

**MINUTES OF BANWELL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD AT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022**

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Paul Blatchford (Chairman of Banwell Parish Council).

Present: 2 members of the public, 3 Parish Councillors and the minutes were taken by Liz Shayler (Clerk to Banwell Parish Council).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Viv Bailey, Kirsty Bowles, John Haynes, Jerry Corfield and Parish Councillors Kevin Gibbons & Paul Harding (who joined online).

2. MINUTES OF LAST PARISH ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 26th April 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were duly signed by Cllr Blatchford.

3. BANWELL PARISH COUNCIL –

i. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Paul Blatchford, gave the following report on behalf of Paul Harding the previous Chairman.

Good evening everyone, welcome to the 2022 Parish Assembly. Before I start, I will say that we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine in their war against Russia.

This year we get to meet here in the Youth & Community Centre (YCC) in person, over zoom and Facebook live. How things have changed from only two years ago before most had ever heard of COVID. Last year, following the rolling out of the vaccination program we all thought the end of Covid was nigh, but as we all know sadly it isn't with it still dominating our lives.

The Parish Council (PC) continue to invest in the community we want to see in the future. Much of this investment must be credited to Liz who is undoubtedly the driving force of the PC. I must also again thank Russ the assistant clerk (unpaid), and all the other volunteers who give their time to the parish. I must also thank Daisy our grants and communication officer who has transformed our social media presence as well as already paying for herself with funding she has obtained.

So, what have we done to invest in our community over the last year? Just some highlights:

COVID volunteers – they are still out there helping. They also were instrumental in the delivery of COVID vaccinations at the surgery.

YCC improvements – we are teched up and now have the ability to hold hybrid meetings and live stream them to reach a wider audience. The car park has been resurfaced and we have begun implementing some energy saving measures.

Digital Sessions – various sessions have been held at the YCC to offer training and know how in the use of computers/tablets/smart phones for those that need help of all ages.

Virtual Cooking Clubs – live streamed cooking lessons to help our residents and families learn how to cook

Food clubs – we have provided food and cooking equipment to parishioners as well as Christmas meals

Banwell Walking Buddy – putting in touch local people to walk

Supporting Mental Health Initiatives – Thinking Out Loud - a charity meeting fortnightly in the YCC starting in May – contact admin@weareaware.info for more details

Window Wanderland – excellent engagement around the village, some brilliantly dressed windows
Christmas Market – our first ever and a great success. Even Santa popped in

Recreation Ground – fully reopened and the zip wire commissioned. Further improvements are in the pipeline along with improvements at Riverside

Banwell Youth Club – after a period of decline it is now booming – check it out

Local charities – we continue to support local charities and organisations though donations. If interested have a look on our website for the forms.

So, as COVID diminishes, a new threat challenges our community, that is those that are not millionaires or non-domiciled for tax purposes, and that is the increase in energy costs which will impact our poorest the most. Most have seen our bills rocket, with more to come in the autumn. We can't offer financial support, but the Parish Council are an official outpost of Weston Foodbank and also have weekly Citizens Advice Outreach appointments. If you are struggling, please contact us. There is no shame, and we will help where we can. Non-perishable food or financial donations are always welcome – contact Liz.

Looking to the future: **More of the same** – plus:

The Queens Platinum Jubilee will happen in only a few weeks. Events are planned over four days. Look out for fliers.

Green initiatives – we are looking at funding for LEDS for inside and outside the YCC and this year we will replace the last of the old streetlamps with LED ones.

Face to Face Cooking Clubs – Banwell Youth Club will be offering face-to-face cooking sessions for young people which focus on skills that act as building blocks for a variety of meals and recipes. At the end of the course, the participants will cook for a social occasion, highlighting the important social aspects of eating with others and its benefits for reducing isolation. The aim is that this will provide a start to a healthier and more positive relationship with food, for young people. I think that's about it. Maybe not.....

Banwell Bypass – a party and a half worthy of a host of government ministers attending when it opens in 2024. We appreciate not everyone in the parish is in favour of the bypass, and it will bring a large housing development as outlined in the North Somersets 2038 Local Plan, but as Derek Mead once told us, you can have a bypass and the houses, or just the houses. More houses are inevitable. We have already seen that. We are working closely with NSC to get the best outcome for the village. They do listen – an example being we suggested a strategic gap between the bypass and the current settlement.

There are many organisations within the village who 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. Covid will dominate for some time, and even after it has subsided, we will continue to build on community spirit that has grown since Covid arrived. If you want to become a Councillor, we have vacancies. If you want to help support our volunteering work either financially or in person, contact Liz.

All I have left to say is thank you for attending. You would normally be invited to partake of cheese and wine at the end of the evening, however, due to the prevalence of covid in the village, sadly not

this year. For those joining us online - you are welcome to partake of a virtual piece of cheese and glass of wine.

ii. Draft statement of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022

The Clerk presented the statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the last financial year and highlighted the level of reserves, including the earmarked reserve for an extension to the cemetery. The Clerk was pleased to say that due to an increase in the Council Tax Base, that whilst the Parish Council's budget requirement had increased to £168,160 the cost to a Band D property remained the same at £85.91.

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 Councillor was present and no report had been received.

5. AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY

No PCSO was present and no report had been received.

6. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD 2020 & 2021

This year Covid still dominates, and our vaccination volunteers and general volunteers have continued to work hard to support our community.

This year we have two volunteers that we would like to honour. It was impossible to choose as these two volunteers consistently go above and beyond.

Both support the community in a variety of ways for example by serving refreshments, baking cakes, volunteering at every vaccination clinics, taking part in our walking buddy initiative, driving people to hospital appointments, delivering Christmas meals and food parcels and contributing to the food bank amongst other things.

So, the Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to Jill Jenkins & Viv Bailey who are this year's winners for going above and beyond in their service to the community.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No requests or comments were received.

8. REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Reports were presented by the following village organisations over the past year.

Banwell Allotment Society* – read by Liz Shayler on behalf of Jerry Corfield

Banwell Village Hall* – Liz Shayler

Banwell Amateur Dramatics* – Sue Atkinson

St Andrews, Banwell Church* – read by Maggie McCarthy on behalf of Kirsty Bowles

Banwell Caves Heritage Group* – read by Liz Shayler on behalf of John Haynes

Banwell Bowls Club* – read by Liz Shayler on behalf of Kevin Gibbons

Banwell Bell Ringers* – read by Steve Davis on behalf of Jade Longmoor

Banwell Archaeology Society* - Steve Davis

Jubilee Working Party – Liz Shayler

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

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF ELECTORS – Monday 24th April 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm. and thanked all those who had attended.

..... Chairman

..... Date