**KILVE VILLAGE MEETING**

**Held in Kilve Village Hall on 18th June 2022**

**Attendees: Steve Collins (SC) – chair. Bruce Eyley (BE), Simon Blackley (SB), Elizabeth Grigg (EG).**

**No. of villagers – 27**

**Somerset County Councillor Hugh Davies**

1. **Welcome and Introduction.** SC welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes of 2021 meeting.** Agreed and no actions to review.
3. **Parish Council Update (SC).** 
   * 1. SC reported that since the 2021 meeting, P Gill has sadly passed away.
     2. Electric Car Charger – we are still waiting and chasing. The finance is available from both the Parish Council and The Hood Arms.
     3. Jubilee Celebrations – It was agreed that Robbie Rutt (RR) and the team did a magnificent job organising and holding the events. Thank you and applause. RR explained that there will be an article in the next Kilve News, and thanked everyone for helping, taking part and making the event a success.
     4. The Parish Council is in need of 2 Councillors.
     5. Finance – We have a healthy balance of £18k but we have some commitments - £2k for the Permissive Path, £5k - £7k for the Christopher Robin Park and £5k - £7k for the Quiet Lanes initiative.
4. **Christopher Robin Park Update (SB)** – The PC approached 5 separate companies for quotes for fencing but only 2 responded. The fencing is due to be installed at the beginning of July. At this stage only post and rail. Mesh fencing will be added at a later date. You may have noticed that a tree has been removed, this is to provide vehicular access for installation and any future access requirements. Car parking spaces are not being removed.

There will be a gate into the Kilve Court land to enable the grass to be cut and an access gate for users will be off the permissive path.

We approached 5 companies for quotes for equipment and the relevant matting. A company was chosen, and the equipment will be installed after the fencing has been erected.

When straightening the fencing, a small piece of land has been portioned off. A tree will be planted in this space utilising the very small profit from the Jubilee Celebrations. The tree will form part of the Queen’s Canopy.

*A question was raised about the children’s equipment* – sadly not at the moment as some work needs to be undertaken to address some health and safety issues.

A plaque for the park has been commissioned from an artist in Holford (in exchange for some wine). The plaque was presented to RR.

1. **Quiet Lanes (BE).** Currently the project focusses on Sea Lane, Pardlestone Lane, Rowditch Lane and Hilltop Lane. At the last PC meeting, we agreed to increase the budget by £3.5k to enable us to fund half the cost. We are pushing for signs to control the speed of the traffic and investigating the possibility of a pedestrian crossing of some type, particularly in light of the number of children who need to cross the road from Kilve Court and our residents who slowly cross the road with walking sticks and other mobility tools. We are waiting on a response from Highways on their view of what the crossing would look like

There is anecdotal evidence that the change of white lines on Lagger Hill has resulted in traffic slowing down, but we are investigating moving the speed limit change from National Speed Limit to 30mph a bit further back.

As part of the initiative, we gathered a great deal of data about the use of the roads by vehicles, pedestrians and horses.

*Questions/observations from villagers* – we have been down this path a number of times in the past, will it be different this time? We do not know at this stage; we can only provide the data that we have gathered and make the request.

Has any thought been given to moving the 30mph sign further back up the hill to Windrush Corner? Yes, we are looking at this and making the speed limit gradually change from 50mph to 40mph to 30mph into and out of the village on both sides.

1. **Permissive Path Update – Greg Glendell –** The path runs from just past the driveway entrance to Cider Barn up to Rowditch Lane. The required gaps in the hedges have been made. It will need fencing as livestock will still use the fields and gates will be required. The path will be a minimum of 3 metres wide and open to pedestrians, horses and mountain bikes. Depending on the amount of use, there may be a requirement for some surfacing work. The grass verge on the lower village side of the path should be used to negate the need to walk on the road.

The PC will be responsible for maintaining the path but how much is unknown until the path is in use for a period of time. We are applying for a grant from DEFRA consisting of an initial capital payment then an annual payment for a minimum of 3 years. It is proposed that if we do not use all of the grant, any remaining funds are given to the landowners.

*Question –* Is it possible to have an access point opposite Hunts Lane? This has been investigated and rejected because it is too dangerous at that point.

1. We need a name for the Permissive Path – Suggestions were made and a vote by show of hands was undertaken. The clear winner by 15 vote was Hilltop Jubilee Path with 18 votes.

It is proposed that we install a bench on the path in memory of Peter Gill.

1. **Village Hall Update (EG) –** We need some idea of events to hold in the Hall. Currently the following is planned:
   * 1. 2nd July – Craft and Open Gardens event
     2. July – Cream Tea
     3. Possibly Christmas Bingo
     4. Christmas Lunch – the monthly lunch club has been suspended due to lack of support, but it may come back in the autumn.
     5. Film night – this may start again in autumn.

If you have any ideas, please post them in the red letter box or tell a committee member.

The hall is registered with the Police as a ‘place of safety’.

**Defribulator –** It is located on the wall of The Hood Arms. It is checked every month and we recently had a successful training session.

**Foodbank** – Marlene Mason joined us to talk about the Foodbank plans but started by giving Kilve a huge ‘Thank You’ for the support they receive. Matt (from the Village Stores) dreamt up the idea of collecting money and then providing the specific items that the foodbank require. That makes Kilve unique, and the foodbank now gives Matt a shopping list of the items in most need and Matt orders it in.

The foodbank is evolving and has changed a great deal since it started in 2018. Trustees and volunteers give up their time and do not take expenses either.

Due to the number of towns and villages that they need to cover (there are pockets of depravation in all the villages) and the fact that not everyone can get to the physical location, it was decided that a mobile pantry would be the ideal solution. At this time 60% of the funding for an electrical vehicle has been raised and the vehicle ordered. However, due to the Ukraine war, delivery has been delayed. An electric vehicle will cut the cost of going out and it will pick up contributions on it’s rounds too.

1. **Jubilee Update** – see item 3. iii.
2. **The Parochial Church –** Mark Walton provided an update. There is a high level of pastoral support in the village (A village is a village if it has a church, if not it is a hamlet).

So far this year we have had our 1st wedding, a malt tasting (to raise fund for the Ukraine), the Floral Cascade has been created (with the help of a number of villagers) and hung from the church tower and the Jubilee Service filled the church.

There is an increasing number of villagers helping with cutting the grass, cleaning the church, and arranging flowers.

The church is now in need of a secretary – any volunteers please see Mark of Pam Cuff.

The church is in need of more funds as it will run out by the end of 2023. We have re-negotiated our portion of the parish share and reduced it in 2022 and will reduce it further in 2023 but we need to step-up fund-raising activities. Some of the planned activities are:

* + 1. a Christmas Carol Service
    2. Malt tasting in 2023
    3. Possibly resurrect the Antiques Fair

There will be further fund-raising events and activities and we would welcome your support. We need around £7k per annum of which two thirds is the parish share.

The church is open 24/7 and we hold 3 services a month, but we intend to add some community focussed services.

Pam Cuff then explained about a pilot scheme being run by The Deanery. They are reducing costs and have already removed admin staff and the next step is to reduce the clergy numbers. When we know what the impact to us is, we will hold a meeting to explain.

1. **Kilve Cricket Club –** Peter Stone provided an update. Kilve CC is in Division 2 and fields 2 sides, one on a Saturday and one on a Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

Kilve CC are hosting URE Amsterdam on 17th July 2022.

We are delighted with the growth of the Women’s Cricket Team who meet on Friday evenings between 6pm to 8pm.

If you want to help, just going and watching would be super. Also, sponsorship of a match ball would be very welcome. If you need to drive down, please let the cricket club know your vehicle registration number so that it can be added to the system to enable you to park for Free.

1. **U3A –** Sarah Hayward provided an update. A new U3A has been set up in 2022 to cover the villages in the Quantock Hills. We meet on the 4th Monday of each month and the monthly meeting will move around the various Village Halls, usually alternating with Holford Village Hall. The meeting in July is in Kilve Village Hall. Please see Sarah or go to a monthly meeting if you would like to join.
2. **Village Plan – volunteers** – The last Village Plan was put together in 2015 and it needs updating. This is a 5-year plan and is a way that communities can have a say in the future of where they live and work. We need volunteers so if you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet on the table by the door. All welcome.
3. **Contingency Plan Update** – Steve Collins – Following on from Storm Eunice on the 18th February and the issues that caused, we need a definite plan and, a way for people who need help, to know where to go. 4 people have volunteered to help together with Nicola Dawson (Civil Contingency Planning Manager).

Some ideas to consider:

This is not prescriptive, so ideas are welcome

Decide what resources we have such as the Village Hall and The Hood Arms

Identify a number of trusted contacts

Have a single point of contact in the village

There are grants available

Link with other local communities

Run through a number of possible scenarios.

Nicola Dawson will be happy to come to the first meeting to get it up and running.

The Village Hall is already registered as a place of safety.

1. **Unitary Council –** The Unitary Council is going to pull together the various Somerset County and District Councils into one entity. There is very little known about how this will work at the moment and very little on the website. It is difficult for the PC to assess how it will impact us. Councillors Hugh Davies (Independent) and Rosemary Wood (Conservative) have been elected to represent our area on the new Council. The Unitary Council comes into being on 01/04/2023.

The Government is promoting the idea that the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) will become the planning authority.

Please let us know if you have any questions you would like us to raise.

1. **Questions**
   1. Kilve Beach Car Park – The planning agreement says that the area behind the camera and machines should be re-planted and people should be stopped from parking next to the meters. This does not appear to have happened. The PC have attempted to invoke the enforcement section of the agreement, but to date, we have not had any success.
   2. Kilve Beach Car Park – it might be helpful if there was a sign by the machines asking people to park in the car park rather than by the machines.
   3. Western Power – recently a local farmer cut through a cable resulting in a Power cut. Is there a plan to reduce power cuts?
2. **Meeting Closed**