

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BUTLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON 3rd April 2018 IN THE CHURCH ROOM, BUTLEIGH.

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT: E Aitken (Chairman), R Burdett, R Davidson, A Carr, R Davidson, W Davies. D Sharland

APOLOGIES: W Moore-Read. W Davies.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs S de Camp, A Brown, T Done, R Hughes, G Hughes, A Clark, N Woolcombe-Adams (MDC), P Whyte, Mr & Mrs Morton.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: EMMA AITKEN REPORTED: Firstly I'd like to welcome you all to this year's Annual Parish Meeting. This meeting gives Parishioners a chance to hear what over the past 12 months the Parish Council has been doing on their behalf. Questions may be addressed to the Chairman at the end of the meeting.

Parish Council Members and Meetings There are currently 8 Parish Councillors. We have increased by 2 since the last APM. Both were co-opted during 2017. The next election will take place in May 2019. For the last 11 months the Council has also been acting with a new Chairman. We continue to publish the dates of Parish Council meetings at the beginning of the year and mostly they take place on the first Tuesday of each month. Agendas can be viewed on the Parish notice board outside the shop and minutes viewed on the Butleigh Village website. Our Mendip Councillor Nigel Woolcombe- Adams and County Councillor Nigel Hewett- Cooper attend when their commitments allow.

With the intention of communicating agendas, minutes and news of village interest a Butleigh Parish Council Facebook page has now been created. At the time of writing this report the page had 45 "followers" and posts had reached between 20 and 340 people. It has especially proved useful for residents to book seats on the recent defibrillator training.

Precept

The precept for 2018/2019 was set at £13,000. Each year the precept is spent on a variety of areas within the village. These include the maintenance of the village green, footpaths and street sweeping. Grants are also given to Charities and organisations within the village. This year we also voted on supporting three 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, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and The Family Counselling Trust

Planning (written by Wayne Moore-Read) Summary of the Planning Applications 'considered' by the Parish Council for the period between April 2017 and the March 2018. This identifies those Planning Applications which were before the Parish Council and which have not subsequently been withdrawn, substantially altered and or delayed beyond the current period.

Not all of the applications considered have yet been determined by the Local Planning Authority.

There will therefore be a disparity between the number of applications considered and as noted here.

As a public consultee, the Parish Council dealt with 26 Planning Applications within the above period. The Parish Council recommended 17 for approval and 4 for refusal. No

comment was made in relation to the remainder. In the main this was because the majority of those applications related to tree works and the decision was left for the Tree Officer.

To date the Local Planning Authority have approved 14 applications and 4 have been refused. The balance has either been withdrawn or is yet to be determined.

Importantly and which may simply be a reflection of the local community, the vast majority of applications related to residential extensions, additions and/or alterations. Of the total number of applications which went to determination, there were two which related to any commercial or any trade related enterprise or the change of use to such.

Furthermore, only 1 of the Applications related to the erection of wholly new residential dwellings (which can be distinguished from the demolition or re-sizing of an existing dwelling to provide a new dwelling).

Highways

Having discussed the issue of Lorries on multiple occasions, and having met on the High Street with David Warburton MP and Nigel Woolcombe-Adams (as County and District Councillor) in early 2017, we were still having a problem with larger, longer lorries coming into the village. These are typically of five axles or more, and have trouble at the top of the High Street, or when turning into Baltonsborough Road. The last that got stuck there was on Wednesday 28 Feb 2018. Anecdotal evidence puts most of these lorries as coming from Lydford, down Barton Road, following Henley Lane and the High Street to get to Baltonsborough. Most are following satnav.

On 22 Nov 17, Parish Councillor Richard Burdett met with Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper and Senior Traffic Engineer Chris Betty (Highways, SCC). Mr Betty was shown the corner by the school, and given examples of the lorries becoming stuck, and possible solutions were discussed. It was felt that signage at the top of Henley Lane, or other junctions, would not work, if the sat navs re-routed the lorries back to the same corner, possibly causing more problems. Mr Betty agreed to review and investigate how this problem might be tackled; but it is not simple, particularly if the majority of the lorries are heading to Baltonsborough.

Lighting

This was quite a considerable task. The street lights on the village green and behind the bus stop have been out of action for some time. After involving the Chief Executive of Mendip District Council the lights are now in full working order.

Environment

The annual litter pick took place on the 24th March 2018. 10 People turned out to collect. In addition to those 10 several other residents contacted the Chair and picked other sites during the week. A fantastic job was done by all. The Council continues to notify Mendip of fly-tipping as and when it occurs.

Housing Needs Survey/Affordable Housing

Following a grant from the National Lottery the Housing Needs survey was conducted prior to the last APM. The results were not published though until after April 2017. 145 valid responses were brought back and the overwhelming conclusion was that there is a need for new build and more importantly affordable open market housing.

It was also identified that there is also a need for 10 Affordable homes. This would include shared ownership with the Local Housing Association. Discussions with Mendip District Council are currently ongoing regarding suitable sites.

Defibrillator

The Parish now benefits from a public access defibrillator. During a very hot weekend in June, 8 residents opened their gardens in order to raise funds for this Parish asset. £682 was raised. Many thanks must be given to The Rotary Club of Avalon who put on an evening of entertainment and raised £1000. An anonymous donation was also received. The defibrillator is now installed and registered to the South West Ambulance Service. A training session was held for any interested residents on the 20th of March. 25 people attended.

Mobile phone mast

At the meeting of April 2017 Councillors voted 5-1 in favour of continuing with the planned building of a mobile phone mast on the Playing Fields at Back Town. This has now been completed and during March the mast was turned on. The phone mast is a great asset to the village and I have had several complementary comments from both residents and visitors to the village. Along with excellent mobile phone signal the village has also benefited from a sum of money totalling £35,000. The money has so far been allocated accordingly.

£11,666 to the Butleigh Playing Fields Association

£400 for a bench on the village green

£3982 given to Martin Day for the Village Trail Project

£4000 to Butleigh Primary School to enable them to purchase 15 iPads to support the ICT Curriculum

Butleigh Church were given £6000 for refurbishment of the Church Rooms, this included new curtains.

£598.95 for Butleigh Cricket Club to purchase cricket equipment to support youth cricket in Butleigh

£1000 for Butleigh Parish Council to repair the village green

Footpaths and Walking – The Annual Mendip Ramblers Walking Festival was held in Butleigh over the August Bank Holiday. 317 people attended and some fantastic comments regarding the condition of our village's footpaths were fed back to Alan Carr. It was considered a great honour to be asked to host this event.

Land Purchase adjoining Playing Field The purchase of this land is expected to complete very soon. The land is to be held and kept as agricultural until the whole Parish has been consulted and a suitable use has been found. Once the Council has completed on the land purchase a working party shall be formed and the Parish consulted.

Conclusion

We have had the benefit of a full cohort of Councillors this year. We are a diverse council and each of us brings different skills and expertise. It has been a busy year and much has been accomplished and there are several exciting projects still to be completed. I must thank my fellow councillors for their support and effort over the last twelve months. My thanks must also be given to Sheila Petherbridge our Parish Clerk. Without her knowledge and organisation this job would prove extremely difficult.

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 decreased and we now expect 30 - 35 at the two regular communion services held on the second and third Sundays of the month. This reduction is in line with national trends but until this year, we were maintaining our numbers. The number on the Electoral Roll has decreased to 103 from 117. However, at major festivals and in particular

over Christmas, numbers were very high: in total, 270 people attended worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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, Taize, take place on the fourth Sunday of the month and Bible Sunday is marked with a special service. The Family service on the first Sunday in the month, is well attended with a core group of three or four families who attend regularly and are increasingly involved. Messy Church, an informal event for children and parents, has been held in church after school and has been very popular. Acorns is held every Wednesday after school during term time. However, there is still no provision for young people aged 11 upwards. The Christian Meditation Group continues to meet fortnightly. A new Bible study group meets weekly. A preparation for Easter course was held during Lent and a series of meditations in Holy Week.

Richard Heath will retire from the post of Assistant Churchwarden at the end of March and we thank him for all his very willing, cheerful and reliable service to St Leonard's. The church finances are very well supervised and we are most grateful to our Treasurer, Mark Tolhurst for his detailed and careful work. We are also very grateful to our Secretary, Maggie Seward for all her efficient and excellent work. We thank David Heeley for continuing to chair the Finance and Administration Committee and Charmian Wright who will continue to chair the Community Group. Sian Decamp chairs the Ministry Group and Fundraising Group. The church fete was extremely successful, 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 raises a significant amount of money for the work of the church. The revue was also a huge success this year and we are very grateful to David Heeley and Helen Forsey for organising such a worthwhile community event.

Further fundraising to cover the cost of the new screen and projector took place: Nicki Smith and Heather Shapcott organised a very happy and successful Harvest supper in the church which raised a considerable sum. Four entertaining and interesting talks by people in the village, using the screen and projector, took place in church and we were able to meet the full cost of the new equipment by the end of 2017.

We have made good use of the projector and screen in Family services and the 4th Sunday services and people seem pleased with this facility. We hope that more events using the screen will take place this year.

We continue to donate 10% of our income to charity.

Graham Dowding of Nailsworth restored damaged window panes in the West Window. The Church room was in need of refurbishment. The Parish Council invited applications for grants from the income from the new mobile mast and we were successful in being granted £6000 for work on the Church Room. We also used some of the money in the Church Room accounts and have been able to install a much needed new kitchen, new heaters, new curtains and complete redecoration. The Solar Panel Fund generously gave over £1000 so that we were able to buy new chairs. We also installed new radiators; a new access door was installed, made possible by a generous grant from the Parish Council. We hope that these changes will make the Church Room more attractive and therefore better used by everyone in the village and beyond. We are pleased that we are able to offer such a good facility to the village.

During this year, the PCC has taken on the running and supervision of the Church Room after the Committee was disbanded. We thank the Church Room Committee for all their work for many years.

The churchyard continues to be well maintained by Rob Hallett. We were made aware of rare wild flowers in the churchyard and so a small area was set aside from regular mowing to allow them to thrive. 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.

Gill Service opens and closes the church every day so that it is available to all. In the spirit of openness, we now publish the PCC minutes and they are left in church for everyone to read. Many people quietly contribute to the care of the church ; many visit for special occasions and services. 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 Richard Hughes

reported: The BPFa continue to look after the main playing fields and pavilion in Backtown, and the smaller play park next to Holm Oaks. Both facilities are maintained to a high standard by a few individuals and are inspected every 2 weeks by us, and annually by ROSPA.

Highlights of the last 12 months include:- Multi terrain run – over 90 entrants, and raised over a thousand pounds for the charity. Good community involvement in marshalling and cake stall support, and this remains a very highly regarded part of the local race circuit. Our thanks for the continued leadership of the organisers and the help from everyone who joined in to make this a successful day enjoyed by all.

Arts in the Park festival organised by Rosie and supported by the committee to maintain their tents on a wet and windy weekend. Many local musicians joined in on stage, and there was an exhibition of art in the marquee.

Pilates and Yoga continue in the pavilion on a weekly basis.

The Nursery enjoys the facility on 4 days of the week.

Tag rugby – we said goodbye to Colin Gravatt and Ian Innes as organisers this year. We are keen to keep this going and hopefully there will be enough volunteers to run it this year.

Our rounders team did use the facility this year as their home ground.

Boot camp continues weekly.

Much work has happened negotiating the purchase of more land – in case there is an appetite for a village hall in the future, and in helping the parish council negotiate the installation of a telecommunications mast. This also helped with our financial support, and we are in a sound financial situation at this time.

We have grand plans for upgrading the play equipment at the Holm Oaks park, with the arrival soon of a cone climber and a see saw. This small park has had much work done to the seating area at the top, making it a pleasant place to sit while the children play. Please use it.

However, we continue to lose clubs who are keen to use the sports field. With Baltonsborough football club folding, and Butleigh Dynamos choosing to use the all weather Astroturf at Strode, we only had one youth side from Castle Cary use the pitch this year. – about 6 games of football all year.

Junior football has folded after many years, mainly due to lack of commitment to help run the club.

Rounders team have folded this year. There continues to be no quick cricket, youth club, 811 club.

We have a wonderful facility here, which is highly regarded, and well maintained. It is very sad to see almost no sport played on it any more.

We live in hope that the next generation will want this facility to thrive enough to get involved, restart the clubs and help maintain the facility.

If we don't use this wonderful space, then we have to question what are we here for, and why do we keep working so hard to keep it so good.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT : Mr C Allanson-Bailey reported: 2017 was another year of little or no crime for the area. This is because the residents are careful with home security, and reporting suspicious vehicles to the police.

We must make sure that this continues. With spring gardening starting make sure that tools and equipment are not left out when work is finished. Clearly marking equipment with your postcode using a UV marking pen is recommended by the police.

There are still reports of rubbish being dumped around the lanes. The council is good at collecting the rubbish. Anyone seen dumping rubbish should be reported to the Police or council immediately.

Any suspicious vehicles or persons that are seen in the villages are to be reported immediately to the Police on number 101, or if a crime is in progress 999 must be used.

SPEED WATCH REPORT: Richard Davidson reported: During the last year there have been no activations of the Butleigh SW team and, therefore, there is nothing to report to the Butleigh Parish Meeting.

The present SW Co-ordinator, David Pusey, has indicated that he wishes to stand down from the SW team and is no longer carrying out SW activities. He has notified the Police of his retirement and, therefore, if the SW function is to continue a new SW Co-ordinator must be appointed.

The Police have stated that it is their role to appoint a new SW Co-ordinator and if anyone is interested in taking on this responsibility that they should contact PCSO Tim Richards.

BATS REPORT: Mr Tom Done reported: We again had a very successful year with the number of trips per month for the year 2017 at 17. The Co-ordinator reports that the of transferring the phone to another member of the team has been very successful, number used 850577

We can report that the "Mid Somerset Car Scheme Partnership's" moratorium on driver insurance premiums for 2015 has ended and we now pay £8 per Driver. The Accounts for 2017 are being prepared.

We did not increase our trip rates, which were last increased in July 2010, so remained the same for 2017 with the exception of free medical trip for over nineties, we reviewed this for 2017 which resulted in our decision to only offer this for trips to Street or Glastonbury (including West Mendip Hospital), a further review is to take place in 2018 which may result in us withdrawing this offer.

The scheme has lost a number of Drivers during the year for various reasons ill health being a major one though, we have welcomed three new drivers leaving us with a team of 18 drivers.

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'.

BUTLEIGH VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE : David Heeley reported: The process of the purchase of two pieces of land from Angus McDonald is now nearing completion. Dave Sharland as a member of the Committee & also a Parish Councillor is handling the details on our behalf.

Ownership will be vested with the Parish Council. In effect, as Landlord. The VH Committee will then cease to exist and the Playing Field Association will handle all the management details etc.

There is no intention to use this additional land immediately for recreational purposes until a number of consultations have been held with the village community. In effect it will remain as agricultural land for the present.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ACTION GROUP : Mr A Brown reported: The Parish Council and Parishioners are reminded that our activities do not replace that of the emergency services but liaise and offer help and support if required by them and supporting community resilience.

It should also be noted that we are no longer summoned automatically by the emergency services in the event of a major incident.

The Butleigh & Butleigh Wootton Community Emergency Team still comprises five members.

The Emergency Action group comprises the emergency team plus support from the Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Partnership, on behalf of the District and County Council and PCSO Tim Richards, with a number of parishioners pledging their support.

Since my last report, each team member has been issued with a robust hand torch to compliment their Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).

We hope to arrange a team radio exercise during April.

We are still looking for a secretary, a task of which would not be too onerous.

Thankfully no emergency incidents have occurred since the last report but we did carry out a snow patrol on 1 and 2 March spreading road salt/grit at junction of Holm Oaks/Chapel Lane

and visiting approx 40 elderly/vulnerable residents. Both events were reported to Richard Davidson.

We established a contact for a 4x4 and driver to assist taking a resident to an important medical appointment at West Mendip Hospital on 3 March.

Following our team meeting on 13th March 2018 (when the last Parish Council meeting was discussed) the following course of action was agreed.

The team are very concerned about the lack of support from the PC and in light of that resolved that they would seek from the Parish Council;

i. The PC would give full support for an Emergency Team in Butleigh.

ii. BET have provided a proposed Emergency Plan for the PC for their perusal and amendments if required should the PC give support as at i.

iii. The PC lead will be the liaison with BET.

iv. Should the PC decide not to support BET then it will be disbanded.

In conclusion, we are investigating basic first aid training for anyone interested in doing it within our community.

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT: Mr Nigel Woolcombe-Adams

reported: Mendip – Finance – Government support grants terminated in 2018. Commercial properties are being purchased in Chepstow and Swindon as investments. MDC in a contract with 4 other councils for outsourcing administering function with Capita. All staff based in Shepton Mallet.

Waste contract with Kier will cease in 2020. New cheaper contractor to be found and re-cycling to be updated. Residual bins to be collected every three weeks.

Planning – Ian Bowen has left, Simeon Manley in a temporary contract and re-organising the planning dept into East and West. Dan Foster and Rachel Tadman will be the managers. Local Plan Part II coming to fruition. Mendip, South Somerset and Taunton Deane are going to have to increase the houses planned for by 40%- condition from Central Government.

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT : Mr Nigel Hewett-Cooper

reported: Somerset County Council has a balanced budget. Shortfall of £20million.

Library consultation extended to 13th June.

Chris Betty of County Highways is retiring but continuity of service is assured.

2015 Childrens Services were deemed 'inadequate'. Have now moved up to 'requires further improvement'. Fostering has been raised up to 'good'. Council Tax increase of 3% - 75% of which goes into Social Care.

School building – 24 new schools planned = £140million investment.

Super fast broadband, projection in Mendip 96% by 2020.

Meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Chairman

1st May 2018