

MINUTES OF BANWELL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD ON MONDAY 13th MAY 2019 AT BANWELL YOUTH AND
COMMUNITY CENTRE

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Paul Harding (Vice-Chairman of Banwell Parish Council).

Present: 20 members of the public, 6 Parish Councillors and the minutes were taken by the Clerk Liz Shayler.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Roy Rice and Parish Councillors Phil Baird, Maggie McCarthy & Dawn Parry.

2. **MINUTES OF LAST PARISH ASSEMBLY**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 23rd April 2018 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were duly signed by Cllr Harding.

3. **BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Vice Chairman, Paul Harding, gave the following report;

Good evening ladies, gentlemen and Councillors. Welcome to Banwell Parish Assembly for 2019.

When I did this last year I thought that was it, I will never have to do another one, but here I am again, so as I witter on, apologies if you think you have heard it all before - you have actually as I have cut and pasted most of it from last years in the hope you don't remember what I said.

Last year our then Chairman Jim was sunning himself in Spain whilst Liz was looking after the lamb with the barbie blazing in the blazing heat. Sadly, I have to report the lamb didn't make it. Not because it ended up on Liz's BBQ - it met an unfortunate end in a swimming pool.

Jim is not here this year because as many of you will know, he has resigned from the Parish Council, along with Paul Batemen and Emma Perrett.

On behalf of the parishioners of Banwell, I offer our thanks to Jim and Paul from the Parish Council for their service to the community over many, many years. Not a councillor for that long, but again thanks to Emma for her time.

You may recall last year that I was keen to emphasise Banwell is a community and not just a traffic jam and I promised some car stickers. I did indeed get some car stickers done with that very phrase – Banwell a Community, not just a traffic jam. All the limited edition signed copies are gone, but if you would like one there are a few left, and I have ordered more so see Liz.

You would not have noticed but we have had an election for the Parish Council. Nine councillors stood for the Parish Council, so all were elected unopposed. We have new blood in the form of Philip Baird, otherwise known as Phil 3. Welcome Phil 3.

We can have twelve Parish Councillors, so we have three vacancies. You do not have to be called Paul or Phil to apply. We would welcome applications from our younger residents. Winscombe have one who is still at Churchill School. It is not an onerous role. You must get used to being criticised on social media, Facebook in particular, but this is an important role and you can help to shape your community. We provide and maintain play areas, cut the grass, look after the defibrillators, provide grants to local community organisations, provide web pages for community groups on our web site, fund Citizens Advice Bureau, provide dog bins (yes I mentioned them), benches, bus shelters, and we can even bury you in our cemetery, lit by the street lights we also provide off the A roads. We can comment on planning applications. We funded a youth club which is currently closed, but we are seeking a new provider and hope to open again in the autumn. Liz has built up excellent links with North Somerset Council (NSC) officers. We can open doors that as individuals you will find tightly closed, if you could even find them. We can't solve the traffic and we can't stop the lorries for reasons I will go into, but you can make a difference. So come on "volunteer and serve your community" - another bumper sticker. See Liz if you are interested, in volunteering that is, not another bumper sticker.

We have also had local authority elections. What a night that turned out to be. The night of the long knives or what. We now have one Conservative and one Green ward councillor, Ann Harley and Karin Haverson. Like many communities we await to see the impact of this election on our services in our village.

What has happened then in our community.

1. Firstly - We got the Christmas tree right this year – lights and baubles.
2. Banwell Action Club put on the Duck Race in the summer with a twist as we had decorated ducks, many of which were painted at the community picnic. I was robbed on the finish line though. The Scouts are putting on this year's race on the 9th June.
3. We marked the end of World War 1 with a community lunch and sing song. All had a great time. There was also the beacon on the hill, almost extinguished by the fire brigade when some of our concerned residents reported a fire on the hill. We will be planting memorial trees around the village in November one for every fallen soldier.
4. The community picnic took place last June. It will next take place on 1st June this year – a community event by Banwell parish Council and New Creation.
5. Banwell in Bloom has excelled again with the floral displays in the village.
6. We had the Spring Clean on 6th April. We had a much better turn out so thanks to all who helped.
7. Liz has gained her CiLCA qualification, so now is a fully qualified clerk – congratulations to Liz.
8. We have taken back the Children's Centre from NSC. You are sat in it. This building belongs to the Parish Council, and therefore you. We are working with North Somerset, to continue to provide Children's Services. We are looking at ways of covering our costs and providing community facilities without taking bookings from the other community halls. One idea is a pop-up Post Office.
9. We are receiving £19,000 from the Bilbie Grange development (changed from Quantock Heights or Alps Pastures or was it Himalayan Lowlands). We have undertaken a Parish wide consultation and we have gone out to tender. In round one we are looking at a Zip wire (can't wait), concrete table tennis table, more seating and a spider climbing frame. Sadly, we are not having a snack and drinks bar as suggested by some of our Banwell School children. Great idea, but impractical. We are due another £19,000 when half the houses are sold, so will look at phase 2.
10. Banwell Bog at Riverside now has resident ducks and will soon be listed as a water feature on Ordnance Survey Maps. We are hoping that will be resolved soon with the

construction of a French Drain which we are contributing to, can we still say French Drain with Brexit on the horizon? Perhaps non-European drain. Once done we will look at more play equipment for Riverside.

There are many organisations within the village which you will be hearing from some of them shortly. These organisations need you to support them.

The Parish Assembly is an opportunity for our organisations to say what they have achieved. Again, I offer my thanks to these organisations and hope they grow and continue to prosper in the next year. Similarly, we wish all the businesses in Banwell a prosperous year. Use them or lose them.

What has not been so good.

Anti-Social Behaviour – sadly on the increase. We are working with Kayley our PCSO to see what we can do to reduce this scourge in our village. We will look at an outreach service with our youth provider when we appoint one. Not all young people in the village are bad so please don't tar them all with the same brush. Incidents of ASB make us all very angry, but I can assure you Banwell remains one of the safest places to live in North Somerset. Please notify Liz of any ASB incidents in the village, but please can we refrain from naming and shaming.

Banwell Bypass – NSC have put forward a business case and by the end of July, we are now told, we should have an indication from the Government if funding will be made available. Concerning though is NSC appear to have dropped building Bypass first, housing second, so we shall see. We will also have to wait to see what happens to NSC with such a change and focus on Independents, and if we now see a move for the housing to go near Long Ashton. Your PC will use whatever influence we can to secure the bypass.

Speeding – we still suffer. You may have noticed our portable sign. It does not record registration numbers but does record speeds and numbers of vehicles. You may be surprised to learn that on Knightcott Road, in only ten days in April, approximately 22,000 cars exceeded 35 mph, and of those, 5,400 exceeded 40 mph, 1,800 exceeded 45 mph, 637 exceeded 50 mph, 211 exceeded 55 mph and 23 exceeded 70 mph. I won't say what the fastest speed was but will say it was more than three times the speed limit. Our data is being provided to the police. If you want to help reduce speeds, there is a village speed watch team, who desperately need further volunteers. Speak to Liz.

Lorries in the village – some are very big. They are not always at fault, when perhaps it is also car drivers, particularly in the narrows. Banwell (A371/A368) is part of the Primary Road Network. Such roads are funded by the Highways Agency, not NSC. We will not get a ban, weight restrictions or de-priming in a hurry. Large lorries will be going through Banwell to Winscombe as there is no other way for them to go. The fault lies with NSC for granting planning permission for developments such as the Redrow Woodborough Grange development in Winscombe. Prior to the election we were in correspondence with Councillor Ap Rees concerning de-priming. NSC were to undertake a study of the impact of HGV's and Banwell following the opening of the Bristol South link road. As we know, he is no longer there so we will be taking this forward. If you witness poor or aggressive driving let Liz know and we can take it up with the companies involved.

Traffic – goes with lorries really. We have no jurisdiction over the roads. We have met a NSC Senior Engineer to look at improving Castle Hill/East Street junction. Much of what could be done would speed up traffic, not slow it down, so basically, we are very limited as to what we can do.

All I have left to say is thank you for attending, and don't forget, you are cordially invited to partake of cheese and wine at the end of the evening.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk presented the statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the last financial year and highlighted the healthy level of reserves, including the earmarked reserve for an extension to the cemetery. It was reported that although there was no increase to this year's precept requirement that due to North Somerset's overestimated growth forecast calculation there was a 4.3% increase in the parish precept for 2019/20.

The Clerk invited the Assembly to seek clarification of any issues. There were no queries raised.

4. **NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL – WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

No Ward Councillors were present, and a report was not received.

5. **AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY**

No police were present, and a report was not received.

6. **RECOGNITION OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD 2019**

Cllr Harding introduced the award. This year there had been a lot of nominations and it had been difficult to choose. He was therefore pleased to announce it had been awarded to Steve Parkinson for his contribution to volunteering in the community.

7. **WEST OF ENGLAND RURAL NETWORK**

Sue Badger gave a report on the West of England's Rural Network (WERN) and Village Agents. She explored the role of the Village Agent and its importance to the more vulnerable members of the community. Sue spoke about the Government Grant received by WERN to help communities set up schemes to prevent social isolation. A copy of the Rural Connections information leaflet can be obtained from the Clerk.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A resident requested clarification on the Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) data and whether it included vehicles travelling in one or both directions. The Clerk clarified that the VAS picks up moving vehicles and so they could be travelling in either direction.

Another resident requested that the Parish Council research the possibility of having a permanent enforcement camera.

9. **REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

Reports were presented by the following in respect of the work of village organisations over the past year.

Banwell School* – Malcolm Davey

Banwell-Potigny Twinning Association* – Denis Cruze
Banwell Caves Heritage Group* – John Haynes
Banwell Amateur Dramatics* – Mary Humphrys-Smith
Banwell Allotment Society*– Jerry Corfield
Churchill Minibus Society* – Laura Batt
Banwell Gardening Club* – Tom Couch
Banwell Royal British Legion* – Tom Couch
Banwell Archaeological Society* – Steve Davies
Banwell Bell Ringers* – Steve Davies
Banwell Village Hall – Alan Evans
New Creation Churches* – read by Lisa Stannard on behalf of Kirsty Bowles
Love Banwell* – Lisa Stannard
Banwell Bowling Club* – Alan Vickery
Banwell Short Mat Bowling Club* – read by Paul Harding on behalf of Chris Wilson
Banwell WI* – read by Paul Harding on behalf of Alison Willins

(*Copies of these written reports are held by Banwell Parish Council and may be inspected by making application to the Parish Clerk)

10. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF ELECTORS** – Monday 20th April 2020

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 p.m. and thanked all those who had attended.

..... Chairman

..... Date