

LANGLEY BURRELL WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Annual Parish Meeting

held at 7.30pm

Langley Burrell Village Hall

14th April 2025

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

Also Present: Wiltshire Cllr H Greenman, Jon Mason, Howard Morland 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

01/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Christopher Lawrence and Jon Whitby.

02/25 MINUTES had been previously circulated.

Those present received, considered and confirmed that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th April 2024 were a correct record.

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

03/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

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

04/25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Julie Hoskins, welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and advised that a few weeks ago she had joined a two and a half hour Zoom Meeting learning how to be a Parish Council Chairman. At the end of it all it seemed that the main role was to keep the peace between my Council Members. Luckily that problem hasn't, yet, arisen, and she was very grateful to Katherina, Rick, Karl and David for all their hard work and most especially she liked to thank the Council Clerk, Viv Vines, for really running the whole show.

Reading her report from last year she feared that not much had changed. We were still waiting for the speeding signs as the initial traffic survey had said that not enough people were speeding through the village. Also no solar powered advance warning signs yet. These would have been a great help this last winter with regards to the flooding by the river Avon.

The developers had shown us their plans for Barrow Farm and we are pressing for a wildlife strip to the north of the site as opposed to the proposed orchard to the south. The Rawlings Green development rumbled on and, thank goodness, there was no sign yet of the sixty lorries a day driving through the village to gain access via Peckingell.

The Council's financial situation was in good shape and the precept was only raised a

small amount this year. She reported that we were very lucky to have the Community Infrastructure money (CIL) albeit at the expense of the housing developments on former Parish land.

She advised that there will be reports on the Heritage and Kilverts Trails, and the celebrations for Maud Heath Causeway's 550th anniversary later in the evening.

The Parish is represented on various other organisations such as the Chippenham & Villages Area Board, the Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum, the North Wiltshire Operational Flood Group and the Local Highways and Footpath Network Group. She emphasised that we may be small but we make sure our voice is heard when necessary.

The Parish Newsletter is a great addition to the village news network and she gave thanks to Karl Eaves for producing it.

Also many thanks were given to the Village Hall Committee for their hard work in keeping the building open and enabling us all to meet there.

She closed by thanking everyone for listening and was very happy to answer questions.

There were no questions.

05/25 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2025-2026

A copy of the Parish Council's Approved Budget for the year 2025/2026 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.

06/25 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.

07/25 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Langley Burrell Village Hall Trustees.

Katerina Johnstone (Chairperson) 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.

Katerina reminded all that the construction of the main Hall was completed in 1954 and over the intervening years the building and its facilities had been progressively improved, extended and refurbished to meet changing needs and expectations. Construction of the main Hall was completed in 1954 and over the intervening years the building and its facilities had been progressively improved, extended and refurbished to meet changing needs and expectations, which is carrying on in 21st Century.

The last 12 months had been a good year booking wise for the Hall. They had regular groups which included Table Tennis Club, Chess Club, Bridge Club, Drama Tots, 2 monthly Craft groups & 3 different Dog Groups. They had attracted companies that use the Hall regularly for Conference & Training events. They also host a number of private parties & bands use the Hall to practice their songs. They were taking bookings for field events from Langley Burrell Cricket Club, Caravan Rallies, Motorcycle

Rallies, dog shows & parking facilities for a Running Club, all of which bring in a good income.

The first Monday of the Month was their Community Cuppa Morning. This had been running for several years now and was always well attended by members and non-members of the Parish, who enjoyed a friendly chat and get-together. Thanks were given to Alberta, Jane and the team who gave up their time for this to happen.

During Easter Weekend last year, the Maud Heath Room floor flooded. Trying to establish where this was coming from took a very long time. Wessex Water could not work out where the water was coming from. Fortunately, this was isolated to the Maud Heath Room only, so they were able to function with their bookings for the main Hall and kitchen and reschedule Maud Heath Room bookings. After several visits from Wessex Water and their builder, removing all the stones and exposing the pipes so they could see what was going on, Wessex Water found a cracked pipe under the foundations of the Maud Heath Room that should have been capped off at the time of the extension. Wessex Water could not find their stopcock in the main road, so eventually capped the supply of the main water pipe and the stopcock was now under the front bench outside the Maud Heath Room.

On 22 June 2024 they held their Annual Fete and were blessed with a lovely sunny day. Helpers from the Committee, Village and St. Peter's Church pulled out all the stops to make the day a great success. The children of Langley Fitzurse School came along and entertained everyone with their Maypole dancing skills. They raised a net profit of £2,400 which was shared equally between Hall and St. Peter's Church.

A "Helpers" thank you party was organised the following Saturday afternoon, which was well attended and also a community quiz & music night in the evening for the village.

The first weekend in August, they welcomed back the Mayflower Motorcycle Rally Group for the third year and on Saturday afternoon, the Committee offered the Group Pimms & Gin, followed by ice creams & lollies as they listened to an International speaker on travelling the World on his bike.

After a very long absence, the Harvest Supper was revived on 5th October and was very well attended and organised brilliantly by the Committee, decorating the Hall and supplying all the food. A blessing was given by Dave Kilmister. Feedback was "can we do this again please?"

They had agreed via the Scott-Ashe Estate a 25-year lease on the playing fields, which was still in the hands of the Solicitors. This would enable them to look at more long-term projects for the Hall and the community. Langley Burrell Without Parish Council would be funding the total costs for the Hall lease, £1000 per year and the Scott-Ashe Solicitors fees via CIL (Community Levy Infrastructure) monies.

This summer they had commissioned Vivian Vines, to design an extension for the Hall, which included a first-floor extension over the Maud Heath Room, enabling them to offer large parties and an upstairs balcony overlooking the back field. Changing rooms would be added to the ground floor layout for the Cricket Club and other sport groups to use. Mr Vines came up with a flexible design that would bring the Village Hall up to 21st Century facilities expected of hirers today. Money for the extension would come from CIL and subject to planning consent and purchase of a small area of land from the Scott-Ashe's, which was part of the rear car park.

The Langley Burrell Cricket Club had been established for over 2 years now and had a good number of members and home matches taking place this season, despite the

challenging weather last Summer. Ground improvements were on-going, including a hard ground practice area, which was up and running.

The Hall Trustees had held the Hall AGM on the 21st October, where Katerina Johnstone resigned as Chairperson. After being on the Committee for 15 years, Katerina, had felt it was time to hand over the reins to new Committee members, which have joined from the village. The new Chairperson is Tina Milburn and Vice-Chair is Tom Grimshaw. They were still looking for a new Treasurer and Booking Clerk. Running the Hall and Grounds was time consuming, but if jobs could be shared across the Committee, it would be fairer and work well. Katerina, would be staying on in an advisory capacity during this transition period and train up new Committee members.

In December, the new Committee had organised a Community Christmas Party. 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, and music by Martin Jones. The whole Committee had worked very hard for this event to happen.

Due to a change of circumstances, some Committee members had stepped down after the New Year, so it had not been possible to arrange the Annual Litter Pick in March or the Easter Egg Hunt. The Annual Fete may also be postponed until the Autumn when new Members had been found. However, this April, the Committee were up and running again and working hard to get back on track and keep the Hall going.

Maud Heath Trust Trustees.

Julie Hoskins (Trustee) reported that last year saw the celebrations for the 550th Anniversary of the Maud Heath's Causeway. The Trustees were very grateful to Emily Malcolm, "Yesterday's Story" producer, for all her hard work and organisation. Julie hoped that many had visited the exhibition in Chippenham Museum, attended some of the talks in the Library and/or joined in some of the walks and other celebrations. This was the second oldest Charity in the Country and we were very lucky to have such an historic monument running through our Parish.

Unfortunately, the renovations to the Listed Arches, paid for by the Trustees and Wiltshire Council five years ago, had deteriorated disastrously due to using the wrong kind of stone. Both parties were working to address this and she hoped that they will be able to start the repairs this summer.

St Giles Church, Tytherton Kellaways.

Julie Hoskins (PCC Member) reported that the St Giles PCC members were struggling with a dire lack of funds but were doing their very best to keep the Church going. They had a monthly Communion Service on the second Sunday of each month using the Book of Common Prayer at 9.00am, with other Benefice and Feast Day Services.

St Peter's Church, Langley Burrell.

Howard Morland (PCC Member) reported that despite advertising on three occasions the Greenways Benefice was still looking for a new Rector to replace Simon Dunn. It appeared that this was a cross country problem. They were fortunate to welcome Simon back for Christmas services.

This had meant retaining some changes in the way things were being done at St Peter's, still relying more on lay members of the Church to be involved in services and in other ways with the introduction of "You Tube" as an aid. Numbers attending were 17 to around 20 on a typical Sunday with carol and nativity services attracting an almost full Church.

Sadly, the congregation was aging and more people needed to be attracted to “survive”

They retained the hope of achieving their aim to provide an accessible-to-all W.C. in place of an existing outbuilding. Permissions had been sought and investigations concluded, but unfortunately all three tenders received for the work were too high. Further grants would need to be sought.

During the year several maintenance items were carried out including re-pointing works and works to the tower roof to the Grade 1 Listed Building. The Bristol Diocese had signed up to a Net-Zero campaign in terms of energy use and LED lighting was installed as an energy efficiency measure.

Weddings and Wedding Blessings were being booked into 2026. Many were from the London area who also use Kin House for their Wedding receptions. The principle focus is to serve the Parish but while remaining true to their core values this provides significant income.

Langley Burrell Cricket Club.

Jon Mason (Chair of the Club) provided an update on the continuing success of the Cricket Club. The Club had held their Annual General Meeting a couple of weeks previously and all three Officers had been re-elected.

Although last year had been an enjoyable season it had been significantly affected by poor weather throughout the whole summer, which had led to a fairly late commencement of fixtures. They did manage to field a team for almost all of the games and, even had their first home win. The Club had already started training this year using the outdoor net facility.

He was pleased to report that the cricket square was looking in great shape and that was largely due to George for maintaining the outfield and a small, but dedicated team preparing the square.

They had lost a couple of members, but others had joined and they had around 20 players they could call upon and as a consequence, they had reviewed the appetite for fixtures for the forthcoming season. This year they had agreed that they would arrange more local matches with the neighbouring villages on a home and away basis, and due to members availability they planned for more weekday evening matches.

The longer Sunday games will be played mid-summer and as a lesson learnt from last year, they will reduce fixtures in September. So far they had at least 12 fixtures arranged for the coming season, 7 being at home, with the first game on Wednesday 28th May 2025.

They will continue to liaise with the Village Hall Trust to deconflict events and they will also support the Village Fete this year with a practice session where folk can have a go.

John reported that their finances remained robust and that they remained grateful to the Village Hall and the Parish Council and hoped that their sponsors, The Langley Tap, The Baytree and Dysons will support them again this year.

He was looking forward to better and good fun cricket.

08/25 REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman reported that this was his 16th Annual Parish Report and commented that this had been a year of change and challenges not least because of the changes brought about by a change in Government at the General Election in July 2024.

The immediate impact of the change in Government to Wiltshire Council is the exponential proposed increase in housing targets. Wiltshire Council had secured a 4 Year Housing Land Supply over which he had personally engaged with the last Central Government, and that was a target Wiltshire Council had met. Due to recalculation of that figure however by the Government, a recalculation he believed to be incorrect, that figure was now stated to be 2.08 years. It was looking increasingly likely that the sheer numbers of housing units to be delivered would be significantly increased. He was hopeful that the Local Plan, yet to be ratified will provide some protection against this. The issue he had with this was that Wiltshire Council had issued planning consents for over 19,000 properties, which the developers had failed to deliver, preferring to 'land bank' rather than build.

There was also increasing pressure to deliver Solar Farms, and the north of the County particularly fell prey to this. Whilst accepting the need for renewable energy, there had to be a balance too with the need for food security, and the current proposal for Lime Down, which will have an impact on 2000 acres in close proximity to the Kington Division with a further 2000 acres being affected just outside of Melksham. He had spoken against this at a recent meeting in Malmesbury Town Hall and will continue to lobby against it.

An additional pressure locally is that of the delivery of Gypsy and Traveller pitches. Wiltshire, and North Wiltshire particularly due to the M4, is a particular target for the G&T community and we have a responsibility to accommodate them. However, we have also been subject to a large number of un-authorised pitches, which have as yet crept in under the radar and which he believed should be added into the number the Government require Wiltshire Council to deliver if they are policy compliant. As such he is actively resisting 'new' pitches that have been identified in unsuitable locations and will continue to do so.

The Community Area Parish Forum he Chairs, continued to go from strength to strength and the most recent Meeting was attended by the Wiltshire Chief Constable, who found the Meeting very invaluable. This gives the sixteen Parishes in the Chippenham Community Area an opportunity to meet in a venue, typically a Village Hall, kindly hosted by the Parishes in turn and discuss issues such as speeding which they may have in common and to share experiences and intelligence. The Neighbourhood Police Team was regular attendees too and equally finds the Forum very useful.

Wiltshire Council finances continued to be strong and are certainly better placed than most surrounding Authorities. For the 2025/26 financial year the revenue budget would be £527m against the £490m for the last financial year. Although the Government had increased social care funding by £4.8m, increases in National Insurance contributions have resulted in costs of £8m. However, unlike many authorities Wiltshire Council had contained the Council Tax increase to just 4.5%, (2.5% basic Council Tax plus 2.0% Adult Social Care Levy), against the 4.99% that was allowed by the Government. This would see an increase of £1.56 per week for those in a Band D property.

The most significant areas of spend outlined in the proposals were;

- Adult Services - £194m
- Families and Children - £75m
- Highways and Transport - £43.4m
- Highway potholes etc - £22m
- Environment (including waste) - £49.5m
- Education and skills - £38m.

In closing, Howard gave his thanks to all Parish Councils for the hard work they do on behalf of their Parishes, and for making his job so much easier than it might otherwise be. He was standing again in the Local Government Elections on the 1st May 2025 and hoped to be able to continue to work for all.

The Chairman of the Meeting thanked Councillor Greenman for his advice, involvement and assistance during the last year.

9/25 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH ISSUES

The Heritage & Kilvert's Trails: Karl Eaves updated the attendees on progress, making reference to the content on the LBRA website that included audio and QR Codes. The installation of the three benches on the Trails had still to be completed.

Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean (Litter Pick): There had been no litter pick organised so far this year.

Defibrillator Project – S W Ambulance Trust Training Session: The Council provided three defibrillators within the Parish and part of the 4-year lease agreement with the S W Ambulance Trust. Positions were, The Bus Shelter, the Village Hall and St Giles Church, Kellaways. A training session in the Village Hall would be considered.

Community Safety/Neighbourhood Watch/Emergency Plan: Cllr Karl Eaves continued in the role of drafting the Emergency Plan and required volunteer support to cover the whole Parish. The Council 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 deferred considering the provision of public information display panels to provide advance flood warning until solar powered versions were available.

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 had already agreed to purchase and install.

Langley Burrell Without Neighbourhood Plan-Progress Report: It was understood that the Steering Group and their Consultants had continued producing draft proposals on the update of the Plan and that they would soon reach the Regulation 14 Consultation Stage.

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.

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

Parish Council Elections – 1st May 2025: At the close of nominations for the

Election three Parishioners had stood for election, (Julie Hoskins, Katerina Johnstone and Karl Eaves) and the Election would be un-contested. The three will form the required Quorum to run the Council and will need to co-opt two others to serve the four-year term of office.

Wiltshire Unitary Council Elections – 1st May 2025: At the close of nominations for the Kington Division several eligible persons had stood and therefore an Election will take place.

CPRE Best Kept Village Competition 2025: The Council had received details of this year's Competition and sought the views of the attendees. Sadly, there appeared to be little appetite at this time and the position would be reviewed in 12 months-time.

Parish Council Database: The Council ran a GDPR controlled database, circulating amongst other things Wiltshire Council news, road closures, Community Police messaging and Neighbourhood Watch news. The opportunity existed for community news to be circulated as well and it was important to increase participation by advertising the availability. Attendees were requested to pass the information onwards.

10/25 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 9.20pm.

Signed:

Date: