

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAMYATT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH MAY 2022
In the Village Hall

Present: Paul Chadwick (Chairman); Alison Stone (Secretary); Helen Rutter; Hilary and Keith Pascoe; Malcolm Cooper; Lesley and Mike Brunt; Pat Horler; Dan Wakenell; Victoria and Simon Lang; John Tapp; Sylvia Anderson; David and Simone Ash; Romy and Nick Smallwood; Jonathon Orrell; Anne and Kevin Sherrard; Heather Thompson; Dick Joyce; Anne Skinner; Jen and Ern Richards; Mike O'Donnel; Kara Thomas; Tony and Wendy Thick; Joy Rushby
Apologies: Sue and David Coleman; Denise Wyatt

Broadband presentation

Before the formal Parish meeting, Paul introduced Heather Thompson and Dan Wakenell from Voneus Broadband to report on plans to bring Fibre to the Property to the Parish. They advised that the building work to bring fibre to the village would take place around September to October this year. Connections to each property can then be installed. These would be free as Voneus would claim the Govt subsidy. At this stage by expressing an interest there is no commitment on the behalf of the householder to go ahead with a connection but it helps the company determine solid demand. In answer to a question Heather confirmed that the Company would provide 1 connection to the village hall free of charge. Monthly costs etc were clarified and can be seen in their publicity. Voneus can provide a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) which will enable each property keep their existing phone number.

1. Paul thanked Heather and Dan for their presentation and announced a slight change in the running order for the agenda to invite our District Councillor to speak early in the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the last Annual Meeting** held on 2nd June 2021

The minutes were proposed by Simon Lang and seconded by Helen Rutter and then **agreed** by the meeting.

3. Reports

Paul then invited Michael Gay, our Mendip District Councillor to speak. Michael announced that he would remain in his position until the Unitary Council took over in April 2023 and he would support the transition during the next few months. At the same time there were now 2 newly elected Councillors for the County who would continue in post after April 2023 for the new Unitary authority. He advised us of the Local Community Network pilot for the Bruton-Cary-Wincanton area, including Lamyatt, which would be able to set some local priorities.

In answer to a question he advised that the situation with local offices, such as those at Shepton Mallet, was yet to be decided but that he thought there would be Area Boards dealing with local Planning matters. He said it had been his privilege to serve the village and surrounding areas during the last few years. He particularly praised Lamyatt village for its welcoming spirit and sense of community.

Paul thanked Michael for being such a great representative for the village and especially thanked him for the District Council's help in securing a £2000 grant for the photovoltaics and battery for the Village Hall. Paul noted that both Michael and the outgoing County Councillor Nigel Hewitt-Cooper, who stood down at the last election, had assisted the Parish over the years on various issues.

Paul also noted that Wyke Farms would be contributing some £340, and the Village Hall Committee the balance, for the village hall system which is due to be switched on soon, and will generate & store electricity so as to reduce the Village Hall's electricity bill.

- a) Simone Ash gave a report from the Village Hall Committee - see report posted separately.
- b) Jen Richards gave a report from the Parochial Church Council - see report posted separately.
- c) Paul Chadwick gave a report for the Welch Alms House Charity - see report posted separately.

4. Highways

- a) **Traffic** - A proposal from last year's Parish meeting to explore obtaining discretionary blue Highway signs to deter HGVs from driving through the village is to be actioned. SCC Highways have agreed to install the signs at no cost to the Parish during this year. The signs will be located at either end of the village. It was made clear that the signs are not aimed at local traffic needing to access the village but to deter lorries using sat navs and taking shortcuts. If villagers feel certain vehicles/contractors are driving discourteously then they should make a note of the vehicles and if need be they can report them either to the companies directly or to the Police. It was noted that traffic had significantly increased just recently due to the various local road closures. It was felt that the village should have received notice of this as it has had a lot of impact.
- b) **Potholes and drainage** - A number of villagers had made notifications of potholes to the council and these had subsequently been actioned. Paul pointed out the importance of taking a photograph to send to the council when reporting them. The County Council have sent a report further to their survey on flooding risks to try and avoid a repeat of the 1998 flooding. Paul can share this if people wish to read it. Essentially, those with properties adjacent to the main culvert need to install mesh baffling to prevent debris flowing down and those with a culvert underneath their properties need to ensure that it is kept clear. Additionally, the local landowners should make sure there is no fast run off from the surrounding hills and in answer to a question it was clarified by Dick Joyce that they have agreed not to plant maize but to keep the ground for grazing and this agreement was made in conjunction with Natural England.

The County Floods team may follow the report up with a meeting of those that might be directly affected so that all could understand their rights & responsibilities and what the County can do to assist.

- c) **Footpaths and Bridleways** - Paul thanked those who looked after the footpaths & bridleways adjacent to their properties on a voluntary basis; and especially thanked Simon Lang who monitors the footpaths on the Evercreech side of the village, whilst Paul monitors those on the other side of the main village road. Any problems with stiles/gates/bridges etc should be reported directly to the County.

Paul then moved on to describe the issue of footpath 13/9. This footpath was in existence, but incorrectly mapped onto the 'Definitive Map' in 1951 by the County Council. It is no longer accessible, though over the years there will have been walkers trying to walk it as it appears on the OS Maps. The 1951 mapping showed it crossing a pond and going through the garden of No1 Almshouse. In fact in the late 1960s, the land where the actual footpath was, to the other side of No2 Almshouse, was sold and a bungalow was built.

In the years after, a few people tried to walk up the bungalow driveway and this was recorded in previous Parish Meeting minutes when the issue was raised by the resident in the late 1960's. It was raised again further in the 1970's and the Parish Minutes record that it was thought that the path was adjacent to the boundary of the bungalow and No2 Almshouse. Seemingly no action was taken either by the County Council or Parish Meeting at those points to get a solution to the situation.

Paul thanked those residents who had raised the issue of the blocked footpath again in the last few years seeking a resolution, and also thanked the main land owners David & Simone Ash, Jen & Ern Richards, and the help of the Mendip Ramblers, Les Stather, and the County Council officers for reviewing the situation. In conclusion Paul felt that the opportunity for the Parish to have pointed out to the County Council the incorrect mapping, had obviously passed some decades ago, and as the bungalow was now built there was no prospect of the original line being available.

The meeting generally agreed with this analysis, and although it was pointed out that the loss of any footpath was a shame it was also made clear that this was not thought to be setting a precedent due to the unusual circumstances of the incorrect mapping.

The meeting would therefore not object to David & Simone seeking to formally extinguish the footpath and also recommended that on doing so they should place good signage to divert walkers who might still use the current OS map. Once extinguished then it would no longer appear on any updated versions of the OS map.

In further discussion, there was a request that if people felt there were other walking routes around the village that were not properly recorded or had been missed from the 1951 Map for them to log them on the Ramblers website. All were asked to be respectful of any permissive footpaths which were used.

5. **Waste & Recycling** - All agreed that the service was working well.

6. **Pheasant Shoot** - The shoot is likely start as usual in October and the list of dates will be given to Paul who can provide a copy. Not all dates are used as the shoot is weather dependent. It was suggested that the list be displayed on the notice board but previous agreement and practise was for it not to be widely publicised. All shoots will start after 12pm. It was again requested that the shoot ensure that signage is put up on the days of the shoot so that walkers are aware, and that all shooting stop until the walker/rider has passed. It was suggested that the Shoot be asked for a copy of their shooting guideline policy (or Risk Assessment) as a couple of residents had felt unsafe walking in the area when the shoot was on.

7. **Winter Preparations** - Malcom Frapple would be asked if he would still help to co-ordinate assistance from 4WD owners to assist any villagers in the event of snow making roads impassable. The grit bins are still full from last year but probably need to be loosened before the winter. Paul asked that those living near the grit bins to check them and either loosen them themselves, or find a neighbour who can do it.

8. **Parish Finances** - Paul reported the balances at the end of the relevant years:

31/03/2021	£912.31
31/03/2022	£1,412.31

The increase this year was due to a £500 donation to the Parish Meeting account with the recommendation that it goes towards signage for the village. There has been no expenditure in the past year and Paul showed the meeting the most recent bank statement so the meeting could agree the finances. They were proposed by Nick Smallwood and seconded by David Ash. Accordingly, the Meeting **agreed** the Financial Statement.

Any Other Business - (a) Defibrillator - Jonathan Orrell reported that this was due to be installed outside the village hall in the next few weeks. The village hall committee have agreed to cover the shortfall on the funds raised to date but people can still contribute to the fundraising page. It was suggested that another request for funding could be put on the Facebook page by the Defibrillator group.

(b) **Village Website** - it was suggested that the village website needed updating and changing and could do with someone to help manage it. John Tapp offered to help with this.

Ali Stone is stepping down as the Parish Secretary and a successor will need to be found. Paul and those present thanked Ali for all her work over the years.

Paul will continue for another year as Parish Chairman, and this was agreed by those present. He would look to stand down after next year's meeting, after 5 years in the role.

With no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.