

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAMYATT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021**

Present: Paul Chadwick (Chairman); Alison Stone (Secretary); Helen Rutter; Ern & Jenny Richards; Diane & Ian Deane; Nick & Romy Smallwood; Simon Lang; Simone Ash; Freda Gibbons; Sue Colman; Sylvia Anderson; Sally Schofield; Kevin & Angela Parr-Gorman; Jonathan Orrell; Keith Pascoe. (19)

Apologies: Ann Skinner; David Colman; Dick & Caryl Joyce; Caroline Duggan & Andrew Harrison; Pat Horler; David Ash; Victoria Lang; Andrew Pope & Denise Wyatt; Mendip District Councillor Michael Gay & Somerset County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper.

Paul welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He then explained that due to the Covid 19 lockdown, it had been around 18 months since we last held a Parish Meeting.

During that time, the following residents have sadly passed away; Richard Phillips, Dorothy Stone, John Sicely and George Walters. The meeting also noted the passing of former residents Jane Craig, Maria Hubberd and Deborah O'Dwyer, and also George Walter's brother Albert.

1. The minutes from the Annual Parish meeting held on the 16/05/2019 were proposed by Sylvia Anderson and seconded by Simon Lang. The minutes were agreed.
2. The minutes from the last Parish meeting held on the 26/11/2019 were proposed by Helen Rutter and seconded by Romy Smallwood. The minutes were agreed.
3. Broadband - no progress has been made as the Broadband companies just don't seem interested in our small village. Residents have found it very frustrating especially as it all seemed so positive to begin with. We were told that 25% of the village needed to sign up to make it viable and this number was exceeded. Both Romy and Paul have been in regular contact with True Speed but they seem to have totally disengaged with this area to concentrate on larger ones like Wells. There has also been no response from Wessex Internet. Voneous internet have recently visited some in the village. They offer fixed wireless access to the internet and are currently offering services in Wanstrow and Batcombe. The weblink for Voneous would be posted up on the Lamyatt Matters webpage.
4. Highways - The drain by the Village Hall continues to be an issue, first reported over 18 months ago, and the County Council have only just advised that if collapsed they will put in a works order for a rebuild. Paul requested that any other issues with potholes or drains should be photographed, if possible, and reported to the Council via the SCC website. Helen Rutter mentioned that she had done this with a pothole and the Council had marked it within 4 days and then completed works within a further week. It was noted that the grit bins weren't filled last winter despite several requests. The County Councillor had been advised about these delays and lack of responses from Highways.

5. Footpaths and Bridleways - As previously reported, the County Council and Mendip Ramblers Association are keen to reopen blocked footpath SM13/9, but this is still awaited.
6. Jenny Richards gave a report from the Parochial Church Council - see report posted separately on the website.
7. Planning- Paul asked the meeting if they would be happy for David Colman to join the Parish planning group as a co-opted member as David had been invaluable with regards to landscaping proposals for the recent Wyke Farms cheese storage planning application. Those at the meeting were happy for David to join the planning group. Wyke Farms have offered to host a visit to the bio-digester on Saturday 12th June to review existing and future developments. Paul requested that those interested in going to let him know after the meeting and he would also post up the invite on the Lamyatt Matters webpage. An update on some potential village flooding, first raised in 2019, and being investigated by the County Council was still awaited.
8. Village Hall Committee - Simone reported that things have obviously been quiet due to the lockdown but they did manage to hold a village picnic in September 2020 which was good. Helen has completed a Risk Assessment for using the hall and Yoga sessions will be starting again soon. The Village Hall also received a Govt grant from Mendip District Council which helped to ease the finances. Future events will include a village barbecue on Saturday 10th July and a picnic with small scale circus acts on Sunday 22nd August. These will be advertised by village email and on social media.

The committee are starting to plan the autumn/winter programme and Diane Deane proposed holding the village coffee mornings again from October.

Parking area - it has been noted that cars are often parked outside the village hall at the weekends. This is not necessarily a problem, but perhaps people could check first with the hall booking secretary before parking there in case people are using the hall.

9. Paul has received reports from our local District & County Councillors - these will be posted separately on the website. In discussion, the Recycle More scheme was welcomed and felt to be working well. It is hoped that both Councillors will be able to attend a Parish meeting in the autumn.

10. Financial report - Balances

31/03/2019	£26.31	
31/03/2020	£412.31	Increase due to Shakespeare donation (£250) and donations from individual electricity refunds.
31/03/2021	£912.31	Increase due to Bullbegger Cider donating some remaining funds (£500) on closure of business. Primarily intended for footpath improvements.

Paul advised that the only expenditure on the account in the past 2 years had been on the purchase of road salt. No precept had been set. The meeting agreed the annual governance statement & accounting statement.

Denise Wyatt and Andrew Pope at Crossing Cottage proposed to use some funds on the blue road signs to deter HGV's from driving through the village. The general feeling at the meeting was that it may not be worth spending the money as the signs are only discretionary, not mandatory. Both Alhampton and Ditchheat have these signs but it was felt that they are ignored by some HGV drivers. As this subject had come up before at Parish meeting, Paul offered to find out about the practicalities and costs of the signage and asked if the meeting agreed for him to do this. The outcome was 10 for and 7 against further investigation, so Paul will report back at the next meeting where a decision can be taken whether to proceed.

The District Council have launched a Climate Change grant programme. This may give us the opportunity to install Solar Panels on the Village Hall which could result in a substantial saving on future electric bills. The Village would need to be able to match the funding that is provided. It was agreed that Paul would put in an application to the Council as there was nothing to lose by doing so.

With no other business to discuss, Paul thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 19.25.