasn't much better than the previous week, however, we still had a good turn out and support from the community. Our Grand Prize draw was well supported by donations & purchases of tickets. Overall, the event was a success, raising a net profit of £2000, half of which went to St. Peter's Church.

On 9th December 2023, we held a Community Christmas Party from 5pm til late. The Hall was decorated, and Father Christmas came along to hand out presents to the children. This was followed by a buffet supper, quiz by Heather Maynard & music by Martin Jones. The whole Committee worked very hard for this event to happen.

On Saturday 24th February with had an afternoon Jazz in the Village session, which wasn't very successful, as only a handful of people came along, but this did not cost us anything, so we were not out of pocket.

On Saturday 24th March, we held our Annual Village Litter Pick, with around a dozen people turning up to help on the day and filled up several black sacks of rubbish. Their reward for doing this was a hot bacon butty & coffee, thank you to Tina Bumble for kitchen duties.

This year's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 30th March was a great success and the sun shone. The children enjoyed working out the clues to the Easter Trail, organised by Heather Maynard and every child received an Easter Egg at the end. Free hot cross buns & refreshments were offered to all by the team working in the kitchen.

We have agreed via the Scott-Ashe Estate a 25-year lease on the playing fields, which will enable us to look at more long-term projects for the Hall and community. This is still in hand and taking much longer to sort out than we would like. Langley Burrell Without Parish Council will be funding the total costs for the Hall lease via CIL (Community Levy Infrastructure) monies, which has been agreed at £1,000 a year.

Late last year, it was decided that the Cricket Pavilion would not go ahead as the cost of £100k+ was not a good use of CIL monies. An Architect has been appointed to design an extension to the main Hall building, with changing rooms and even adding on an extra floor.

The Hall Committee has gained some new members from the village, but we have also lost 2 members. We are still short of members to help with the running of the Hall, key rolls, including Treasurer & Bookings Clerk. Running the Hall & grounds is very time consuming and more jobs need to be spread across the Committee. We are very fortunate to have a great community assess here and hope that with enough support, we can carry on.

Maud Heath Trust Trustees.

Julie Hoskins (Trustee) reported that this year is the 550th anniversary of the Maud Heath's Causeway, created in 1474. Emily Malcolm, "Yesterday's Story" producer, has arranged for various events to celebrate this, in conjunction with Chippenham Museum and the History Centre, including a walk along the whole length of the path, with refreshments here in the Village Hall on the 17th May and a gathering in Easter Tytherton on the 7th September with dancing etc. Other dates have still to be confirmed.

The state of the stonework on the Listed arches by the River Avon, with the stone used for the recent repairs crumbling, is causing much concern. The deterioration has been hastened by the continuous flooding since October, with vehicles driving too fast through the floods. At least it is evident to all as to why the Causeway was built in the first place.

The pathway is suffering from damage by large farm vehicles and other drivers along the whole length from Langley Burrell to Wick Hill, most especially east of East Tytherton. Bremhill Parish Council are trying to address this, with the Trustees, but it is difficult as Wiltshire Council own the land and share responsibility for the upkeep of the path with the Trustees. Large sums of money need to be raised to make it safe to walk from Chippenham to the top of Wick Hill.

St Giles Church, Tytherton Kellaways.

Julie Hoskins (PCC Member) reported that St Giles sits alongside the historic Maud Heath's Causeway. It is a Listed Building dating from 1805, although the original Church was built in 1304. We have once Service a month, (Book of Common Prayer), United Benefice Services and the occasional Evensong.

Since the Church closures during Covid-19 the financial situation has become dire due to the lack of regular income from collections. The PCC are desperately trying to raise some money in order to pay the Diocese fees as well as ongoing maintenance and regular bills. It is a struggle to pay the Quinquennial Inspection fees and the results of the report are dreaded. The future of St Giles is under serious consideration.

Langley Burrell Residents Association.

LBRA matters were reported in the later Neighbourhood Plan item.

St Peter's Church, Langley Burrell.

Julie Hoskins read a written report received from Howard Morland (PCC Member) that advised that at St Peter's they had to say farewell to their Rector Simon Dunn - who has moved on to another St Peter's, at Frogwell - and they are looking for a replacement in the Greenways Benefice.

This has meant some changes in the way we do things at St Peter's, relying more on lay members of the church to be involved in services and in other ways. Generally, it works well and numbers attending have held up to around 20 on a typical Sunday.

In 2024 we are hopeful of achieving our aim to provide an accessible-to-all W.C. in place of an existing outbuilding. Various permissions have been sought and investigations concluded, and the next step will be going out to tender. None of this would be possible without the initial large grant from the Parish Council, linked to the development of the Heritage Trail.

We look forward to creating a heritage media pack eventually and welcoming many more visitors in the coming years. But while the accessible WC might be completed this year - what about the path leading to it and to the Church door from the car park? It is not wheelchair friendly and so a further £12,000 is needed to replace the gravel with a resin-bonded surface. We again look to grant-makers to assist with this.

The Bristol diocese is now signed up to a Net-Zero campaign in terms of energy use and St Peter's is part of that. We await a recent assessment of our building and what we might do to become more energy-efficient.

Unfortunately, Langley House can no longer provide the services of their groundsman to cut the grass in the Churchyard so we need other offers - urgently! And we record our gratitude to Brenda Coleman for the work done over recent years by Luke Reikes and those who have worked with him.

Finally, we look forward to the four weddings and a wedding blessing that have so far been booked - some for 2025. While our principle focus is to serve the parish, we are regularly welcoming those from outside who choose Kin House for their wedding reception, most being from the London area. This reflects our outlook, to evolve in what the Church offers while remaining true to our core values.

Langley Burrell Cricket Club.

Jon Mason provided an update on the continuing success of the Cricket Club and wished to place on record the Club's thanks to the Parish Council, who had been so supportive of the Club. The Club had played 17 games, 5 of which had been at Home. Arrangements had been made for 16 fixtures this season, 5 of which will be at Home. The Cricket Club now had 20 Members and they would hold their AGM on the 25th April. The social side was also positive and three sponsors had been found, The Langley Tap, The Baytree and Dysons. Practice nights had still taken place at Sutton Benger as an interim measure but the Home cricket nets had now been completed. The cricket square had been re-seeded and the outfield was being cut

although further volunteers would be welcomed. It was hoped that the fixture list could be published to attract more interest. All present wished the Club continued success.

08/24 REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman was pleased to report that this was his 15th Annual Parish Report and that it was interesting to note the changes there have been over the years.

There is no doubt that there have been both political and economic challenges over the last year which have taken some imaginative managing. I am pleased to report though that unlike many surrounding authorities Wiltshire Council have reported an underspend of £634k which correspondingly enables us to enhance our spending commitment in local services. One can always argue that it is never enough, but I think given the cost pressures all local authorities are under the level of spend is both prudent and necessary.

The net budget therefore for 2024/25 stands at £485.772m with a further Capital budget of £255.667m. That together with our Housing Revenue account (our Council Housing south of the county) gives Wiltshire Council a total budget of £1.1bn. There have been a few additions too such as being able to benefit from the extra £500m given by central government nationally to underpin Social Care, and closer to home Wiltshire Council have also received a further and my view very necessary £10m for highways maintenance with a particular focus on pothole repairs etc. An additional £1m has also been secured specifically for highways flood preventative work.

For every £100 of our revenue budget spent therefore the picture looks something like this; -

- £38 on caring for vulnerable adults,
- £9 on managing waste,
- £9 on Wiltshire Highways and bus services,
- £4 on maintaining our property assets,
- £1 on leisure and libraries,
- £21 on supporting and safeguarding children and young people,
- £8 on investment on schools, roads and housing,
- £6 on running the council including environment,
- £3 on online and digital services, and
- £1 on improving Wiltshire's economy.

On this last point it's worth noting that this money is being well spent on helping revitalise our town centres including supporting local businesses and the re-use of empty shops.

On other news, and for the first time since Wiltshire became a Unitary authority we have received an " Outstanding" rating for Children's social care, which is a huge testament to all involved.

I continue to sit on the Northern Area Planning Committee as deputy chair, Health Select committee and since my last annual parish report, Audit and Governance committee too. My particular specialism if you like though is as chair of the Wiltshire Strategic Planning Committee, which has seen a few changes over the last year.

You may recall my remarks within my last report when I complained that I was in correspondence with Michael Gove MP reference the unfair Five-Year-Housing- Land supply (5YHLS) which I believed to be forcing unsuitable development in unsuitable

locations. Planning was becoming more developer driven than plan-led which I was resisting. I am very pleased to report that this unfair metric was abolished on the 19th December 2023, and that we now work to a Four-Year-Housing-Land supply (4YHLS). The 5% buffer has been removed too, and maximum weight given to Neighbourhood Plans to five years instead of the current two. Those of you in the process of Neighbourhood Plans then still have everything to play for! The huge benefit of this 4YHLS is that Wiltshire Council have already met or planned the housing requirement which means that once again new planning applications can be plan-led rather than developer driven.

In closing I often reflect on how much easier my task is in representing the Parishes I do due to the hard work and commitment of their Parish Councils. They are a delightful bunch to work with, and I haven't always been so able to say that. Certainly I both hear and experience some real horror stories across the County so I need to give my thanks and appreciation to our Parish Councils, their Chairs and Clerks too.

As always, if you have any need to contact me over any issue, and I've had some interesting ones over the last year, please do contact me on my Wiltshire Council email address.

09/24 LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

James Burrell (Chair LBRA) reported that since, the Late Robert Whitrow had reformed the Association, it had gone from strength to strength and now had a fantastic website that contained a massive amount of local information including the Heritage Trails. www.langleyburrell.org LBRA had provided the local community platform for fighting the Barrow Farm appeal and through financial assistance from the Parish Council had been able to employ a Consultant to prepare and present the case as an independent party at the forthcoming hearing alongside of the Council's own submissions.

LBRA, as a Steering Group, had been tasked with the update of the Neighbourhood Plan, a significant task, and with Parish Council financial support had been able to engage Place Studio as their Consultants.

The existing Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2026 was well out of date and didn't reflect how recent history had changed the Parish with Chippenham Town expansion on former Parish land. Some two years ago an initial consultation was carried out and the overwhelming views were that the village should remain independent of Chippenham retaining the Parish rural attributes with open spaces that should form a pastoral landscape corridor around the northern urban edge of Chippenham, protecting and stopping further coalescence.

With this in mind a Landscape Review and Visual Appraisal was being undertaken that would produce the required background information and inform the process, particularly selection of protected views. The retention of Green Spaces was important

It was undecided at this stage whether any land should be designated for development in the village itself and to ensure up to date local information was available a request was being made for a Housing Needs Survey to be carried out.

There was much to do with the re-writing of the existing Plan through various Stages before a Referendum was held. There was a need to ensure that there has been much community participation and engagement in the process and that would entail further consultations and public meetings during the year so it was important that Parishioners take an active interest.

James requested that Parishioners should consider “What matters to You” as the input would be invaluable in shaping the future direction of the Parish. To share thoughts, concerns and aspirations for our community would help with Policy updates and all were encouraged to provide feedback using this email address. james@langleyburrell.org

10/24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH ISSUES

The Heritage Trail: Karl Eaves updated the attendees on progress made particularly referring to the quality and content held on the LBRA website that include audio and QR Codes. Thoughts were being given to “Village Elders’ pieces where stories and history could be captured and made available on the website. There was an intention to install three benches on the Trail and to improve signage and a MapApp was being considered.

The Kilvert Trail: The Heritage Trail report above refers.

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 held on the 23rd March, with 12 volunteers turning up to pick around the village.

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 in the Village Hall.

Community Safety/Neighbourhood Watch/Emergency Plan: Cllr Karl Eaves had now taken on the role of drafting the Emergency Plan that would require volunteer assistance to cover the whole Parish. The Council had continued using their email database that circulated community messaging and the like. Attendees were urged to sign up for the distribution list. The Council had also agreed to consider the provision of automatic solar powered public information display panels to provide advance flood warning that could possibly also be of use to advertise local events.

Traffic Speeds – Community Speedwatch - Autospeedwatch Tools & Speed Identification Devices (SIDS): The Parish Council still awaited the results of a traffic survey that would allow volunteers to be trained to become the Community Speedwatch Team and the provision of the various devices that the Council has already agreed to purchase and install.

Rights of Way – Footpath maintenance – Community Warden: There was no report on this occasion.

Community Newsletter: Karl Eaves reported that early editions of a new Newsletter had been produced and hard copy circulated to all. There was a challenge in securing editorial but there was an intention to carry on and although digital communication was easier it was understood that many would still require hard copy. House to house deliveries would continue.

Recreation Ground Facilities: Katerina Johnstone reported that the Village Hall Trustees were still considering a number of suggestions on potential projects, including possible extensions to the Village Hall itself. Development space owned by the Trust was limited and outside of this there would need to be agreement with the Landowner.

Parish Council Member Vacancy: Following a resignation of a Parish Council Member, following proper procedure the Wiltshire Council had confirmed to the

Parish Council that they co-opt an eligible person to fill the Vacancy. Should anyone be interested they should contact the Clerk of the Parish Council for further information.

11/24 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 9.25pm.

Signed:

Date: