

MINUTES OF BANWELL PARISH ASSEMBLY

HELD ON FRIDAY 19th MAY 2017 AT BANWELL VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Jim Weston (Chairman of Banwell Parish Council).

Present: 22 members of the public, 4 Parish Councillors, District Councillor Harley and the Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES** (Agenda item 1)

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Jo Arnold, Paul Bateman, Angela Haden, Paul Harding & Mike Poole, District Cllr Jerry O'Brien, Sam Streeter (Banwell Children's centre), Lisa Griffiths (New Creation Churches), Claire Pocock (Banwell School) & Wally Rice (Kathleen Jones Trust)

2. **MINUTES OF LAST PARISH ASSEMBLY** (Agenda item 2)

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 27th April 2016 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. **BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** (Agenda item 3)

The Chairman, Jim Weston, gave the following report;

Good evening Ladies, gentleman. Councillors, Police and members of the press. It's nice to see all of you here tonight. I would like to start by congratulating the following Banwell action group, for all their fund-raising efforts and supporting other village groups. It was an excellent Christmas display especially the naivety in the school. Unfortunately, the power supply for the Parish Council tree was not working so we had a Christmas tree with lights but not illuminated the problem has now been sorted so hopefully this year we will have an illuminated tree.

Banwell Buddies are still doing well with almost 50 children attending, they have several projects in the pipeline. Banwell allotment society is also doing well and have had their lease renewed. They have also donated a plot to children at the school for the life skills group which needs a lot of work.

Banwell in Bloom continued to do their excellent displays around the village and are looking for more volunteers.

Banwell football club is still doing well now they have expanded and are hoping to lease some more land for a car park.

The Scouts and Guides associations and the Spartan explorers are still going strong and are still moving ahead to get new headquarters built.

The Love Banwell group had a successful year and are continuing their good work this year.

We had a Big Village Clean up over a weekend where some 20 or so volunteers helped with various clean up jobs around the village.

The Christmas tree festival in the church was successful with most of the village clubs and organisations supporting it by entering a decorated Christmas tree. The church looked very festive with the trees and Christmas fayre stalls.

Moving on to the Parish Council, as usual we have had some ups and downs I think more ups than downs, unfortunately our Clerk decided to resign so we took on a Locum Clerk, Liz, who knew the village and the Parish Council well. We also lost a few Parish Councillors hence we now have 2 vacancies. The employment committee met a few times to discuss the employment of a new Clerk and it was decided to offer the full-time post to our Locum Liz, she accepted and is now on a 6-month trial period. The work on the cemetery wall has now been completed with the area being tidied and the headstones being replaced shortly. The Parish Council apologise for the time it has taken and any distress it has caused.

The Lollypop person is now being financed by the Parish Council.

We have now got another defibrillator in the village which is on the co-op wall and was financed by the co-op. Many thanks to them.

We have had railings installed on the lower side of the rec for safety reasons.

The Youth Club is still doing well and the staff is still being funded by the Parish Council and are always looking for extra funding for equipment and activities

Churchill and Langford Minibus Society have purchased a new mini bus with the support of Banwell Parish Council, where hopefully local people will join and use the mini bus. This is open to all ages. Information concerning the service is available on our notice boards and website.

I would also like to wish all the best to all the other groups in the village the seniors club, Rainbows, Brownies, guides, beavers. Cubs and scouts. The Children's centre and all of the groups that use the Village Hall, not forgetting the bowling club and any other groups I might have overlooked.

The last financial year the Parish Council has donated over £12,000 to various groups and organisations. This year we have already donated over £4,000

I would also like to thank Liz for standing in as Locum and then accepting the full-time Clerks position, I believe she is doing an excellent job and bringing the Council up to date with all the latest policy's. Not forgetting all the hard work John Keate does as village orderly, also not forgetting the Parish Councillors who spend a lot of time helping to contribute to various projects and committees which is all voluntary.

And I must not forget to mention all the anonymous people who do lots around the village who do various jobs that some people think the fairy's do.

There are still vacancies if anyone would like to put their names forward for the parish council.

I would like to thank everyone for their support to the Parish Council and hope it will continue.

I would also like to mention the Parish Council were lucky enough to be one of two Parish Councils in North Somerset to have their names pulled out of the hat to attend the Queens garden party. Myself and my wife feel privileged to be attending next Tuesday 23rd May.

4. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR** (Agenda item 4)

The Clerk presented the statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the last financial year and highlighted the healthy level of reserves, including the earmarked reserve for an extension to the cemetery and the favourable audit report.

She reported that there was an increase in the parish precept for 2017/18 due to continued annual reduction of North Somerset's Council Tax support Grant, the Parish Council taking on the funding of the school crossing patrol, the purchase of a vehicle activated sign and match funding for Banwell Youth Club computers.

The Clerk invited the Assembly to seek clarification of any issues. There were no queries raised.

5. **NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT** (Agenda item 5)

Cllr Harley gave the Ward Councillors report, which is available from the Clerk upon request.

6. **AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY** (Agenda item 6)

No police were present and no report had been received.

7. **MENDIP HILLS AONB UNIT REPORT** (Agenda item 7)

Mike Hardcastle gave the following report;

The Mendip Hills AONB Unit has gone through many staff changes over the last year or so with myself as the AONB Unit Manager now and Cindy Carter, the new Landscape Planning Officer.

Contact details:

Jim Hardcastle jim@mendiphillsaonb.org.uk 01761 462338

Cindy Carter cindy@mendiphillsaonb.org.uk 01761 462338

My mission for the team is to make us much more engaged with the community at all levels. to help with the parish council contact we have Parish Reps. Mike Adams from Blagdon PC represents the North Somerset PCs on the AONB Partnership. Please use him as a point of contact and/or come to us direct.

We have a growing band of Volunteer Rangers and volunteers who help on our practical tasks. Last year they did 2400 hours of work across the AONB to enhance and conserve it. If the PC has countryside work they need help with please don't hesitate to ask us.

We're planning a large project that will help connect people from villages into the AONB and let them know they are in a special place. We're focusing this on the North Somerset edge due to

the increased development pressures. We welcome any suggestions on improving access from your community in to the AONB.

The Mendip Hills Fund distributed £6000 last year to projects that benefit the environment and community of the area. The fund will be open for applications during the summer. We are also looking for tourism businesses and event organisers that benefit from the Mendip Hills to contribute to the fund via 'visitor giving' schemes. More details can be found here www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk/mendip-hills-fund.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Agenda item 8)

Mrs Edwards is concerned about the fly tipping around the village she was keen to know if anything could be done about it. District Cllr Harley suggested that anyone with fly tipping issues should contact the Parish Council Clerk and she would then liaise with the Clerk. Parish Cllr Parry queried the charging structure introduced by North Somerset at the refuse collection sites and whether this could be looked at.

Mr Shipton asked the Chairman whether he felt that a lot of pressure was being putting on the Parish Council who are being expected to scoop up what the Local Authority / Police are withdrawing from. The Chairman agreed.

Mr Freeston asked whether a fishing ban could be investigated for the River Banwell as the stocked fish were disappearing. The Clerk was asked to contact the environmental agency to investigate. He was also concerned about the increase of noise and speed of vehicles travelling from West Street to Wolvershill Lane. The Chairman asked that residents keep a record of whether there was a particular vehicle causing a nuisance and then report it to the police.

9. **REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS** (Agenda item 9)

Reports were presented by the following in respect of the work of village organisations over the past year.

Banwell Amateur Dramatics* – Jacki Parkinson

The Benefice of Banwell and Congresbury with Hewish, Puxton and West Wick* – Denis Cruze

Churchill and Langford Good Companions* - Laura Batt

Banwell Caves Heritage Group* – John Haynes

Banwell Football Club* - Matt Hale

Banwell Allotment Society* – David Elsey

Banwell Archaeological Society* – Steve Davies

Banwell Bell Ringers* – Steve Davies

Banwell Royal British Legion* – Tom Couch

Banwell Gardening Club – Tom Couch

Banwell Action Club – Peter Shipton

1st Banwell Scouts* – Brian Redden

Mendip Art Group – Kath Edwards

Banwell in Bloom – Kath Edwards.

Banwell Potigny Society* – Paul Bateman (read by Liz Shayler)

Banwell Children’s Centre* – Sam Streeter (read by Liz Shayler)

Banwell Youth Club* – Mike Jordan (read by Liz Shayler)

(*Copies of these written reports are held by Banwell Parish Council and may be inspected by making application to the Parish Clerk)

10. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF ELECTORS** – 22nd April 2018

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m. and thanked all those who had attended.

..... Chairman

..... Date