



TIMSBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of 26th April 2021 at 7.30pm remotely on the internet.

1. **The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Josie Pownall**, welcomed to the meeting 30 participants which included 10 Parish Councillors as well as 2 non-Timsbury Parish Electors observing. Procedures adapted for remote working in the meeting were explained.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - None
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2019.**
It was agreed by those present that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.** None

5. **Chairman's Report**

Councillor Josie noted that the 2020 Meeting had been cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic Government restrictions. As a result, this meeting will briefly cover year 2019/20 as well as 2020/21.

She reported that the Parish Council had managed to continue to meet remotely and keep its services going during the pandemic period. All details are shown on the village website along with membership of the Committees. She reported the following activities:

Community Library Hub – was established and developing with groups meeting from story time for little ones to history chats about the area and people, and IT buster sessions for IT problems. Hopefully these will start again post-Lockdown. The library has been open most of the time for click and collect as B&NES have allowed and thanks go to Liz Casson and the volunteers for keeping it open. There has been a surge in members and demand for books has steadily grown and there are now over 3000 books to choose from.

Green Action Group – established but actions curtailed. Hope to start activities again in the near future. The PC has joined several other in the area to declare a climate emergency.

Green Spaces – Les Robbins continues to keep the streets as clear as possible of litter and leaves and weeds and has carried on regardless.

Mary-Ann Ansell and her team have kept up the open spaces helped recently by 2 young men for their volunteering part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The work carried out by the Community Pay Back team stopped. Some local contractors have also been used for cutting back and replacing some trees and hedges. Ash die back has arrived in the area and we had to have an elm felled along the Ha-ha path and 2 hornbeams that were dead. Also hedge trimming and edge clearing were undertaken to keep the Ha-ha easily available for access to all, especially important for 'get out of the house' exercise.

There was a proposal to convert the land at the side of the steps in Southlands Drive into a play area using logs but it was found to be impractical as it is owned by B&NES who have declared it as an area for nature management

Allotments have been open throughout the period and their Management Committee are to be thanked for doing a great job in managing them on behalf of the PC.

The ‘Walks’ books have been selling well with nearly 2000 copies sold.

Conygre Field and Play Area – the PC pay for upkeep and repairs. We lost some trees on the field in the high winds, which also took out a neighbouring fence that had to be replaced.

Young People - We have 2 schemes for the younger people; Bath Youth for Christ which caters mainly for up to 14 year-olds on the youth club, cooking, classes etc. Youth Connect South West runs the youth bus that parks up in the Conygre Hall for the older young people. Both have supported the youngsters through lockdown with phone calls, skype meetings and door-step visits where appropriate and carrying on by ‘detached’ work - walking round the village to meet up and keep contact going.

Victoria Ansell and Stacey Pottinger of the Young People’s Working Group set up a survey of the young in the village to find out what facilities are needed, with representatives from the school, youth worker team and some interested residents. The ideas had to be suspended but are hopefully going to be acted on when possible. This work in part confirmed the need to continue funding these services has been confirmed and it is a big commitment.

Speedwatch – A Community Speedwatch team of volunteers set up after a lot of concerns raised about speeding in the village. To March the team have carries out 27 hours of monitoring periods, over 31 sessions and measured just over 4000 cars of which 58% exceeded the speed limit after the allowed tolerances. Results can be taken onto account by B&NES for safer road decisions.

Street and Pedestrian Safety – after the works on North Road were completed there were many reports of traffic mounting the pavement to avoid the small chicane near Chapel Walk, with several near misses for pedestrians. Our request led to B&NES installing bollards.

We have also had other discussions with B&NES on other areas of the village concerning road and pedestrian safety, particularly the South Road/Church Hill junction, which is now on the priority list for remedial work. The Avenue pavement is to be widened as part of the housing development, but this does not include the ‘bend’. The PC is in discussion with the owner of the property to try and find a way to improve this. Several other areas have been raised with B&NES in the Square, Rectory Lane and in South Road at the North Road end.

Planning & Building Developments – start of the Upper Conygre housing works at the crossroads. 27 new houses originally with office space. Also the developers have applied to convert this office space into 4 x 2 bedroom units, which was supported by the PC. There have been many plans approved for house extensions and a couple of new single house builds.

Others - We have a councillor on the PC Airports Association against airport expansion. Another has been involved with the group to try to protect the bus service throughout the area. The WECA Spatial Plan was rejected. Also B&NES are reviewing their Local Plan which will be consulted on soon. Sleight Farm and lands has been sold but are not aware of any movements on other land sales so far. We lost McColls and the post office, the new leaseholder has suggested that that talks are ongoing to open a Post Office in the new shop.

Grants - The PC has given grants to the Cam Valley Arts Trail, MSN dial-a-ride, Timsbury Together, Timsbury junior football team for floodlights on the school field and to the Village Pantry project.

Newsletter – only one edition was missed so well done to Madeline Potts for keeping it going.

As the Covid-19 eases it may be a good time to reflect on people we owe thanks to – not the usual NHS, and key workers but the small things that people have done to make life easier with pieces in the Newsletter.

2 Parish Councillors had resigned; Mike Horler and Stan Martin who were thanked for their efforts support over a number of years. As a result, there are currently 2 vacancies for co-option on the PC which is being publicised.

6. **Financial Statement**

The Parish Clerk, Chris Gittins, presented the financial statements for the PC financial years ending 31st March 2020 and 2021, including a breakdown of each budget heading. For each year the Expenditure had been close to the budgeted Income which was made possible by annual rises in the Precept collected. The resulting balances of funds held by the Parish Council at the year-end totalled reserves of £41,550 for 2019/20 and £4,1593 for 2020/21. Also, VAT will be reclaimed at a later date. He also outlined the Budget for 2021/22. Full details are reported on the website.

7. **Items raised by parishioners.**

A new resident of North Road expressed deep concern about vehicle speeds and behaviour in her road and around the village. The Chairman explained the many things that the PC is doing to try to improve road safety with B&NES and that it is important that all incidents/near misses should be reported to BANES to add to the body of evidence being built up. Also a volunteer Speedwatch is working with the Police to gain recorded evidence of the level of the problem. A range of solutions including speed tables in the 20mph zone were explained.

Peter Buchanan reported that the Conygre Trust had a new contract for maintenance of the Recreation field. He also noted the sad death of Jeff Sluggett who for many years had been the invaluable Conygre Hall manager. The Trust AGM will be held shortly and new Trustees are sought.

The Chairman noted that the Timsbury PreSchool is seeking new Trustees.

8. **The Chairman concluded** the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and taking part in the meeting which she hoped had been interesting and informative.

Approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting:

Chairman: _____

Date: