

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BUTLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL NOT HELD DUE TO COVID 19 BUT DUE TO BE HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON 7th April 2020 IN THE CHURCH ROOM, BUTLEIGH.

**PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:
APOLOGIES:**

OTHERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: SAVANNAH ALALIA REPORTED:

Firstly THANK You and well done to all at in Butleigh and Butleigh Wootton have been high in spirits at this difficult time. A special Thanks to Paul & Glynis Harwood and all the shop staff, as the Post Office and Shop have been a life line for so many.

Normally there would be an APM but due to quarantine that has not been possible this year. However I wanted to still take the chance to tell you what the PC has been up to this year.

Parish Council Members and Meetings

Having nearly lost the PC last year, due to only one applicant for Councillor, we are thankful to still be here. There are currently 5 Parish Councillors. In December 2019 Jade Aloof, Anne & Dave Gibson stood down and we would like to Thank them for their service and helping save the PC in May. We continue to publish dates for the monthly meetings at the beginning of the year, mostly they take place on the first Tuesday of every month, although there has been a pause for the last few months due to the pandemic. Agenda's can be viewed on the Parish Notice Boards outside the shop and the minutes viewed on the Butleigh Village Website and a meeting (most likely a Zoom meeting) for the PC will be happening on June 2nd 2020. Our Mendip Councillor Nigel Woolcombe-Adams and County Councillor Nigel Hewett-Cooper attend when their commitments allow. The Butleigh Parish Council Facebook page continues to grow and now has 121 "followers". The Facebook Group for the Village is Butleigh Village Open Forum (now at 385 members) promotes village events, communicate agendas and "share" news items of interest to the village from the PC, all other village organisations and business and all villagers.

Precept

The precept for 2019/2020 was set at £15,000. This is up by 30% on last year as we are doing a single purchase of a speed indicator device this year for sub road.

This year the precept includes the maintenance of the village green, footpaths, street sweeping and the churchyard. Grants were also given to Charities and organisations within the village. This year we have supported two charities that whilst are not within the Parish we feel may well benefit parishioners at some point in the future. The chosen charities are St Margaret's Hospice and Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

This year we have also increased the money to the Church and to the Butleigh Playing Fields Association by £250 each to continue to support and take care of our community treasures.

A full break down of the precept can be found on the Butleigh Village website, which is being expertly managed by Gordon Hughes. Thank you Gordon.

Mast Money

The final of the mast monies was allocated to the Butleigh Village CofE School so they could invested in well needed technology equipment for the students there.

And this year we saw the grand opening of the Ann Heeley Heritage Trail come to life thanks to Martin Day and Alan Carr for this.

Planning

As a public consultee, the Parish Council dealt with 9 Planning Applications between May 2019 and April 2020. The Parish Council recommended 8 for approval and 1 for refusal.

These figures do not include applications in relation to tree works. These types of applications are in most circumstances left with no comment and a decision is left for the Tree Officer at Mendip.

The vast majority of applications related to residential extensions, additions and/or alterations. Whilst the previous Council (2018-2019) refused planning for a development at Westview off Sub Road for 32 houses. However after going to an enquiry, this application after much debate, has now been approved by Mendip and will be going ahead. We have no more details at this time.

Highways

There has been multiple pothole repairs through out the year and all sign which have been knocked down has also been re-instated.

Environment

In January with the kind support of Adrian Forsey successful litter pick was co-ordinated on behalf of the PC with many of the councillors and villagers taking part, photos went up on the Village Forum to show all that was gathered. About 30 bags were filled and other items such as large pieces of carpet, car parts and long sections of rubber were also found. Whilst not a glamorous job it was a great turn out and much fun was had. The council continue to report and organise collection of fly tipping. Thank you so much to all those who helped and also to the Butleigh Village Events Committee who provided a soup to so many after, which was welcome as it was a very chilly day.

Footpaths

We have some of the best maintained footpaths in the area and many thanks to the hard work of Alan Carr.

Affordable Housing

Whilst a meeting was held in May 2019 by the affordable house. There are currently no further updates.

Enforcement

Enforcement continues to be an important but often frustrating role for the council. With cuts at Mendip they have few officers "on the ground". The council however continues to do all we can and report and chase areas of concern.

Speeding

Speeding is of great concern to the Council. We are currently investigating companies and their devices and will be looking to purchase and instate a SID over the next 18 months.

Conclusion

It has been a busy year. I think my fellow councillors will agree that we are finding our feet as the new Parish Council in very changeable times, from almost all new councillors at the beginning of the year to now dealing with the current pandemic. That said we have made

significant progress with a number of projects and have seen some through to completion. We are all advocates of our village and the Parish needs a strong Council to maintain our beautiful corner of Somerset.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Councillors and a very big thank you to our Clerk Sheila who has shown outstanding support over the last year in particular, we are lucky to have her.

FINANCE : A comprehensive report of the year end finances (unaudited), was given by the Clerk. The unaudited book was open for inspection.

BUTLEIGH PCC REPORT : Mrs S de Camp gave a report : This year, attendance at regular services has been maintained and we expect 25 - 30 at the two regular communion services held on the second and third Sundays of the month. At all the major festivals, Remembrance Day and in particular over Christmas, numbers were high: Carol service, Christingle, Crib and Christmas morning services were all very well attended.

A review of the Electoral Roll was taken during the year and the numbers brought up to date: the number on the Electoral Roll has decreased to 72 from 78 in the previous year.

We continue to offer a wide variety of services: Parish Communion on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays; regular Morning Praise, Café church, Songs of Praise and Taize, take place on the fourth Sunday of the month and Bible Sunday is marked with a special service. The All Age service on the first Sunday in the month, is well attended. Acorns is held every Wednesday after school during term time. However, there is still no provision for young people aged 11 upwards. We invited the diocesan youth officer to discuss provision for young people last year and decided to hold a youth event on May 1 for young people in this benefice in the Church Room with her help. This is a one-off event and does not address the regular provision for young people. The Christian Meditation Group continues to meet fortnightly and a Bible study group and a prayer group meet weekly. During Lent, we held a Lent lunch in aid of the Yemen Red Cross Crisis Appeal and a Lent course was led by Roy Moody in the Church Room during March.

The church finances are very well supervised and we are most grateful to our Treasurer, Mark Tolhurst for his detailed and excellent work; we thank Anthony Durbacz for examining the accounts. We are also very grateful to our Secretary, Maggie Seward for all her efficient and thorough work.

The church fete this year was, once again, extremely successful. The money raised makes a significant contribution to our finances and we thank Elspeth Rymer and the committee for all their efforts and hard work. This event is an important and enjoyable village occasion and we hope the family atmosphere and traditional stalls will continue to appeal to all ages. Jane Laver organised a most successful concert by American folk group Windborne held in church in February and a substantial amount was raised for church funds. We are very grateful to her

for all her efforts to give people an enjoyable evening and support the church .The Butleigh Revue was held in March and as usual, the proceeds went to the church .We thank Helen Forsey for organising the revue and all who contribute to the church in fund raising events ; we are pleased that so many from the village come to support us.

In the Quinquennial Report of 2018, carried out by John Beauchamp of Wedmore, the church is described as : “ well kept throughout.....The interior is clearly well maintained by the parish and generally in good condition “.However, some restoration work on windows and exterior areas were highlighted as in need of attention and preparatory work has started. We have approached local specialists to do the repointing ,window restoration and roof work .We aim to complete all interior and exterior work by the end of the year, well within the Quinquennial requirements.

We continue to donate 10% of our income to charity. The three charities chosen by the PCC for 2019 were: One 25 (a Bristol charity helping women involved in street work) the Church Homeless Society and Butleigh School .We also gave to St Peter’s Lifeline and many other charities during the course of the year.

We are in line with the General Data Protection Regulations .All members of the PCC and others working with children are being trained on the Church of England’s Safeguarding programmes.

The refurbished Church Room has been well used. As reported last year, the PCC oversees the running of the Church Room and we are pleased to offer this facility to the village. The room is now in good order and a new roof has been completed .We are grateful to the Butleigh Village Hall Fund and The Field House Trust administered by the Somerset Community Foundation for their contribution to this recent work.

The churchyard continues to be well maintained by Rob Hallett and a churchyard working group helps to keep the churchyard in excellent condition. We thank the Parish Council for their continued financial support in the maintenance of the churchyard.

The church continues to be largely supported by a congregation of people of senior years and this has obvious financial implications. Planned giving and collections in services have remained approximately the same as too have our annual expenses. However, a largely elderly membership also has implications for the running of the church : we have only one churchwarden instead of two, and a limited group of people to take on other roles.

The church is open every day so that it is available to all. People from the church and village continue to clean the church and provide flower arrangements which help to make the interior so attractive. We trust that St Leonard’s continues to be a welcoming and friendly community and we thank all who give their time to the life and influence of the church in this village.

BUTLEIGH PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION REPORT: Mr Damien

Salter reported:

OVERVIEW

The BPFA continue to be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the main playing fields and Pavilion located at Back Town and the smaller play park located at Holm Oaks. Both of these facilities are maintained to a high standard and are inspected every 2 weeks by us and annually by ROSPA

At our AGM last September Andrew Broomhead stood down as Chairman and Damian Salter was elected as the new Chairman, Gordon Hughes continued as the Secretary. The Association is currently made up of 10 individuals.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

The annual Multi Terrain Race was held last April and attracted over 130 runners and raised approximately £1350. The community helped with the marshalling of this event and the excellent cake stall was as popular as ever with all who attended.

The second Butleigh Cycle Sportive was held on the last weekend in September and although the weather was rather stormy over 100 riders turned up and just over £700 was raised. Again like the previous year all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Unfortunately the 2019 Barn Dance was cancelled due to ticket sales and the Annual Quiz Night for 2020 has also been cancelled due to prior personal commitments from the organisers. Hopefully these events will return this/next year.

The Pavilion is being used regularly each week from The Nursery, Yoga and Pilates classes and a Boot Camp. Funds from these activities combined bring in circa £5300.

Tag Rugby was organised again last summer and continued its great success of attracting lots of children each Thursday evening. It's always a great event for the children and parents to socialise at.

FOOTBALL

A decision was made by the Association last year to rest the pitch from formal football for the 2019/20 season. This was a difficult decision but the main issue was the need for the land to fully recover from the effects of the dry 2018 summer alongside the reduced availability of the groundsman. A key decision for the BPFA this year will be if we are to offer the facility for football going forward and if we are what kind of football is best suited there. Bearing in mind the amount of work that goes into the upkeep of the pitch, marking out, cleaning of changing rooms as well as the cost of the pitch maintenance compared to the amount of revenue that is actually made which is very low.

MAINTENANCE

Unfortunately the boiler in the pavilion completely failed earlier this year and a decision was made to replace it for a new more efficient boiler. This has now been installed and is working well. The cost of the replacement was just over £2000 however we were lucky to receive a grant as well as donations from the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council for which we are very grateful.

FINANCES

At our financial year end last year (31/08/2019), our balance sheet remains healthy showing net reserves of £11599.

The Solar panels are now in use and generating electricity to the pavilion and also providing another source of revenue for the BPFA. Our initial calculation of revenue was approximately £800 per year and we look forward to seeing how this compares when our first full year of running the panels completes.

We have requested an uplift in our precept this year and this has now been increased to £2000 per annum.

Our budgets are closely monitored throughout the year at our meetings and we are hoping the accounts for 2020 will show a net surplus of circa £1000.

FUTURE

The newly formed village committee has been active in requesting the use of the Backtown facilities and pavilion for proposed events they wish to hold and we welcome this. As always, organisations like the BPPFA only continue to function and operate due to a small number of volunteers who are prepared to give up their own time to enable our fantastic facilities to be maintained for all to use. We will always welcome new members and will look to promote the Association this year to hopefully attract interest from new people.

BATS REPORT: Mr Alan Carr (Chairman) Mr Tom Done(Co-ordinator) reported: We again had a successful year with 122 trips, a reduction from the previous year. In order to keep the scheme operational we continue to remind villagers of the service we offer by leaflet drops and advertising.

The "Mid Somerset Car Scheme Partnership's" moratorium on driver insurance premiums from 2015 has ended and we now pay £8 per Driver. Our Accounts for 2019 have been prepared.

With the exception of a minor increase in a trip rate in 2018, we have been able to hold passenger rates at the level set in July 2010. Free medical trips for the over nineties was withdrawn during the year because the reserves built up over several years, have reduced to the point where this concession could no longer be justified.

The scheme has 15 drivers now with 3 having retired.

Finally in this time of reduced Public Transport we cannot express how important it is for BATS service to be known to our community, and how rewarding it is to hear the complements for our passengers'.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT: Alan Carr, the Parish Public Path Officer reported:

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT: Mr Nigel Woolcombe-Adams reported: Mendip –

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT : Mr Nigel Hewett-Cooper reported: .

Meeting closed at p.m.

Chairman
5th May 2020