

BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on MONDAY, 29 MARCH 2010 in the Parish Room, Burrington

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Frances Wilson Chairman
Mr Paul Keel Deputy Chairman
Mrs Colette Davidson
Mr Stephen Hale
Mr Roger Daniels

Also present Mrs Elizabeth Wells, District Councillor; PC Ray Bradley; Mr Mark Hughes, Head of Housing, NSC; Mr and Mrs R Shapland; Mr D Simpson; Mrs M Keel; Mr and Mrs D Tranter; Mr A Kolombos; Mr R Taylor, Mr M McLennan; Mrs Dawson; Mrs Louisa Purcell (Clerk)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs S Simpson, PCSO Michele Barratt

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- a) Mr Simpson asked about a parish website. PK indicated that it was intended to contact parishioners this summer by letter to offer people the chance to opt in to parish emails. RD is also looking into the provision of a parish website and Mr Kolombos offered to meet with SH to discuss the experiences of running the website for the Langford History Group.
- b) Mr Simpson asked how the redevelopment of the parish room is progressing and this item was deferred to be reported on later on the agenda of this meeting, and also to be discussed at the parish council meeting following the annual parish meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

- a) Burrington Combe Garden Centre – item deferred to be discussed at the following parish council meeting under Planning Applications.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave her report for the year outlining the activities of the Parish Councillors in attending meetings with various organizations. Councillor Chris Pearson had stepped down from the Parish Council and the vacancy had been filled by Roger Daniels. The Chairman thanked Chris for his work and support for the council. Various minor road repairs had been carried out in the parish, and the Langford Brook retaining wall had been rebuilt rather than being changed to a culvert. The Chairman thanks all those who have contributed to the work of the parish: Paul and Nicholas Husher for churchyard and Garry Needs for burial ground maintenance; Stan Croker and Mr Marshall for general parish maintenance. The Chairman introduced Mark Hughes, the new Head of Housing at North Somerset Council. Finally she thanked District Councillor Liz Wells, Bob Shapland (internal audit of parish accounts), her fellow councillors and the clerk for their work.

POLICE REPORT

PC Ray Bradley gave his annual police report. The crime figures for Burrington Parish had gone up from 14 to 17 incidents in the year 2009/10 and overall in the area covered by PC Bradley (Blagdon, Butcombe, Burrington and Churchill) there was a 7.5% rise in crime. Although still small for an area this size, the biggest percentage increase in one category of crime was Dwelling Burglaries, up from 2 to 10. However one person, who was apprehended, was responsible for 4 of the 10 burglaries. PCSO Michele Barratt has had a busy year, and her work has included delivering talks at Churchill Community School, organising work experience and visiting villages to give advice on security, in conjunction with The Bobby Van. PC Bradley thanked local residents for their support.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Liz Wells gave her report for the year. She explained the process for the Airport Planning Application, which will now go to the Planning and Regulatory Committee, and ultimately to the Secretary of State. She also explained the background to the Wrington and Churchill Surgery meetings, indicating that she is in favour of the move to a new surgery. Finally, she reported that the Sports Centre at Churchill is under threat of closure since it is currently subsidised by North Somerset Council by £260,000 per annum. She is working with other councillors to try and keep it open, and although swimming pool times have changed, there is public swimming every day. It was noted that there is a new Over 60s Swimming Group on a Monday, which has been started by Blagdon WI.

OTHER REPORTS

CONSERVATORS

Paul Keel reported that the management plan for Burrington Combe was ongoing with cattle, ponies and goats grazing the hill and the bracken harvested. A meeting has been held recently with representatives from local bodies to look at the paths, cycle paths and bridleways on Black Down and Burrington Ham and a study will look into how these activities can be carried out without damage to the area. As a result of vehicles driving illegally on Black Down, measures have been taken to restrict access.

BURRINGTON CHURCHYARD

The project for the reinstatement of toppled tombstones, undertaken by Mr Marsden-Smedley, is ongoing and we are awaiting court judgements.

PARISH ROOM

Colette Davidson reported that plans had been passed to allow for disabled access to the parish room as well as male and female cloakrooms being provided near the entrance. The work will cost £77,000, and fundraising continues, with Burrington Fete being held on 17th July in the grounds of Burrington House.

WEDMORE CHARITY

Colette Davidson reported that the work of the charity continued with gifts being made to retired parishioners at Christmas, funded by the interest accrued. The charity has been in operation since 1602 and 52 gifts of £5.00 were made during 2009/10 (a smaller payment than last year due to low interest rates). Eligible recipients are retired men and women (aged 65 or 60 years respectively) who have lived in the parish for at least a year. It is suggested that if recipients do not wish to keep the gift they can donate it to a charity of their choice. The balance now stands at £13,700, and recipients can make suggestions on how this money could be spent by contacting the Trustees. 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 new information, including the Heathrow ruling, had just been received and would be discussed at the parish council meeting following the annual parish meeting.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE VILLAGES

SH reported that the restriction on HGVs has been a success for Burrington, with a 50% reduction in HGV movements. A traffic survey carried out in November by TMTV confirmed this reduction. The police force is now in favour of the scheme, and it is likely that the permit system will be revised and improved.

Mr Simpson expressed his appreciation of the work of the Traffic Management Team and the clerk confirmed that letters of thanks had been sent to Stephen Edwards and Trevor Smallwood.

ACCOUNTS 2009/10

Copies of the Draft Accounts were circulated – proposed Paul Keel, seconded Colette Davidson. The Final Accounts will be prepared for the next Parish Council Meeting.

PARISH PLANS

See earlier discussions under Questions from the Public.

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