

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BUTLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 P.M. ON 3rd May 2022

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT: S Alalia (Chairman), A Coleman, T Willmott. K Otton

APOLOGIES:

OTHERS PRESENT: John Goulden, Peter Keggin, Nick Padgett, Niall MacDougal, Graham Walton, Carolyn Walton. Lyn Barton, Kate Cato, Linda Howell

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: SAVANNAH ALALIA REPORTED:

Parish Council Members and Meetings

The PC has continued to meet through out the year via Zoom. There are currently 5 Parish Councillors.

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. Agendas can be viewed on the Parish Notice Boards outside the shop and the minutes can be viewed on the Butleigh Village Website. 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 325 followers. The Facebook Group for the Village is Butleigh Village Open Forum (now at 876 members) promotes village events, communicate agendas and shares news items of interest to the village from the PC, all other village organisations and businesses and all villagers.

Precept

The precept for 2021/2022 was set at £16,500, which is an increase of £1500 from last year as we continue to have all the fingerposts around the villages updated, repaired and painted.

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.

A full breakdown of the precept can be found on the Butleigh Village website, which has been expertly managed by Gordon Hughes, but who will now be stepping down. Thank you Gordon. We are sorry to see you go. But welcome Katherine Senior, who has updated the website for us and will be looking after it from here on, Thank you Katherine.

Planning

As a public consultee, the Parish Council dealt with 23 Planning Applications between May 2021 and April 2022. Including 2 attempts at Baltonsborough Road by Galion.

These figures do not include applications in relation to tree works, of which there were 9. 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.

Highways

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

Environment

With the kind support of Adrian Forsey, 2 successful litter pick were 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 were gathered. About 20 bags were filled each time. 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. There will be another litter pick leading into the Jubilee celebrations.

Footpaths

Continue to be looked after and serviced.

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 in the final stages of installing a SID next to Sourdown at the gateway to the village. The posts are up and ready. Thank you to Keith Otton for his hard work with this. We have also joined forces with Baltonsborough to do a joint Speed Watch Teaming and Andrew Coleman and Keith Otton are now fully trained to do this.

Conclusion

It has been an honour to serve you all as Chair, for the last few years. Truly a joy and privilege. I have not stood again for personal reasons, but it has been a wonderful experience and I will miss it. I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their hard work and dedication always.

A special thanks to Dave Sharland, who after many years as a councillor has stepped down. 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; we are lucky to have her.

Savannah Alalia

FINANCE : A comprehensive report of the year end finances (unaudited), was given by the Clerk. The unaudited book was available for inspection. The accounts prepared for the Internal Auditor.

BUTLEIGH PCC REPORT : Mrs S de Camp gave a report :

Churchwardens' Report 2022

This year, we returned to a normal pattern of services following the disruption of the pandemic and lockdowns. Masks were still obligatory, social distancing was observed and communion delivery was restricted but the routine services returned to normal levels of attendance which average at 25. Some churches have found that their congregation liked to continue with Zoom services but we have not continued with this provision as it is clear that people like to come to church in person. We have not lost any of our number due to the lockdown but three of our very faithful, long serving, generous and much loved members died and we miss them.

Roy Moody became a churchwarden this year.

The festivals of Easter and Christmas were well attended, as were Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, the Carol and Crib services. During the year, we had four weddings, one baptism, six funerals and for the first time in many years, a Confirmation service led by Bishop Trevor was held for four candidates on July 4.

In September, we put on a hog roast outside the church room for all the village to mark the end of a long period of restriction. It was much appreciated and although it was not a fund raising event, people donated generously to church funds. This was very helpful as we have not been able to hold the church fete for two years and no fundraising has taken place.

We are very grateful to our treasurer, Mark Tolhurst for his excellent, thorough supervision of our accounts. Despite a drop in income, we have continued to donate a tenth of our income to Christian charities and recently, raised money for the Red Cross in Ukraine. We also thank Anthony Durbacz who examines our accounts so efficiently.

We are grateful to Rob Hallett who maintains the churchyard to a high standard and donates our Christmas tree each year

External works, highlighted as necessary in the 2018 Quinquennial report but delayed because of the pandemic are now underway, covered in part by a grant from the National Churches Trust. The Church Room is open again and bookings are steady; we are grateful to Marianne for taking on the task of handling the bookings.

We hope that St Leonard's will continue to be a welcoming and uplifting presence in the community and that more people will join us. We thank the PCC, members of the church and loyal villagers who contribute in many ways to the life of the church.

Sian Decamp
Roy Moody
Churchwardens
March 2022

BUTLEIGH PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION REPORT:

Problem in terms of succession. No report received

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: K Otton reported. The village is quiet with very little in the way of crime. Recently battery stolen from a caravan.

PARISH PATH LIAISON OFFICER: No one in post at present.

BATS REPORT: Peter Keggin reported: BATS has continued to operate throughout the Covid period albeit on a reduced level. In 2021, 110 trips were undertaken by 6 drivers for 12 different passengers in Butleigh and Butleigh Wootton.

Membership of the Mid Somerset Car Scheme is suspended due to Covid but hopefully this will be lifted soon.

Use of bank accounts by small organisations is becoming more difficult and since the death of Tom Done we have operated on a cash basis. We have not increased our fares but will need to do so if costs remain high. We have a credit balance of £262.97.

We would like to record our appreciation for all the work that Tom and Jill Done put into BATS as co-ordinators since it started in 2003.

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCILORS REPORT : N Woolcombe Adams -Circulated

Trevor Wilmott thanked SA for her service to the community as Chairman
Meeting closed at 7.20p.m.

Chairman
17th May 2022