

**MINUTES OF THE LAMYATT PARISH AGM
HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2019 AT 19.00**

1. Present from the Parish: Paul Chadwick (Chairman); Alison Stone (Secretary); Simon Lang ; Sylvia Anderson (Chair of Village Hall Committee); David Ash (Alms House Trust); Sally Schofield (Lamyatt PCC); Nick Smallwood (Bullbeggar Cider); Michael Brunt; Lesley Brunt; Gill Cooper; Malcolm Cooper; Malcolm Frapple; Helen Rutter; Freda Gibbons; Mary Moore; Keith Moore; Simone Ash; Romy Smallwood.

Also present: Dick Skidmore (former District Councillor)

Apologies: Jen Richards; Mary-Clare Rodwell; Victoria Lang; Anne Skinner; Ian Deane; Diane Deane; Caryl Joyce; John Sicely; Denise Wyatt; Andrew Wyatt; Hilary Pascoe; Mervyn Walters.

Paul welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He explained that the Annual Meeting was an opportunity to receive updates on various activities in the Parish and that by law the Annual Meeting should be held by June each year. Other issues can be raised under Any Other Business.

Previous Minutes of the last 2 meetings were agreed and signed.

2. 2018 Parish AGM minutes – proposed by S Anderson and seconded by R Smallwood -agreed
3. January 2019 Parish Meeting minutes – proposed by S Ash and seconded by N Smallwood -agreed

4. Reports from Village Committees

- a) Village Hall Committee – Sylvia Anderson reported on all the successful events that the Village Hall has put on, such as the supper club, quiz night, Take Art performances, wreath making and Christmas party. She offered her thanks to all who had been involved in the running of these. £1,350 profit was made from these events and £390 from other hall bookings. Sylvia also mentioned the Pub Nights that had been very successful and the fact that the Hall now has a Licence which will allow these evenings to continue. The VH Committee is always open to new ideas and would welcome any suggestions for fundraising events from the Village.
- b) Alms House Trust – Report from David Ash(one of the Trustees); Both Alms Houses are currently occupied although one tenant may be moving on soon. The boilers have been renewed and garden work has been carried out. The accounts have increased by £5,000 and they are available on request should anyone wish to view them. There is an old footpath that runs through the property of the Alms House (SM13/9) and the Trust have recommended that it not be reopened at the current time. This will be addressed at a later date. David mentioned that following the resignation of Ian Goodhew, the Trust is looking for a new trustee to join the committee. Paul Chadwick volunteered his services and the position was agreed by everyone present. The Trust is also looking for an administrator.
- c) Lamyatt PCC – Sally Schofield reported that the vacancy for a Priest in charge still hasn't been filled. The job has now been advertised for a third time. However, the Church is still holding services on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month and these are being led by lay preachers. Repair work on the Church tower has been completed but the under pew heating still needs to be looked at. The PCC are also looking at ways to preserve the Village Collage. It is now 25years old and is much admired by all who visit the Church. Some sort of casing is needed but it's likely to be expensive. Any

suggestions on this will be gratefully received. Sally expressed the PCC's delight that Freda Gibbons was a winning volunteer in the 'Little Deeds, Big Difference' competition. Over the years, Freda's steadfast volunteering has helped keep the Church alive. It was also noted that due to the lack of local banks, cash donations for the Church were becoming difficult to process. The PCC would like to request that donations are made by cheque or bank transfers if possible.

- d) Bullbeggar Cider – Nick Smallwood reported that 2018 hadn't been a good year for Bullbeggar sales as there had been no music festivals and no Pack Horse Fair. Sales in London were also down. Bullbeggar donated £2000 to the Village Hall last year and will do the same this year and next. After that, Nick will be stepping down. Bullbeggar has been running since 2007 but the logistics of running the business are getting difficult as so much is involved. If anyone would like to take it on then Nick is happy to talk to them about it. Paul thanked Nick and the all the other volunteers for all their work over the years.

5. Highways Issues

- a) Traffic management – the speeding/heavy lorry issues were discussed at the January meeting. There has been no further response from the County Councillor despite a follow up request after that meeting. Paul asked if there had been any other issues since January. It was mentioned that vehicles coming through the village seem to be getting bigger but it was agreed that nothing can be done about that.
- b) Potholes and drainage – Paul informed the meeting that he had some success in reporting pot holes and Highways team had been efficient in the minor repair. He suggested that you use photographic evidence when reporting. Work on pot holes should be actioned within 14-15 days. Four blocked drains have been reported at the top of the hill (past the Church). The Council clear the drains every two years so this year they are due to be done.
- c) Footpaths and bridleways – the footpath (SM13/9) running through the Alms House is still blocked. At least 4 stiles have been renewed this past year by Mendip Ramblers acting for the SCC Footpaths team. Local farmers have been good at keeping the footpaths clear though the crops. Hopefully volunteers will be able to help again to keep stiles and footpaths clear this year. If a footpath is impassable then notify the Council via the website tool and they should come out to clear it within a few months.

6. Planning

2 planning applications have been received this year and both were approved with various conditions. The Parish planning sub-committee were also asked to give their comments on the expansion at Wyke Cheese Factory. The current members of the Parish sub-committee were prepared to continue in that role with Paul: David Ash, Simon Lang & Romy Smallwood

7. Pheasant Shoot

Paul will be given the shoot dates in October and anyone who wishes to know them can ask him then. It was mentioned that no sign was used at the top of the hill when the shoot is taking place. Paul will check this. Mary-Clare Rodwell had informed Paul that the proceeds from the sold Pheasants (£200) was given to the Church and Village Hall.

- 8. Coping with winter conditions** – 5 bags of rock salt were bought and placed around the Village. We have received a donation of two new grit bins and these have been placed on Portway Hill and on the bend above the church after consultation with Highways. They have advised that they will adopt the bins and fill them.
- 9. Parish Finances** – No income has come in and nothing has been spent in the financial year to 31st March 2019. The account stands at £26.01. However, £23.70 for the purchased rock salt needs to come out of the account in 2019/20 which will leave £2.31. A question was asked as to how we raise money for the Parish and the answer was by setting a precept. It was also asked how other Parishes raise money and the answer was the same - most parishes set a precept.
- 10. Any other business**
- a) Gigaclear Broadband – fibre to the house – this has been delayed for another 12-18 months. Gigaclear overreached themselves and couldn't deliver on their promise. Gigaclear is not the only option for fast internet and it was suggested that villagers could look again at the voucher scheme that has been relaunched. We did try to get Wessex Internet to cover the village but not enough signed up for it.
 - b) Other items – Some home owners in the village have extra water which is supplied by a spring from Creech Hill Farm and they expressed concerns that it might be cut off, or reduced, due to the water being redirected for use elsewhere on the farm. Many of the properties use this water for domestic purposes or watering animals. It was suggested that the house owners check their property covenants to see if they are entitled to receive this water and perhaps take legal advice. Paul asked everyone what they would like to happen about this and it was suggested that the Parish Meeting write to Mervyn Walters on their behalf expressing their concerns. Sylvia Anderson volunteered to ask a Solicitor friend of hers to also look into it.

Concerns were also raised about flooding risks due to the fields on the hill being ploughed up. This is currently being looked into as one of the causes of the flooding in May 1998 was the water running off the land. Mervyn is aware of this. Highways did improve the size of the culverts so hopefully this will help should the situation arise again. Mervyn may well be looking to improve soil fertility. The Meeting asked that Paul check that he is working with the Environment Agency to ensure that run off management and top soil retention is maximised.

Electricity outage – the properties at the top of the village, near the Church, received no notification that their electricity was going to be cut off for the managed outage on May 13th. They have now been told that they will receive £30 in compensation. As the outage went on longer than intended by 3 hours, then Scottish & Southern have also confirmed that all in the village affected will receive £25 in compensation – this should be received within 15 working days. (maximum of £55). Given that the Parish Meeting Account had no funds, Romy Smallwood then pledged to donate her electricity compensation money to the 'Lamyatt Parish Meeting' account. Others at the meeting thought this was a good idea.

With no other business, Paul thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20.10.