

POLICE REPORT

PC Ray Bradley gave his annual police report. The crime figures for Burrington Parish had gone down from 17 to 16 incidents in the year 2010/11 and overall in the area covered by PC Bradley (Blagdon, Butcombe, Burrington, Churchill, and now also Winford) there was a 12% reduction in crime. In Burrington, there was one dwelling burglary. Boundary changes in the police areas have meant that PC Bradley has inherited the Winford beat (Winford, Felton and Regil), and this has meant a 30% increase in the geographical area which he covers. PCSO Michele Barratt will continue in her role, which includes routine school visits, crime prevention work and (time permitting) Speed Checks. PC Bradley thanked local residents for their support.

He highlighted two crime trends, namely theft of diesel and heating oil, and theft of scrap metal. Because many of these offences occur in isolated locations and on farms, a new scheme has been set up – Farmwatch. Anyone with a farm, stable or isolated property can join the scheme by contacting PC Bradley. There is no cost involved.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As Councillor Wells was unable to attend the meeting, PK read a short report outlining her work during the year.

OTHER REPORTS

CONSERVATORS

Paul Keel reported that the management plan for Burrington Combe was ongoing with cattle, ponies and goats grazing the hill. During the year, a meeting had been held with the parish council to discuss access on Blackdown and the Ham. A bid has been made for National Lottery money to fund the maintenance of paths in these areas.

BURRINGTON CHURCHYARD

The project for the reinstatement of toppled tombstones, undertaken by Mr Marsden-Smedley, is ongoing. A notice will be placed in parish magazines outlining the proposals to reinstate certain tombstones, and to move others to the Dring wall, where it has not been possible to trace ownership or a family connection.

PARISH ROOM

Frances Wilson reported on the main project of the year which had been the major refurbishment of the parish room.

WEDMORE CHARITY

Colette Davidson reported that due to low interest rates, it had not been possible to pay out a gift to all the retired parishioners last year, but only to those who had been widowed in the year. It was likely that this would be the situation in the coming year. Trustees of the Wedmore Charity are Mr Paul Keel, Mrs Frances Wilson and Mr Stephen Plumley and Mrs Colette Davidson is the Clerk.

PARISH COUNCILS AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION (PCAA)

Stephen Hale reported that the PCAA would be monitoring the situation regarding additional seating being added to the walkway. Originally the walkway was only supposed to have seating for emergencies or for those with mobility problems, and it is feared the seats are being added due to lack of seating in the terminal building.

The PCAA also submitted statements to the Core Strategy consultation. Since the airport is near to the AONB, the PCAA will monitor the situation with regard to EC Directives on Areas of Tranquillity and DEFRA recommendations, since they feel that the Core Strategy fails to address these. There was also concern at the scrapping of the Regional Planning Committees to be replaced by the Local Enterprise Partnership).

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE VILLAGES

Stephen Hale reported that research on traffic and speed limits through Burrington Combe has been presented to NSC and the Chief Constable. Letters have been sent requesting a new speed limit and appropriate signage to be introduced in the Combe.

ACCOUNTS 2010/11

Copies of the Draft Accounts were circulated and entries explained by Paul Keel. The Final Accounts will be prepared for the next Parish Council Meeting.

PARISH PLANS

Paul Keel drew attention to the parish website, and to the newsletter which had recently been distributed to all households in the parish. Comments and suggestions from parishioners are welcomed.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.35 pm to be followed by a Parish Council Meeting.