

MINUTES OF BANWELL PARISH ASSEMBLY

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2016

AT BANWELL VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Jim Weston (Chairman of Banwell Parish Council).

Present: 16 members of the public, 8 Parish Councillors, District Councillors Harley and O'Brien, PC Adam Hingston and the Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

2. **MINUTES OF LAST PARISH ASSEMBLY**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 29th April 2015 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

Good evening Ladies, Gentlemen, Councillors, and the Police. It's nice to see all of you here tonight. I would like to start by congratulating the following. Banwell action group, for all their fund raising efforts and supporting other village groups. It was an excellent Christmas display especially the nativity in the school. Banwell Buddies are doing really well with almost 50 children attending, I believe they will soon be looking for donations for another classroom. Banwell allotment society is also doing really well and have been told by the land owners that they are willing to renew the lease for the next 7 years, which is really good news.

Banwell in bloom continued to do their excellent displays around the village.

Banwell football club is doing really well and has now expanded their ground with land leased from a neighbouring landowner.

What wonderful news that the scouts and guides are possibly going to have a new headquarters built, which will replace the old scout hut. Also they have had a new mini bus donated, all from the Kathleen Jones Family trust.

Also I would like to wish the Love Banwell group lots of success with their new venture.

Moving on to the Parish Council, We have had some ups and downs this year. This time last year I was considering not staying on as a Parish Councillor, but due to lack of Parish Councillors I decided to stay. Sadly our Chairman Liz Shayler and Councillor Angela Hayden decided to step down from the council, so I would like to thank them both for all their hard work and time over the years. So I stepped into the place of Chairman which no one else seemed to want to do the job at the time. Most of the time I am enjoying the role, We were still 5 Councillors short so we did an advertising campaign and had 6 applicants who wished to be co-opted on. This was a bit scary as the process for co-option is really complicated if there is more applicants than vacancies. Fortunately one applicant withdrew so we now have a full Parish Council of twelve.

As you all know we have had difficulties with the cemetery wall and finally we seem to be getting somewhere, and hopefully within the next few months it will all be sorted.

It was bad news that North Somerset decided to remove funding for the lollypop man as from August so the Parish Council decided they would fund it at up till April next year at least. It would be nice if local sponsors would come forward to help support funding in the future.

The Youth Club is still doing well and the staff are still being funded by the Parish Council and are always looking for extra funding for equipment and activities

We have also purchased coins to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday which will be handed out to Banwell school children.

Churchill and Langford Mini bus Society have purchased a new mini bus with the support of Banwell Parish Council, where hopefully local people will join and use the mini bus. This is open to all ages not just OAPs.

I would also like to wish all the best to all the other groups in the village: the seniors club, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the Children's centre and all of the groups that use the Village Hall. Not forgetting the bowling club and any other groups I might have overlooked.

I would also like to thank Tony the Clerk who is now a qualified clerk, but like the rest of us still learning. I would also like to thank our village orderly Mr John Keate for all his work around the village.

I would like to thank everyone for their support to the Parish Council and hope it will continue.

4. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk had circulated the statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the last financial year and invited questions. No queries were raised.

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

Cllr Harley gave the Ward Councillors report, which is available from the Clerk upon request.

Following the report, questions were asked regarding the traffic problems in Banwell. A question was posed 'why can't there be traffic lights in the centre'. Cllr Harley and the Clerk explained that a traffic survey had taken place regarding this issue a few years ago, and the decision taken was that this would not be possible.

Cllr Harley explained that a by-pass would be highly unlikely unless there was large scale housing, or industrial development in the village to finance this. The current policy would be to try to look for ways to improve the current situation. When the South Bristol link road is completed then it may be possible for a weight limit to be put on large vehicles travelling through Banwell as there would then be another road which links the A370 and the A38.

6. **AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY – LOCAL BEAT MANAGER'S REPORT**

PC Hingston presented the Police report.

PC Hingston was asked if messages left on the mobile phones of Police Officers not on duty for extended periods could be monitored by other officers. PC Hingston said that they were 'personal issue' phones and other officers could not monitor the messages.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

8. **REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

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

Banwell Buddies – Rachel Siens

Banwell Allotment Society* – David Elsey

Banwell Caves Heritage Group* – John Haynes

Banwell Archaeological Society* – Steve Davies

Banwell Bell Ringers* – Steve Davies

Banwell Methodist Church and St. Andrews Church* – Carole Taylor

1st Banwell Scouts* – Brian Peat

Banwell Youth Club* – Jo Larder

Banwell Royal British Legion – Tom Couch

Banwell Gardening Club – Tom Couch

Banwell Primary School* – Claire Pocock and John Baker

Banwell Village Hall* – Richard Tolmie

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

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 p.m. and thanked all those who had attended.

..... Chairman

..... Date