

MINUTES OF BANWELL PARISH ASSEMBLY

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2015

AT BANWELL VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Liz Shayler (Chairman of Banwell Parish Council).

Present: The Attendance Register contained 13 signatures.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Jim Weston.

2. **MINUTES OF LAST PARISH ASSEMBLY**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 29th April 2014 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Parish Assembly, and presented the following report:

I want to first start by congratulating the following for their achievements;

- The Banwell Action Team. Their hard work and dedication provided us with a number of memorable events over the year. Also for their splendid Christmas scene at the school and the fabulous Christmas trees along West street. I would like to wish them good luck in their endeavours for the coming year.
- Banwell Buddies for achieving outstanding in their recent OFSTED inspection. It goes to show how hard their committee and employees have worked to ensure that the preschool is the best.
- The Banwell Allotment Society and their allotmenters who have continued to make such a success of the Wolverhill Allotments.
- And last but certainly not least to Banwell in Bloom for their splendid show of colour again last year.

It is always lovely to report successes in the Village so if you feel there has been something worthy of praise we would like it recognised in the Parish Council’s minutes, so please contact the Clerk.

I always dread this time of year and having to give a speech and I am always worried that I will have nothing to report. However going back through the year’s minutes is always a heartening experience as it makes me realize just what the parish council have achieved;

At every council meeting we now have a 5 minute slot for on-going councillor training, which goes some way to making sure that as a parish council we keep abreast of the many changes in policy and the law that we are subject to. Our Clerk, Tony has also decided to undergo the Society of Local Council Clerks Certificate of administration.

This has meant a lot of extra work over the last 6 months and will make him a fully qualified Clerk.

At the start of the year we facilitated the installation of 2 defibrillators thanks to the kind generosity of Jean & Paul Higby, Weston Machinery, St. Andrews Church and the community of Banwell.

In collaboration with the police we have managed to get the Community Speedwatch team up and running again this year. Although we had a break over the winter we try to get out most weeks. Speed through the village has always been a concern and so this is a way of being able to monitor it, especially with the removal of one of the speed humps along Knightcott Road. As volunteers we share one thing in common - the desire to see cars travelling safely through our village. Unfortunately not all the villagers see it this way, so the next time you hear someone moaning about the Speedwatch just remind them we are volunteers who just want to make the village safer for everyone. And as seems to be a thread running through this evening, the community speedwatch team are looking for more volunteers particularly along Wolverhill Road. If you are interested in volunteering an hour every two weeks then speak to Councillor Frost the Speedwatch Co-ordinator.

This year we have worked closely with North Somerset in a number of areas including;

- An extra sign in Riverside to endeavor to stop large vehicles attempting to come up Church Street!
- Installing an addition to the ghost footpath on High Street linking it with the public footpath.
- Fighting to correctly reinstate the white lines at Well Lane.
- Also the setting up of Litter Wardens. Unfortunately we have only 5 at the present throughout the village so if you fancy a **free** litter picker, high visibility jacket and gloves in exchange for taking an area of the village to litter pick then please contact the clerk.

On a cold and wintry January day along with the School and members of the British Legion, the Parish Council commemorated the dropping of a bomb on the houses on West Street and the shrapnel damage to the school railing opposite. I would like to thank Bob Harris and his family for unveiling the plaque and to Roy Rice who attended a school assembly to tell the children more about historic Banwell.

Last but certainly not least, one of our primary achievements is the successful continuation and growth of Banwell Youth Club. This is predominantly down to the hard work and dedication of our service providers Youthworkz. As the youth club committee we have supported Youthworkz in setting up a residential trip for young people, ensuring Wi-Fi in the Children's Centre, providing them with summer holiday activities and a host of other activities in and around the village. As you know, historically the youth club have run two sessions but I am pleased to say that we now run a third on Thursday. The young people have supported our community by litter picking around the village, and some even attending a Parish Council working party along Gollings Lane. They have also taken part in various fundraising activities including, a bag pack at ASDA, a Christmas fayre and an old clothes appeal, all to raise money for this year's residential. I am pleased that Jo from Youthworkz is here this evening to tell us more of

what they have planned for the future. At this point I would just like to say a huge thank you to Youthworkz for the work that they do with our young people.

As you can see as a Parish Council we have had a very successful year and a lot of this is down to the hard work and dedication of my fellow councillors and the clerk Tony. Sometimes I think people forget that the Parish Council are just volunteers like everyone here, but that we have a set of very stringent rules and regulations that we have to operate under. Being a councillor can be a fairly thankless task so a huge thank you must go to my fellow councillors who give up their own time to go to meetings, training courses, go on site visits, do inspections and lots of other little jobs that aren't noticed, remarked upon or thanked for.

Unfortunately, we will have to say a few goodbyes this year. Firstly Cllr Jimmy Weston who has completed weekly visual inspections of our play equipment at the recreation ground and riverside for several years along with volunteering to complete lots of other jobs around the village; from painting to welding and many more beside. Also to Cllr Don Kinsey and Cllr Patricia Fellows who have supported the parish council on various committees and at meetings. As I say every year, this leaves us with some spaces! If you are able to volunteer for about 4-6 hours a month or more including the monthly meeting time, and you want to be involved in decisions about your Parish, then become a parish councillor by speak to the clerk for more details

While we are on the thank you's I would like to take the opportunity to thank the youth club and cemetery committees for all their hard work. Particularly to Jude Long who continues to work hard on the memorial garden. It looks lovely and we would like to thank her for all her hard work.

Finally moving onto what the Council hope to do next year.

- I would like to see more working parties to look at how we can improve various areas around the village.
- To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we had hoped to commission a map for the centre of the village which would have given information about Banwell past and present. This stalled, but we hope to revisit again later this year.
- Earlier in the year, due to the issue we have with the cracking of our current cemetery wall, we had to put the purchasing of a piece of land for a cemetery extension on hold. However hopefully when the wall is finally sorted out we will be able to look at this issue again.
- Unfortunately our Community resilience co-ordinator stepped down this year and so we are hopeful that someone else will take this on this year.

The continued smooth running of the council cannot be achieved without you. We need your help to ensure that any problems are spotted promptly and reported to the clerk for action. My thanks must go to those of you who already do this for us and hopefully we will continue to ensure Banwell is an enjoyable place to live and work within a busy and thriving community.

4. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE 2014/15 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**

District Cllr Ann Harley highlighted the following issues in her presentation –

- North Somerset Council (NSC) is still under pressure to have to make significant budget savings and it is important that they balance the books. Many services are now being out-sourced.
- Planning has been a major concern for the authority. There are proposals for major planning development in villages surrounding Banwell, and Banwell would suffer the effects of this if they were to be passed.

Cllr Harley spoke in her role as a School Governor at Banwell Primary School. She said that there would be no report from the School this year. It has been a difficult period for the school, with a new head teacher in post. Changes have had to be made, and four Governors have resigned. More Governors are required. The new head teacher is doing a good job in difficult circumstances, bringing through necessary changes. Cllr Harley said that the new head teacher was the right person to implement the changes, and she had the support of the Governors. Another Governor present, Mr R. Tolmie gave his support to these comments.

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

There was no Police presence at the meeting, and no Police report had been supplied.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No issues were raised:

8. **REPORTS BY VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

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

Banwell Youth Club* – Jo Lorder of Youthworkz

1st Banwell Scouts* – Barbie Bradbury

Banwell Allotment Society* – David Elsey

Banwell in Bloom – Kath Edwards

Banwell Caves Heritage Group* – John Haynes

Moose International – Paul Bateman

Banwell Methodist Church and St. Andrews Church* – Elizabeth Cran

Banwell Archaeological Society* – Steve Davies

Banwell Bell Ringers* – Steve Davies

Banwell Village Hall* – Tony Jay

(*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 8.37 p.m. and thanked all those who had attended.

..... Chairman

..... Date