



# Burrington Parish Council Newsletter: March 2020

## **Letter from Paul Keel, Chairman of Burrington Parish Council**

Dear Parishioner,

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Annual Parish Meeting that was planned and advertised to be held on Monday 20th April in the Parish Room has been cancelled in the light of Government directions. This newsletter should give you an idea of the activities the Parish Council has undertaken during the past year. All minutes of our meetings are also available for anyone to read on the Parish Council's web site and are also displayed on the Parish Council's notice boards.

In the coming year, in addition to routine matters such as running the Burial Ground, overseeing the Church Yard maintenance, reviewing planning applications and managing the Public Toilets in Burrington Combe, we will respond to many of the public consultations issued by the Government and North Somerset Council.

The Council has met seven times during the year and discussed many local issues. Councillors have also attended many other meetings during the year, such as the Rickford Dash Sub Committee, the Langford and Churchill Minibus Committee, the Parish Councils Airport Association, and the Town and Parish Forums arranged by North Somerset Council, about issues that affect the Parish. Time has also been spent studying planning applications in neighbouring parishes that may affect the parish, because of their potential impacts on road safety and flood risks. We have kept the Parish precept at the same level as last year and feel that we should be able to maintain services to the same standard.

Please feel free to raise any questions about the activities of the Parish Council with myself, other Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk or through the Parish web site: [www.burrington-pc.org.uk](http://www.burrington-pc.org.uk)

We are not delivering this newsletter to every house this year and therefore ask everyone to tell neighbours (at a safe distance over the garden hedge or wall) that it is available on the website .

Yours sincerely,

*Paul Keel*

**Annual Parish Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019:** At the Annual Parish Meeting last year 11 members of the public were present and 3 apologies were offered. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited questions and concerns from members of the public. The Rickford/Burrington Lane was discussed and the Chairman gave an update: the applicants had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate, North Somerset Council was defending the appeal and the Parish Council was supporting North Somerset. Cllr Roger Daniels undertook to keep everyone informed on the Parish website. A resident raised a question about who was responsible for tree management on the Ham, especially the area known as Long Rock, as the view of the valley is now blocked by the growing trees. The Parish Clerk undertook to write to the offices of the AONB and the Estate .

In addition to the published report the Chairman offered his thanks to the many villagers who serve on the groups and committees that help with the smooth running of village life, including maintenance of the Burial Ground, cleaning the toilets in Burrington Coombe and trimming and sweeping the paths.

Reports were also received from The Parish Councils Airport Association, the Wedmore Charities, the Commons Conservators and the Churchill and Langford Minibus Society.

Lyndsay Newman, the Village Agent, introduced herself and explained her role as one of five Village Agents employed by the West of England Rural Network in the North Somerset area. They provide a support service for the over 50s, working closely with GPs and the local PCSOs. More details are on the Parish Council website.

The Annual Accounts were displayed on screen, explained to those present and adopted.

**Changes to the Council:** As reported last year, new parish councillors Helen Jackson and Eddie Kinsey have committed to specific responsibilities that aid the smooth running of the council. Sadly Eddie Kinsey has recently resigned from the Parish Council due to other commitments. The clerk has advertised the vacancy and we await responses. The council thanks Eddie for the effort and support he gave to the council.

**Parish Maintenance:** The Parish Council has been very aware of fly-tipping in the Parish and we are reporting all cases as they occur. The Flooding in Lower Langford is still causing concern. Now Wessex Water has finished a recent project to ensure that the sewers and rain water drainage are separated, no major flooding has yet been reported during the recent wet weather.

However the council is aware that the drainage system has to be kept working with regular checks and jetting or flooding will cause problems in the future.

The A368 was closed over the Easter period last year for drainage works. The council is aware that there are still a few issues and will raise all problems with North Somerset Council. Residents on the Upper Langford area of the A368 still have concerns about flooding and the lack of cleaning of the gullies. The council agrees with these concerns and will remind North Somerset to clean the area's drains regularly .

The Burial Ground has been mowed and cared for to a high standard by Jeff Martin. Alan Green our Village orderly trims the hedges and keeps many of the paths and the Bus shelters in the Parish tidy. Pete Marshall trims the Burrington / Rickford Lane twice a year.

**Burrington Combe Toilets:** The Parish Council has been able to manage them effectively during the year, with only a few minor repairs and maintenance issues. The Council is aware of the high volume of use that these facilities have now the Burrington Inn has closed and are thankful to the groups of outdoor activity providers and the Mendip Hills Group that support the Council in keeping them open. With their support and donations in the “safe post”, and by keeping the costs lower than in the past, we are confident that we can manage to keep them open for the future at no cost to parishioners. The Husher family keeps the toilets clean and maintained to a high standard. They are the only toilet facilities open in the AONB. In the last week of March we closed the toilets due to guidance from the Police and North Somerset Council relating to the Coronavirus restrictions. We will re-open the toilets when advised.

**Transparency:** The Parish Council website where minutes and accounts are posted is available to all. We also send reports to the local press on a regular basis, with the aim of being transparent and open. Notice Boards are still used as we are aware that not all have internet connections.

**Parish Council Web Site:** The parish web site continues to attract good usage. In 2019/20 it was viewed by 9,582 unique visitors, from a number of countries. In 2020, we may have to move it to another platform, but we will retain the address: [www.burrington-pc.org.uk](http://www.burrington-pc.org.uk)

There is also the *Burrington Parish Pump* Facebook Group which is used to exchange information, ideas and images :

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1446113792189807/>

**The Rickford-Burrington Dash:** This year the event was combined with the Village Fete and held in September in the gardens of Bourne House, by kind permission of Rodney Grey. It comprised a dash across the field to Rickford and back. All ages ran in the dash which, was followed by a family sports day that included music, BBQ, a bar, a bouncy castle, sideshows and cream teas, with many parishioners and children from the Primary School attending.

The Parish Council was represented on the committee that organised the event which was led by Johnnie Pratt. His leadership and organisation ensured that everything ran smoothly. Thank you, Johnnie.

Proceeds of the Dash have been shared between Holy Trinity, Burrington Primary School, the Defibrillator Fund and the Parish Room.

This year's event has been set for **Sunday 6th September at Bourne House.**







**Village Defibrillator.** As reported last year the Parish Council has bought a defibrillator and safe that are now installed in the telephone box in the Square. This is inspected on a monthly basis to remain operational; we thank the Hillman family for undertaking this duty and reporting to the Ambulance service. It was reported last year that there was interest in buying a second Defibrillator to be sited in the Rickford area. As a result of interest shown the funds have been raised and another defibrillator has been acquired and will be installed on the external wall of the Plume of Feathers when the coronavirus situation allows. Funds have been raised and passed to the Parish Council very generously from the proceeds of the Duck Race, the Rickford Dash, the Rickford Association and others. The council will register this defibrillator with the Emergency services and will hope to repeat a *“meet the defib”* evening in due course.

**Rickford Lane/Burrington Lane Rights of Way Application:** North Somerset Council’s Rights of Way Committee refused the application of Axbridge Bridleways Association to classify the lane as Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT). Axbridge Bridleways Association and Mrs Craggs appealed against the decision and an Inspector was appointed to review the case, the Parish Council responded in support of North Somerset Council’s decision and provided more evidence including extracts from old Parish Council minute books. The Inspector dismissed the appeal and upheld North Somerset Council’s decision.

**Copthorne Lane Rights of Way Application:** North Somerset Council’s Rights of Way Committee have refused to support an application to class the lane as a BOAT. Burrington Parish Council supports North Somerset Council’s decision, especially as the Planning Inspectorate refused a similar application from the Trial Motorbikes Association in 1997.

**Emails:** During the last year, the Parish Council received more than 1,000 emails of which 900 were relevant and responded to, or posted on the Parish Council website.

**Planning Applications:** 12 applications have been discussed and 3 tree and hedge applications in the Langford conservation area were also submitted. There has been one application concerning the resurfacing of a farmyard. The Parish Council has also responded to the Bristol Airport and Blagdon Water Gardens applications. There has been one enforcement notice which has now been resolved.

**Churchill and Langford Mini Bus.** The Minibus Society is a charitable organisation which provides transport to local residents and groups including schools, social clubs and Church groups. Numerous regular excursions are organised as well as one-off or occasional trips for groups. The society has recently been successful in recruiting a number of new volunteer drivers. At the current time, the Minibus Society is coordinating delivery of groceries and medication to local people who need it.

If you are interested in using the Minibus Service or are able to offer help by training as a volunteer driver, please use the link on the Burrington PC website for more information. If you require help with shopping etc. during the Covid-19 lockdown, please ring Trevor Smallwood (Chairman), 01934 852589.

**Burrington Combe:** The Parish Council has been very concerned about the number of accidents in the Combe. The Council has had discussions with North Somerset officers about speeding, the volume of traffic, of both cars and heavy goods, and has been asking for more signage and that motorists should be made more aware that this is a recreational area for walkers, cyclists, cavers and climbers, especially as the horses, goats and cattle have a right to graze on common land. The Combe was closed for 10 days in the autumn for some resurfacing, tree felling and drainage improvements. The Council is hoping that some more progress with signage can make the Combe safer for all.

**Community SpeedWatch:** The previous team of SpeedWatchers has stood down, but the Parish Council still has all the equipment that is needed if any residents would like to revive the team after some basic training. We would be happy to support them. We are also investigating the feasibility of an automated Speedwatch system.

**Police Report:** Our Local PCSO Marie Broomfield attends meetings when it is possible and reports on local crime figures that are also available on a link on the Parish website.

**40 Years Ago:** In researching the Rickford Lane/Burrington Lane application much time was spent sifting through old minute books and it was noted that there was much concern in the Parish over the site of the burnt-out Yew Tree Country Club and that caravans had created a park. This concern was reported to the District Council and, shortly after, planning permission was granted for Yew Tree Close

## More Than 200 Years Ago: Two Notable Local Clerics



### Revd Sydenham Teast Wylde (1756–1826) Vicar of Holy Trinity Burrington (1795-1825)

Wylde is reported to have had 24 children, some of whom may have been born out of wedlock. 8 of his daughters and 3 of his sons were married in Holy Trinity Church, Burrington.

The Teast family were shipbuilders, ship owners, whalers and slave traders at Wapping Wharf and Canon's Marsh in Bristol. Several generations of the family had the forename Sydenham.

Wylde's third daughter Albinia was drowned in 1810 in the shipwreck of the East Indiaman '*Elizabeth Hutton*', off the coast of Dunkirk.

Albinia was travelling to Calcutta with her husband Captain W H Jackson who was to take up a commission with the East India Company.

Her memorial is a wall tablet in the Lady Chapel of Holy Trinity Church with words by Hannah More, the celebrated local writer, philanthropist, educator and social reformer:

Fair, young, and happy, loving and beloved.  
A Daughter cherish'd and a Wife approv'd..  
Such was ALBINIA: where could life display  
A fairer promise of a prosp'rous day.  
Ah! treacherous calm! the Sky was soon o'ercast,  
Loud was the surge and direful was the blast,  
Not fond affections grasping arm could save  
The survivor, rescued from the deep,  
Improve the respite, cease at length to weep:  
Prepare to meet her on the blissful shore,  
Where storms shall beat, and friends shall part no more.  
Heaven calls, Hope leads, and Faith triumphant saves.  
Thro' the dear might of him who walk'd the waves.'



**Revd Dr Thomas  
Sedgewick Whalley  
(1746-1828)  
of Langford Court and  
Mendip Lodge**

Thomas Whalley was a poet and traveller, dilettante and socialite.

Although ordained and becoming a Doctor of Divinity later, he lived a life of pleasure and self-indulgence rather than one of religious and pastoral duties.

He funded his extravagant lifestyle by marrying two wealthy women, but was disappointed by his third wife as she was also looking for a financially advantageous marriage.



Whalley's first wife was Elizabeth Sherwood who was an heiress of both her father, Edward Jones, a wealthy local landowner, and her late husband John Withers Sherwood. Elizabeth and her first husband are commemorated on plaques above the south door of Holy Trinity installed by Whalley together with a memorial to his second wife Augusta, another wealthy widow.

From these marriages Thomas was able to live in some style, at Langford Court, at a house in the centre of the Royal Crescent, Bath, at Mendip Lodge, an extravagant Italian-style villa on the slopes now known as Mendip Lodge Wood, and at other addresses including Clifton and Baker Street, London.

During his travels in Europe he impressed Marie Antoinette, who called him '*le bel Anglais*', he witnessed the end of the Napoleonic wars including the Battle of Waterloo and met a number of notable characters in France and Italy. At home in Somerset, he had a wide circle of celebrity friends and acquaintances from the stage, politics, literature and high society, including Sarah Siddons, William Wilberforce, Anna Seward, Fanny Burney, Hannah More and Hester Lynch/Thrale/Piozzi.

He was constant in his affection for his sister Elizabeth who became Mrs Sage and her daughter Frances (Fanny) who was celebrated in Bath society for her beauty and musical skill. His death at La Flèche in the Loire region of France followed a mercy mission to help his niece who had been widowed there and was in financial difficulties. He is buried there in the cemetery of St Thomas.

**The Burrington Inn:** There has been a lot of interest in the Burrington Inn site since it was acquired by Holt Farms Ltd. (the farming side of Yeo Valley). Adrian Fenton, a Director of Holt Farms Ltd, attended a Parish Council meeting and explained some ideas about future development of the site. The Burrington Inn site would be treated as a “*Gateway to the Mendips*” and would include a visitor centre, café and possibly a retail outlet, linked to projects on other Yeo Valley sites across the Mendips. Adrian had planned to attend the Parish Meeting to answer questions. However we are sure that he will attend another meeting at a later date, when coronavirus has abated.

**Broadband:** Some residents have been connected by TrueSpeed since February 2019. There are some remaining gaps in provision which include the Parish Room. Gigaclear has withdrawn its programme in this area.

**Dog Poo:** The Parish Council remains very concerned about the issue of dog poo and has spent much time in talks with the AONB office and others trying to address the problem. The Parish Council thanks responsible dog owners but worries about the number of poo bags left hanging in trees and bushes. We will persevere in trying to find an answer.

**New Local Plan:** North Somerset Council has withdrawn from involvement in a *Joint Spatial Plan* with three other West of England councils, following a critical report by Planning Inspectors who conducted a public examination of the plan. The ‘*Pre-commencement Document*’ for a new North Somerset Local Plan was published in March 2020. North Somerset Council promises ‘*a fresh start for the local plan and an opportunity to step back and reassess the strategic context and spatial strategy options for North Somerset.*’ The plan will cover 2023 to 2038. Public consultations will begin in May 2020 and adoption is projected for January 2023. There are concerns that shortages of housing land supply in the interim will lead to more ‘*planning by appeal*’ which has already had an impact in villages like Churchill.

**Other Planning Issues:** The planning application for 12 houses on the site of the former Blagdon Water Gardens, submitted in August 2019, had not been determined at the time of writing (mid-April). Discussions continued between the applicant and North Somerset Council, in particular about surface water drainage. Most of the site is in Churchill Parish. Burrington PC has not objected in principle to development for housing as much of the site was previously developed and could be used for other purposes. However, we have called for safeguards relating to environmental impacts, road safety and drainage to be achieved by planning conditions.

**Airport:** The Parish Council has responded to consultations on the Airport's long-term plans for expansion and its recent planning application which seeks to increase passenger numbers from 10 million passengers per annum to 12 million in the medium term. Our concerns included the implications for surface transport and the local environment.

North Somerset Council refused the recent planning application. The Airport is now considering next steps and a planning appeal is likely, leading to a major public inquiry heard by a planning inspector in 6 to 9 months time.

We consult on airport expansion with other parish councils through the Parish Councils' Airport Association. The PCAA has produced representations on the proposals and on much of the evidence submitted in support of the planning application. The PCAA also responds to related Government policy statements on airports and aviation. The PCAA will be considering its participation in the airport public inquiry depending on the actions of North Somerset Council in support of its refusal of permission.

## **Dates for your Diary: (subject to confirmation)**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 11:00 am: Rock of Ages Service in Burrington Combe

Saturday 11<sup>h</sup> July: Rickford Duck Race

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September at midday: Burrington Village Fete and Rickford Dash

## **Members of the Parish Council:**

Paul Keel (Chairman), Lostmead, Bourne Lane, BS40 7AF

Roger Daniels (Vice Chairman), Lodgewood House, Upper Langford, BS40 5DQ

Richard Dors, 1 Ash Cottage, Station Road, Langford, BS40 5DB

Helen Jackson, The Hames, Ham Link, Burrington, BS40 7AR

Vacancy

## **The Parish Clerk is:**

Teresa Martin, Applegarth, Rickford Rise, Burrington, Bristol, BS40 7AN

Tel: 07908 566825, email: burringtonpc@yahoo.co.uk

**Accounts:** During 2019/20, the Parish Council precept was maintained at £3,000. Other income was £5,670. 79. For the full year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, expenditure totalled £9,637.47. The precept will be maintained at £3,000 for the coming year.

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
<b>Brought forward</b>	<b>£19,464.46</b>		
Annual Precept	£3,000.00	Clerk's Salary	£2,200.00
NSC Clean-Up Fund	£ 179.00	Admin Expenses	£221.88
Burial Fees	£1,960. 00	Hall Hire	£228.00
Burrington Combe WCs	£2,412.00	Subscriptions	£223.78
Rickford Dash, Duck Race and Coffee Group for Defibrillator Fund	£1,040.00	Insurance	£509.67
Bank Interest	£79.79	Burial Ground	£913.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£8,670.79</b>	Parish Maintenance	£859.59
		Burrington Combe WCs	£2,493.55
		<u>Other Payments:</u>	
		Cleaning Equipment	£83.00
		Election Recharge	£45.00
		NSC Traffic Speed Survey	£210.00
		Rickford Defibrillator	£1,500.00
		Minibus Society	£100.00
		Citizens Advice	£50.00
<b>BROUGHT FORWARD PLUS RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£28,135.25</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£9,637.47</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£18,497.78</b>		
Current Account	£3,835.22		
Deposit Account	£6,619.55		
Liquidity Account	£8,133.68		
less uncleared cheques	(£90.67)		
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£18,497.78</b>		