

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON
MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 2019, AT 7:30PM.**

Present:

Cllr. V. Pitman (VP) Acting Chairperson
Cllr D. Faulkner (DF)
Cllr. R. Poole (RP)
Cllr. M. Norvell (MN)

Also in attendance:

Zenah Rowe (ZR) – Footpaths Officer
Carly Payne (CP)
2 members of the Parish

There was a 10 minute open discussion on matters affecting the Parish and Agenda.

Declaration of Interest: None

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed by Councillors and signed by VP.

Police Report: There were 143 calls into 101 and 999 for the Wellington Rural Beat for the month of November 2019. This is 77 less than last month. This does not include calls involving Wellington Town. 1 call involved Nynhead, Oake, Bradford on Tone, Langford Budville. A.O.B: Please be aware there have been vehicles broken into in beauty spots. Please ensure valuables are kept out of sight and ideally secured within the boot of your vehicle. Christmas crime prevention advice: We all know there are so many scams around at the moment and these appear to change on an almost daily basis, but please do not be alarmed. Common sense always prevails and as they always say, "If it seems too good..." The Golden Rules: Never give out your bank details (Pin / Password) EVER. Not sure don't answer the door, it's your home! Be very wary of following links you are sent via email, go through your own trusted sites. Don't be bullied on the phone, HANG UP. Please do not advertise what's in your home, only put waste out on collection day. Leaving your home unattended? Put the lights on a timer or ask a friend to visit or park on your drive. (And please check on your neighbours, if you see papers / post building up on the doorstep, just check). Above all, have a great festive break.

Finance & Legal:

- a) **Consultation confirming SWTC local plans:** DF has been in contact with SWTC. The document was due to be published in November but the election has delayed it, so it will now be completed after Christmas. The consultation will be open to Councils and individuals in the form of a questionnaire.

- b) **Agree the Precept for the Financial Year, 2020-21:** The PC has been through last year's figures as well as projected spending, and have considered rising costs. The decision is to set the Precept at £8000, which is a slight increase on last year. This was officially proposed by RP and seconded by DF.

- c) **New Councillor:** Public notice was given for a casual vacancy after the resignation of Councillor Jan Middleton at the end of the November PC meeting. This notice was displayed on the parish noticeboards to advise parishioners that any ten registered electors could have

given notice in writing, within 14 days, requesting that an election be held to fill the vacancy. Because less than 10 requests to hold an election were received, the PC were able to fill the vacancy by co-option. Consequently, proposed by VP and seconded by DF, it was resolved that Mr Derek Sowden be co-opted as a Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs Jan Middleton.

Planning Applications

Case Ref: 21/19/0013 – Formation of a vehicular access, access track and associated parking at Malthouses, Milverton Road, Runnington.

Due to concerns about lack of visibility (partly due to parked vehicles) from the proposed access track, turning on to a busy main road, the PC objects to this application.

Case Ref: 21/19/0015 – Change of use of land to residential curtilage, erection of detached garage/office building with formation of a vehicular access on land at Cedar Barn, Runnington.

All Councillors support this application.

Case Ref: 21/19/0017 - Conversion of agricultural building to 1 dwelling, change of use of land to residential curtilage and erection of garage building on land at Bere Farm, Paloma House, Langford Budville.

Because the visibility of the proposed building is better than the original plans, all Councillors agreed to support the application.

All applications can be viewed in full at:

<https://www2.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/asp/webpages/plan/plapplookup.asp>

6. **Footpaths report:** ZR has not yet had a chance to check the reinstatement of the ploughed footpath but she reported that the footpath opposite the church looks clear.
7. **Bank opposite Courtlands:** The Council have finally cut down the dead trees. DF has also reported the blocked drain in the hedge to Highways.
8. **Bank opposite School:** The Council have now cleared the hedge.
9. **Request for Hot Air Balloon Flight Take-off/Landing:** The PC's insurance will not allow this type of activity. In addition, balloon flights are not viable near the play area for children and the potential fire hazard is too risky for the many tall trees under preservation order.
10. **Salt for winter:** Extra salt for the Parish has been purchased and is available from Jan Middleton.
CP to chase-up Council regarding re-filling of salt bins.
11. **Wivey Link:** A monetary donation has been requested for the free taxi service that Wivey Link provide. Currently, 6 people have subscribed/use the service. Although the PC observe that this is a worthy cause, they feel that there are higher priorities for which funds are needed so will not be donating this year. In addition, it was highlighted that Langford Budville have the slinky bus and Lloyd's local taxi service.

12. **Emergency Plan:** DF read out a report from Mrs Jan Middleton:

Report to the Parish Council
Emergency plan
December 2019

All Parish Councils were asked by the Council to develop an Emergency Plan for their parishes. This occurred before the current Parish Councillors were elected; the Parish Council of the day did not respond to this request. However, many Parish and Town Councils did, and now have 'tried and tested' plans in place, examples of these being Milverton, Wiveliscombe, and Wellington.

With the knowledge that the Langford Budville Parish Council of the time had not responded to the request, the current Parish Council included this provision in their four year plan, agreed by councillors this year. With weather reports suggesting the winter this year could be very hard with the possibility of excessive snow fall, it was decided to commence preparation plans immediately, but to look only to provide a basic response to extreme snow conditions for the parish for this year.

Ultimately such a plan should be seen as a community response to emergency situations as it will always involve volunteers from within a Parish who wish, and are able to assist others in such adverse times. The Parish Council agreed that community members should be involved in planning and consequently the Village Hall Committee and both churches within the parish were contacted.

There was no reply from the church in Langford Budville. It was agreed to proceed with the involvement of representatives from the Village Hall committee and Runnington church.

However, it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to coordinate and initiate the response when the need arises. This should not be an onerous task, but one of making the decision to implement the plan, of informing those who have volunteered that this has been done, and monitoring progress.

Whilst the Parish Council is at the early stage of organising this and in the knowledge that it is extremely difficult to identify those who would be in need of assistance (due to Personal data laws), the emphasis of knowledge must come from within the community. But not the responsibility for controlling the action, which firmly lies with the Parish Council. I have agreed, on behalf of the Parish Council to organise the information received from volunteers within our Parish and the offers of assistance with road clearance of snow, from farmers and those who work on the land. In addition to suggest a form of response, should extreme snow conditions prevail, and to inform all volunteers of this agreed procedure once it is in place. To this end John Houghton, Runnington Church and Michael Huntingford, VHC met with me on Tuesday December 4th 2019.

The result of the meeting is as follows:

We noted the volunteer response had been very good for a small parish. We noted that the response from those who have offered to clear roads is also good and will enable Langford Budville to remain 'open', providing the main road between Wellington & Milverton is kept open by the Council. John would look into the situation in Runnington. We noted the range of skills and assistance being offered. I divided the parish via volunteer response (because response can only occur where volunteers exist) into: Payton, Bere Farm area, Langford Budville, Runnington and Gundenham area and the Bindon area. I produced an inventory of volunteers and their particular offers of help. An effective, yet simple process for informing volunteers to be ready to proceed, if needed by parishioners must be agreed and produced. Looking logically at our locality, the plan must reflect the fragmented settlement within the parish and the location of volunteers. I suggest that there should be key coordinators in some areas who will respond to putting their team of volunteers on standby once the responsible person from the Parish Council has made the decision to activate. This person should also be responsible for Langford Budville. Cllr Norvell is going to act as the key coordinator (with I suggest John Houghton as her deputy), for the Runnington area, Andrew Carson for the Bere Farm area and Keith Moore has volunteered for the Bindon area. We do not require other key coordinators at the present time.

We agreed that a leaflet should be produced to inform parishioners of what to expect from the plan this winter should the need arise to activate. The leaflet to be produced by the committee. It can be printed once the PC has agreed the content, (cost of printing to be met by the Parish Council), and delivered to parishioners with the approval of the editor of Roundabout via the next magazine. This leaflet will also include helpful telephone numbers for vital services eg. Electricity, Water etc, contact details for plumbers, electricians, central heating engineers in the locality and information to

remind parishioners to take responsibility for themselves, to 'stock up' and prepare for extreme snow so that they will not require help. We all noted that extreme snow could occur before this leaflet is circulated but hope that the likelihood of this is remote!

Once this has been achieved, I confirm that I will not be involved in the further development of an Emergency Plan over the next three years as this is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Jan Middleton
December 2019

13. Safety Mirror: There was a request for a convex safety mirror to be installed on the telegraph pole on the 90 degree bend by Langford Court where traffic turns to Reynolds Lane. Although all were in agreement that driving around the bend needs extra caution, it was not deemed an accident-prone location. The costs and logistics of a mirror being sited there were researched and discussed. Because BT is unlikely to allow the mirror to be fixed to their pole, an additional pole would need to be cemented into the ground. This would need permission from Highways. The potential for lorries and other vehicles damaging the mirror was also discussed and the responsibility to repair and replace broken mirrors was considered. Finally, the PC decided that they would not install a mirror at this location at this time.

14. Archived Minutes: DF is going to the South West Heritage Trust to archive old Parish Council Minutes. These date back to 2014 on the website.

Correspondence

1. A parishioner emailed with some interesting information regarding the impact of light pollution on wildlife. The PC discussed the points and will suggest that the parishioner writes to the Roundabout Magazine to share his views.

The next meeting will be held on January 13th 2020 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome.