

BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on **MONDAY 8th APRIL 2012** in the Parish Room, Burrington

PRESENT: Councillors Mr. Paul Keel Chairman
Mrs. Frances Wilson Deputy Chair
Mr. Roger Daniels
Mr. John Rhodes
Mr. Richard Dors

Also present: Mr. Mark Hughes, Head of Housing (Liaison Officer) NSC
Mrs. Elizabeth Wells, District Councillor
Mr. Stephen Hales, Parish Councils Airports Association (PCAA)
Mr. Stephen Edwards, Traffic Management Through The Villages (TMTV)
Mrs. Teresa Martin, Clerk
20 Parishioners

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PC Ray Bradley
Miss K Wilson
Mr & Mrs R Shapland

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on 2nd April 2012 were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

These were historic and have been dealt with.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In addition to the published report already circulated, the Chairman added the following updates:

Burrington Combe Toilets - at a recent meeting NSC agreed to extend the opening for six months and will employ local cleaners. A number of activity groups who use the facility were represented at the meeting and confirmed their support for the continued use of the facilities in the Combe. NSC, together with ANOB and the Parish Council are looking at ways to rebuild, revamp, replace the facilities to make them more sustainable for the future. It was noted that this is the only 'free' facility within the ANOB.

Churchyard Maintenance - was outsourced last year to Dignity as the Parish Council was no longer allowed to manage this area of work and were not given any funds to keep the area tidy. After a poor start, a change of contractor and a meeting with Dignity has brought about an improvement and we are now satisfied with the work being undertaken.

The Chairman gave thanks to:

the Husher family for looking after the burial ground for the previous two years, and advised that Jeff Martin has now taken on this role; the Village Orderly, Stan Croker, for keeping the bus shelters and village in good tidy order; everyone involved with the Jubilee celebrations, in particular Martin Kerley who took on the role of honorary scribe as well as being involved in the general organisation of the event; PC Ray Bradley for regularly attending Council meetings, encouraging the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Rickford and for his support generally; Mark Hughes (NSC) also a regular attendee, who acts as our liaison officer with NSC putting us in touch with the right department and chasing answers for us; Bob Shapland, for auditing the books; Stephen Edwards & Stephen Hale for keeping us informed on matters concerning the TMTV and PCAA; Teresa Martin for a successful changeover in the role of Clerk; fellow Councillors for their time and commitment to the role.

BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was nothing to report, and no questions were raised from the public. The Chairman thanked Liz Wells for her regular attendance and support.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT THROUGH VILLAGES (TMTV)

Stephen Edwards advised that the accident black spot in Burrington Combe continues to cause concern. Chevrons will be installed shortly, but the current flashing speed limit is considered to be way too high being activated at 40 mph. The TMTV and CPRE groups are working to reduce the number of HGVs using the Combe. A weight restriction has been installed on the A368 but this is not being policed, and action is required to monitor the situation. If HGVs are spotted their registration numbers should be reported to the police for them to take the appropriate action. It is hoped that the primary route - A368 Churchill to Banwell - will be de-primed during the next year, but this has been on-going for 10 years with local residents asking for restrictions to ease the traffic volume and flow through the village.

PARISH COUNCILS AIRPORT ASSOCIATION (PCAA)

Stephen Hale gave an update, advising that 20 million passengers had been predicted over the past year, but present projection for the coming year is only 9 million. A recent report by DEFRA has indicated that Parishes should ensure they have an 'area of tranquility' in order to aid tranquility and health issues.

WEDMORE CHARITIES

Frances Wilson advised that the interest from monies invested from land sold in Wedmore had over the years been distributed to pensioners. However, in view of low interest rates there has been limited money available but, in the coming year, the charity is hoping to allocate money to pensioners who are widow/widowers.

CONSERVATORS

Nothing to report, meetings are held on an ad-hoc basis when problems arise.

POLICE REPORT

In PC Bradley's absence, the Chairman read out the Police Report for March from which it was noted that no crimes had been committed in Blagdon or Butcombe, whereas 2 had been reported in Burrington, 6 in Churchill and 9 in Winford. These figures are made up of thefts and minor offences. However, there has been an increase in dwelling burglaries, particularly in the Clevedon area between the hours of 7pm and 10pm, which may spread into our Parish and Parishioners were asked to remain alert to the potential problem and leave lights on when the house is empty. There has also been an increase in the theft of diesel and heating oil from isolated fuel tanks primarily on farms and remote dwellings, and an operation was underway where 6 police officers would be out until 3am targeting these offences.

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

Mark Hughes, who acts as our Liaison Officer within NSC, gave an update on local issues over the last year. Flooding has been the main issue with 1704 calls being received - 3 times more than usual. In view of cutbacks within the Council, flooding problems had to be prioritised, and those incidents likely to cause a hazard were dealt with first. 234 homes within the region were flooded. The gullies and drains are in the process of being cleaned. Mark passed on his thanks to John Rhodes for keeping him up to date with issues in our area.

MH acknowledged that the temporary repair to the Ford in Rickford was not ideal and further action will be taken now that we are in the new financial year.

New initiatives from the Council include parking in Weston-Super-Mare, and social housing. The new offices in WSM were completed last year and it is hoped that within the next 2-3 years savings will be made having less buildings to upkeep and more staff under one roof. Despite the cost constraints, the Council is constantly trying to improve its service to the public.

BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS 2012/13

The draft accounts had been printed in the Annual Newsletter and were shown on the screen. There were no questions from the public. The final accounts will be prepared for the next Parish Council Meeting.

LOCALISM ACT

Roger Daniels had prepared a powerpoint presentation which started off promoting the Parish Council website where various interesting items can be found, including a copy of the Police Report. The website receives over 200 visits per month. The main part of the presentation went through the Localism Act and the effect this will have on the Parish. All agreed it was an interesting and informative presentation, and Roger was thanked for his efforts in putting it together.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm to be followed by a Parish Council Meeting.