

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAMYAT PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT 19.00**

**Present:** Paul Chadwick (Parish Meeting Chairman); Alison Stone (Parish Meeting minutes); Denis Wyatt; Mike O'Donnell; Hilary Pascoe; Malcolm Frappel; Malcolm Cooper; Gill Cooper; Margaret Frapple; Sam Maddison; Michael Brunt; Lesley Brunt; Jennifer Richards; Emma Richards; Helen Rutter; Mary Clare Rodwell; Simon Lang; Victoria Lang; Pat Horler; Kara Thomas; Jonny Tapp; Caryl Joyce; David Smith; Anthony Ffooks; Nick Smallwood; Romy Smallwood; Sylvia Anderson; Gordon McCarthy; Ian Deane; David Colman; Guy Ogilvy (31);

Mendip District Councillor Dick Skidmore (not resident in the Parish, but Lamyat is one of the Parishes he represents)

Paul welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming, especially those who were new to the Parish. A small number of people had contacted him and sent their apologies to the meeting. He explained that the meeting was a follow up to the discussion at the previous meeting of whether to set a precept to deal with issues discussed there.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting** (31<sup>st</sup> October 2018): These had been posted on the website and pinned on the Village noticeboard as usual. As one person at the meeting hadn't read them Paul quickly summarised them. Simon Lang proposed they be adopted as correct and Sylvia Anderson and Victoria Lang seconded this. This was **agreed**.
  
2. **Highways and Traffic** issues: a decision needed to be made as to whether the village would benefit from having a reduced speed limit – from the current 60mph to ,say ,30mph - and as to whether discretionary blue signs should be put up to deter heavy lorries. Implementing these things together could save on costs, but would require us to raise a precept for one or both. Paul explained that while he had emailed the County Council numerous times, and phoned them, after the last meeting, he had only today received an answer about costings. Previously the cost had been estimated at £3k-£5k but for some reason the estimate had now increased to £7.5k with no explanation. Paul would enquire further as to why this is. This cost would need to be met by the Parish as the County Council couldn't provide finances at this time. Less signage would obviously be cheaper, approximately £200 per sign at the beginning and end of the village with £80 per repeat sign. Discretionary blue signs would also cost £200. There would also be a cost from the Council for carrying out the necessary work plus the Traffic Regulation Order.  
There was discussion with contributions from many at the meeting asking about:  
Q: When the speed check was carried out, how many cars were actually speeding? A: A small number, only around 3 cars, were recorded at driving over 40mph.  
Q: So is a restriction really necessary? A: That's what we're here to decide if people think that 60mph is an excessive permissible speed, and if people think a lower speed limit would be safer.  
Q: If we do put up signs, will people really pay any attention to them? How will it be enforced?  
A: With limited resources the Police will find it difficult to enforce them, but that is true for all roads.  
Q: Where will the speed restriction start? A: We need to decide this as it depends on what we think is appropriate and cost may be a factor. The longer the restriction the more expensive it will be. One suggestion would be to start at Speeds Farm and continue until just past the Church.

Dick Skidmore explained that getting action to reduce speeding is difficult and many Villages are in the same boat, commenting that he thought that it is often the villagers themselves who are the ones that speed. Lorries and heavy vehicles occasionally need to travel through villages for farm work and deliveries and they have a right to do so. The County Council has run out of funds so the only way to get anything done is to have a precept or if there is a fatal accident.

Q: Isn't a fatality leaving it a bit too late? Do we want to run the risk? A: That's what we need to weigh up and decide.

Q: Can we do our own signs like we have in the past e.g. can we all put a speed limit signs on our dustbins or something? A: of course, but as they're not legal signs, their impact will be less.

Q: If we're going to have a speed limit then why are we thinking about 30mph and not 20mph? 30mph can still kill a child. A: That's certainly another option that the village could consider.

Q: What is the weight limit for Lorries travelling through the village? A: It's thought that there is no weight limit on these roads.

Q: Can we also put a restriction on Tractors? A: It's reasonable for Tractors going to and from local farms/fields to use the village roads.

Q: How much will it cost per household if we raise a precept? A: For a house in Rating Band D it would be around 80p per week, circa £40 per year, per house to raise £4k for the one year. The cost of raising different amounts and the impact on precept was explained on the website.

Helen Rutter mentioned that speeding has been an ongoing issue for many years. Every time there is a meeting the subject comes up and we need to make a decision as to whether it is important enough to take action. There is no point bringing up the subject year after year without doing anything. The costings are quite high and a lot of that will be the County's legal fees. When we put up informal signs before, the Highways decided to turn a blind eye but they may not do so again. We need to make a decision on this and either proceed with it or put it to one side.

Paul then asked for a show of hands as to whether we raise a precept to implement a speed restriction through the village.

The result was 13 for and 15 against.

Paul then asked for a show of hands to implement discretionary blue signs to deter Lorries travelling through the village.

The result was 13 for and 15 against.

It was **agreed** by the meeting that we wouldn't be pursuing these two issues any further now.

- 3. Winter preparations:** We had initially been told that the County Council wouldn't be providing salt for the grit bins this year; however that is now not the case and we will receive salt to top up the grit bins this winter. Next winter (2019/20), however, we will need to purchase the salt ourselves. The money for this would need to come out of the Parish funds but at the moment there aren't any funds. Paul asked if Parishoners would like to raise a precept to pay for salt next year at an approximate cost of £300, based on previous costs. This is equivalent to approx. 6p per week, just over £3 per year, per household (Band D), to provide for 3 full Grit bins plus 20 bags of 20kg salt (for those roads away from the bins). There was discussion about this:

Q; Do we need to buy it from the Council if you can buy twice as much for half the price off the internet? & is that still the case if we raise a precept A: No, we can get it from wherever we like, if that is possible, regardless of whether we have a precept or not.

Q: Why can't everyone just buy their own salt? A: They can but would they use it on the roads or just their driveways? Also, what about the elderly who wouldn't be able to manage spreading the salt?

Q: Why can't we just buy it as we need it? Only a tiny amount is actually needed to keep the roads clear & Anthony thought that the bins were filled with salt some years ago and they're only now just getting empty. Why not wait until we actually need some more as the salt given to us this year could last a few more years yet? A: It's difficult to plan ahead for winter conditions, such as the 'Beast from the East' of last March so having stocks in makes better sense. The grit bin levels will need to be monitored and salt bags to be at hand for those roads away from the bins.

Q: Instead of raising a precept, could someone just go round the village asking for donations? A: That's a possibility if someone is volunteering for that role and will distribute the salt as before.

Malcolm Frapple offered to collect funds for highway salt for the 2019/20 winter to ensure the bins are full and salt bags available. Paul then called for a vote for those who wished to either raise a precept for buying the salt, and those who would be happy for Malcolm to take on the role. The result was 6 for a precept, and the remaining for Malcolm to collect. It was thus **agreed** that Malcolm would collect funds and distribute the salt.

4. **A Parish Precept for 2019/20:** Paul went on to say that while we won't be raising a precept for the above three items, there were no funds in the Parish account and we should decide whether we wish to raise a precept for any other purposes, giving as an example the hire of the village hall to pay for Parish Meetings. This would place us on the same footing as all other users of the Hall who pay for its hire. It was suggested that raising around £200 for the year, to be held in the Parish account in case it was ever needed, by using a precept would amount to 4p per week (circa £2.20 per year) for a Band D house.

After discussion, there was a vote as to whether to raise a precept to support to this level for the Parish funds. The result was 11 for and 15 against. As a consequence it was **agreed** that there would be no Parish precept set for 2019/20.

Paul thanked Alison Stone for taking the minutes, and thanked all for attending, asking that people ensure they mention the outcome of the meeting to any neighbours. The Draft minutes will be placed on the Lamyatt Matters page of the Village website and on the Village noticeboard as per usual. The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be taking place in May 2019.