

**MINUTES OF THE LAMYATT PARISH AGM  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT 18.00**

Present: Anthony Ffooks (Chairman), Alison Stone (Secretary) and 14 village residents.

Anthony welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

**Finance**

There is a total of £100.29 in the Parish account. This is due to a 'redemption of 2.5% annuity' payment made by Mendip District Council. It is there to be used so we need to decide what to use it for.

**Matters Arising**

1. Drains – The council have been out to the village and pumped some of the drains clear. However, the location of some drains couldn't be found. The council will return at some point but Anthony asked if villagers could keep an eye on the drains outside their own properties and make sure they are kept clear of debris. The Water Board have been testing the water running down the road and have served notice to the property owner responsible.
2. Overhanging hedges and trees – Some residents have been cutting down trees and hedges that overhang into the road but there are others that need doing. The trees next to the Alms houses need cutting back but it's not clear who is responsible for them. It could possibly be Somerset Highways. Anthony will try and find out.
3. Paths and bridle ways – the council will clear paths and bridleways if they are reported. Please report any obstructed right of way to Anthony who will then notify the council. It was noted that the pathway beside Batch Farm is completely blocked by overgrowth and electric fencing and also the stile at the top of Portway Hill. Some of the footpath signs need replacing. It was also suggested that a map showing footpaths and bridleways be placed in the bus stop. Everyone thought this was a good idea.
4. Roads – the condition of the roads are generally good at the moment but there are still a few potholes up Portway Hill.
5. Pheasant Shoot – Anthony will soon be sent a list of dates for the shoot and anyone who wants a copy can ask him for one. As usual, the shoot will not start before

13.00 and will be constantly monitored for walkers and riders passing by. Some residents mentioned that their gardens are overrun with pheasants and partridges and they have given up trying to grow vegetables because of this. Anthony replied that the pheasants were supposed to be rounded up every morning but this doesn't appear to be happening.

6. Oil buying scheme – the new quarterly ordering system is working well. Anthony rings round several oil suppliers and then rings Watson oil and asks them to match or better those prices. It was noted that the Budget Scheme provided by Watson is worth doing as there is 4% interest paid on any money left in your account.

#### **A.O.B**

1. A letter was sent to Anthony by one of the residents with concerns about certain dogs in the village. While out walking her dog, this resident had been attacked by other dogs running out of their driveways. She had also been attacked by dogs being walked off the lead that had come onto her property. The dog owners in question had been very apologetic but it is still happening. As owners are responsible for their dogs it was discussed how best to approach them and deal with this kind of situation. Anthony will speak to the owner.
2. New signs – it was suggested that a couple of new signs were needed for the village. One pointing the way to the Village Hall and the other to the Church. A resident produced some photographs of what the signs may look like and a discussion ensued on whether the signs would be made of oak or tanalised posts. It was decided in favour of oak with 4 or 5 inch lettering. Anthony will speak to Sparkford Sawmills about getting a quote. It was suggested that the money in the account could be used to help pay for these.
3. Milk bottle tops – these can be used to raise money for different charities and it was suggested that a bin/box be put in the large bus shelter for people to put their tops in. A message will be sent out via the email list.
4. It was noted that there was a lot of rubbish in the small bus stop at the bottom of the village. Ali offered to clear this up.
5. Superfast broadband - please see the report at the end of the minutes. This will be sent via email to the rest of the village.

6. Traffic – it was noted that there appears to be a lot of speeding traffic through the village. As we don't have any street lights we will be limited on how we can deal with this. There are informal things we can do like a driver education evening but will anyone attend? It was decided to contact the council for suggestions of what we could do.
7. New bio-digesters – a few concerns were raised about the two new bio-digesters being built. As no one knew exactly what impact this would have on the village, it was suggested that we invite Richard Clothier back to the village for an informal meeting.

### **Election of Offices**

Ali Stone was asked if she would agree to be Secretary for another year. Ali agreed – proposed by Ann Skinner and seconded by Pat Horler.

Anthony Ffooks was asked if he would agree to be Chairman for another year. Anthony agreed – proposed by Helen Rutter and seconded by Simone Ash

With no more business to attend to, Anthony thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

### **Superfast Broadband**

Currently the majority of householders in our area receive - often intermittently - internet speeds ranging from under 2Mbps to around 4Mbps through a network of copper lines from the Bruton exchange. Additionally many have poor telephone connections which are also regularly disrupted. Although the Bruton box - from which any future fibre broadband supply to our area would be provided - has been fibre enabled for many months, there is currently no indication of when - or if - the supply would be made available to us or whether it would be available to individual premises.

Over the past few weeks discussions have been held with Wessex Internet to determine the viability of their providing superfast broadband to our community with speeds of up to 50Mbps. An independent study found that they provided the 5th fastest service in the country, beaten only by providers offering fibre directly to premises. (BT came 12th in the survey with only half the Wessex average download speed).

Wessex have now held positive talks with local landowners and are in the process of preparing formal agreements to permit them to site their multi-point sector antennae enabling them to serve anyone in our community within a line of sight up to 12km. Subscribers to their service will require to have a receiver dish mounted on their property (roughly the dimensions of a milk carton but

thinner), with any house beyond 7km requiring a bigger dish. Listed buildings will require to seek consent. Their standard installation cost is £199 (**waived under the voucher scheme - see below**), discounted to £99 if a VoIP telephone package from Vonage is taken at the same time as the broadband service. This additional telephone package allows the traditional fixed telephone line costs to be cancelled altogether. Broadband packages start from £25 (inc VAT) per month. Details of available packages are available on their website <https://www.wessexinternet.com/superfast-home-broadband/> Details of telephone packages through Vonage are available on <https://www.wessexinternet.com/phone/>

There are costs involved in providing the infrastructure and once the formal agreements have been finalised with landowners, Wessex Internet will be in a position to determine what these will be, and to declare the contribution from us which will be required towards them. This contribution can be made through a number of single contributions or an accumulation of available grants from the joint funder - Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) Broadband Voucher Scheme. They estimate that somewhere in the region of **30-40 vouchers** will make this scheme viable without the requirement for private contributions. The CDS programme allows any property unable to receive broadband speeds of over 2Mbps a subsidy of £500 to fund the installation of a new broadband connection. Even if you receive speeds in excess of 2Mbps it is still worth applying for the voucher as there is a tolerance whereby they will still issue you with a voucher. The only reason you will be denied one of these vouchers is if you state you already have and use a satellite broadband connection. Wessex will be able to use these vouchers to help fund the scheme and also to provide free installation to your property - a saving of £199. **Voucher applications are only open until 30th November 2016 and these will remain valid until their expiry on 28th February 2017. It is very important, therefore, to apply for these vouchers as soon as possible.**

To enable Wessex to utilise these vouchers they will require to have their infrastructure in place and customers up and running by 28th February 2017. Claiming these vouchers will ensure the viability of the scheme and will also guarantee that your own installation will be paid for. By utilising these vouchers to enable Wessex Internet to provide a service it will not preclude any future access to a provision by BT/Openreach should they ever decide to expand to this area.

Voucher application is simple. A short form is available for completion online by going to [www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/broadband-voucher-scheme-enquiry-form/](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/broadband-voucher-scheme-enquiry-form/) (Please note that the form will not accept a landline number of only ten digits so, if you have one of these, please add a zero on the end) The council take up to 10 working days to turn applications around so it is essential that **applications are made as soon as possible**. If you have previously applied for a voucher it will remain valid until 28th February 2017. Vouchers are manually issued. If you have heard nothing within 10 days please chase your application by using the following email address: [broadbandvoucher-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:broadbandvoucher-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

Once you have been issued with an "eligibility code" you are then able to pre-order service from Wessex Internet either via their website, or by calling them - 0333 240 7997. Once their infrastructure has been installed they will contact you to organise your own installation which needs to be carried out **before the end of February 2017**.

*We are hoping to arrange a suitable date very soon for Wessex Internet to come to Lamyatt to answer any queries which residents may wish to raise and will advise when this is arranged.*

With this scheme in place we can hopefully put an end to frustrating, slow and intermittent existing broadband supply and thank you in advance for your help to achieve this.