

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAMYATT PARISH MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT 19.00**

Present: Paul Chadwick (Chairman); Alison Stone (Secretary); Helen Rutter; Anthony Ffooks; Victoria Lang; Andrew Pope; Denise Wyatt; Kelly Biss; Malcom Frapple; Diane Deane; Freda Gibbons; Sylvia Anderson; Romy Smallwood; Nick Smallwood; Caryl Joyce; Mike O'Donnell; David Colman; Kara Thomas; Jon Tapp; Caroline Duggan (20)

Also in attendance:

Michael Gay (Mendip District Council); Nigel Hewitt-Cooper (Somerset County Council); for reports & Dr Andrea Dexter (Green Party Candidate) as an observer.

Apologies: Ann Skinner

Paul welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He explained that this meeting was to update everyone on progress since discussions at the Annual Meeting in May; hear from our County and District Councillors; and to prepare for winter, amongst other issues.

1. No minutes to approve until the next Village AGM to be held next May.

2. County Council and District Council matters

(a) **Waste Collection & Recycling** - Michael Gay gave us a report on the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) who have recently been reviewed for the service they provide. He noted there are many unsatisfactory issues but these are mainly due to a lack of personnel, particularly a shortage of HGV drivers, and vehicle failure. The SWP have launched a scheme to train HGV drivers for free which will hopefully increase their work force and they have also secured funds to buy a new fleet of Lorries. These lorries will be safer and equipped with CCTV and assisted loading and can be registered on the company computer so issues can be resolved quickly. The SWP will soon be taking more curb side recyclable materials and hope to start taking food waste to an anaerobic digester which can then produce energy. Michael stressed that anyone with concerns or a complaint should contact MDC through the website.

Q: How many bins will be needed for the extra recycling?

A. None, as the loaders are trained to segregate everything quickly.

Q. Why is there always a trail of rubbish?

A. It's easy for rubbish to blow off the lorries without anyone noticing but hopefully the new fleet will address this problem and won't shed any waste. Residents can help by placing a cover on any open bins.

Caroline Duggan then offered to start taking any other recycling (e.g. yoghurt pots) the village has to Dimmer but there needed to be somewhere for the rubbish to be dropped off. It was suggested that a box with a lid could be put in the bus stop. Caroline will check with Dimmer to see what recycling they take, and this information will be sent out by village email. It was agreed that we support this initiative.

(b) **Fibre to the house** programme: Nigel Hewitt-Cooper then read out a report regarding the current situation regarding the Connecting Devon & Somerset project for improved Broadband. A copy of the report would be added to the Lamyatt Matters webpage.

In discussion it was felt that the withdrawal of the previous contractor (Giga Clear) and the lack of communication about progress was frustrating. Michael Gay advised the meeting that his village, Witham Friary, was in discussion with another contractor, TrueSpeed, and his understanding was that they might be interested in extending their area of coverage as Batcombe was also now discussing the possibility of fibre being installed via the existing telegraph/electric poles direct to each property by the same company. Paul would investigate further with neighbouring parishes and report via the Lamyatt Matters webpage and at the next Parish Meeting.

(c) **Highways** – Nigel also updated us on the current situation with the Highways and the extensive road network that needed to be served but with diminishing resources. Nigel explained that County Council budget was predominantly needed for Social Care costs. Questions were asked about why some parts of the Highways service were very slow to respond and Nigel asked for any complaints to be raised with him. Paul felt that the Council's willingness to allow the BBC cameras in last May to reflect the financial challenge in Somerset Social Care was very good,

3. Village flood prevention – This matter was first raised at the Parish Meeting in May when various worries were raised about the intense farming on Creech Hill. The Meeting was reminded that back in June 1998 flooding affected a number of properties lower down the High Street and as a consequence a new culvert was installed to take water down the village. Following on May's Parish Meeting, Michael Gay arranged for the County Council Flood prevention staff to meet on site to review the current situation and they were guided by Caryl Joyce and Paul.

Caryl reported that they walked up the village inspecting all the drains before looking at the intensive planting of maize and other works in the fields which will increase rapid run off. They then looked at the culverting and it was agreed that a CCTV camera review of the culverts take place to ensure they are still in sound condition and to check for blockages. It is generally felt that things will be okay so long as the pipes are clear. Mervyn Walters has also subsequently agreed to put the hill back to pasture.

Anthony Fooks stressed that villagers should keep the drains outside their own properties clear of debris.

4. Preparing for winter – The grit bins will be replenished by the County Council but if we need any more grit in loose bags then, as agreed last year, Malcom Frapple will canvass for some small funds to buy it. One of the two donated grit bins has gone missing. – the one located at the top of the High Street, above the Church. It had been seen in the adjacent field but is now no longer there. Paul will make further enquiries. The location of the other (4) grit bins are as listed on the Village Website.

The County Council Highways has also asked that we nominate a 'Snow Patrol' person to liaise with volunteers, and to be a point of contact in very bad weather. There is a role description on the website.

Malcom Frapple has volunteered to do this, and, for instance, it would be useful if those in the village with a 4-wheel drive could let him know so that they could be called upon to assist if need be. There is a role description on the website.

Q. Do the farmers clear the road when it snows?

A. Highways call on local Farmers or other owners of 4x4s to come out and help when needed, as occurred last winter when the A303 was blocked in places.

5. The Shoot – Paul has a list of the shoot dates should anyone need it. Comments were raised about the amount of vehicles that come along the lane in long convoy and it was again asked if they could be more courteous. Paul would contact them again on this matter.

6. Highways & Traffic; Bridleways & Footpaths – Highways are dealing with potholes when they are reported and, on the whole, are very quick to mark and then repair potholes. When you contact them to report a pothole you need to give the position using a map reference, address or a post code, and/or by sending a photo. Please don't expect someone else to have reported it.

It was mentioned that the ROAM map for notifying of Footpaths/Bridleways problems wasn't particularly efficient but any problems with the network should be reported directly if need be to the Footpaths/Bridleways team – contact info as usual on the Lamyatt Matters webpage. There is still 1 blocked footpath and 2 others that are very difficult to use. It was mentioned that most landowners try to keep a clear path. Paul thanked the volunteers in the village who look after a stile, gateway or path and helps keep it clear. There is still 1 blocked footpath and 2 others that are very difficult to use.

Q. There was a brief road closure on the road to Milton Clevedon recently. Should notice have been given?

A. Notice is usually given but not in an emergency.

7. Financial update – Paul thanked everyone who donated their rebate from the power outage to the Parish Meeting account. It was, however, noted that not everyone received a rebate due to Southern Electricity changing policy. There is currently £436.01 in the Village account which also includes a recent £250 donation from the Shakespeare evening. The intention was for these funds to be spent on something significant as and when the Parish decided.

AOB – Lamyatt Village Website: Andrew Pope volunteered to help better structure the village website and suggested that the different groups in the Village meet up with him to decide how that be done. He is happy to help engineer the format and then individual contributors should update their webpage(s) as need be. The revamp could take place after Xmas.

Village e-mail circulation: Caryl Joyce expressed a wish to step down from circulating the Village emails. Denise Wyatt offered to take it over and would meet with Caryl to discuss how it works and the existing protocols.

With no other business, Paul thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20.30