**Kilve Parish Council**

**Annual Parish Meeting – 11th September 2021**

**Draft Minutes**

**Present;**

Councillors - Steve Collins, Bruce Eyley, Simon Blackley, Elizabeth Grigg, Greg Glendell, Peter Gill

Speakers – Cllr Chris Morgan, SW&T Council; Isobel Pring, Natural England; Daniel Moncrieff, Kilve Court; Ailsa Robins, Kilve Village Hall; Jayaraja, Afoxton Hall; Pam Cuff, Kilve church

Plus 63 parishioners

**Apologies;**

Shirley Rushent, Clerk

Cllr Hugh Davies, SCC

Marlene Mason, Foodbank

Izzy Sylvester, Community and village Agent

**1 Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone for attending and explained that this was not a formal Parish Council meeting but a meeting for the whole community. There will be various short presentations on some of the current activities in and around the parish. Residents’ view will be sought on these.

The Chairman thanked Rachel Lewis for stepping in to take the minutes.

**2 Additional items for the agenda**

Pam Cuff asked to speak about Kilve Church

**3 Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting**

There was no meeting in 2020 due to Covid and apologies were given as no minutes from the 2019 meeting were available. However, the Chairman summarised the Chairman’s report from 2019. This included work on the Neighbourhood Watch, a new parish website, fracking, concerns at Laggar Hill (wall and narrow road), new picnic tables at Kilve Beach, digital trails around the Parish and the provision of a defibrillator.

**4 Report from the Chair of Kilve Parish Council**

It has been over two years since the last annual parish meeting and since then there have been significant changes with four Councillors resigning and three new councillors joining – one place remains to be filled. A lot of work has been undertaken to update the Council’s policies and procedures, and councillors have been allocated specific portfolios;

Steve Collins, Chair Finance and political

Bruce Eyley, Vice Chair Planning, Policies and procedures

Simon Blackley, Community engagement and training

Elizabeth Grigg, Wellbeing

Greg Glendell, Environment (inc. highways, paths and assets)

Peter Gill no portfolio

The Council have undertaken a number of activities over the past year;

- Kilve Beach car park planning issues – the council opposed this application and have been trying (without success) to contact Hugh Luttrell about the outstanding works to restore the site as required by the planning consent.

- Review and comment on all planning applications within the parish

- Quiet Lanes initiative – a presentation on this work to follow later in the meeting

- Acquisition of land from Kilve Court – 25sqm adjacent to village hall car park, to be fenced and opened for use shortly. Feedback on a name for the land was sought. Proposals were Kilve Village Green, a Jubilee related name or Christopher Robin Field in honour of Robbie Rutt. One vote was given for Jubilee, about 40% of votes for Kilve Village Green and the majority for Robbie’s Field.

- Supporting Quantock Foodbank

- ‘Wellbeing’ initiatives including Covid 19 advice, defibrillator management

- Electric Car charger – in partnership with The Hood, to be installed shortly and will be free to residents outside of pub hours

- Footpath and bridleway management, including negotiations with landowners for a permissive path connecting Rowditch Lane and the village, adjacent to the road.

- A staff committee has been established and the employment of the clerk formalised

- Input to the County Council on highways issues

- Revised Parish Council standards and procedures

- Closer engagement with Holford Parish Council e.g. traffic management, community speedwatch, war memorial, now having 3 joint meetings a year

- Continued engagement re Hinkley Point issues

- Managing the Council’s assets – beach picnic benches, telephone box, bus shelter, notice boards

- Formal training undertaken by new councillors and Chair

Looking forward, as well as continuing with the above activities the Council is;

- Looking for an additional Councillor, anyone interested was asked to get in touch

- Will engage with the new unitary Authority and local community networks

- Wishes to undertake celebrations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and requests ideas and support from local people

- Will strive to implement the Quiet Lanes initiative

- Will draft a new Kilve Village Plan, in consultation with residents

- Will continue to work alongside the village community to improve village life.

Please do get in touch with any of the Councillors if you are interested in any of the above projects or indeed about any other issues affecting the parish.

Questions from Parishioners;

There was a query about the proposal for a concessionary charge for residents use of the Beach car park. Cllr Collins stated that despite trying he had been unable to get a response from Mr Luttrell however he will persist and seek the £50/yr permits and the free parking in early mornings that had been proposed.

**5 Report from County Councillor Hugh Davies (read by Cllr Eyley)**

The County Council have a new policy to support the victims of domestic abuse. Also, a new policy of giving care leavers a job interview for all relevant posts at the Council. More information can be found on the SCC website.

Cllr Davies wanted to thank all the residents of Somerset who had offered support for the resettlement of Afghan refugees. It is unclear at present what will be required but more information is expected soon.

In May 2022 elections for the new unitary authority for Somerset will take place.

**6 Report from District Councillor Chris Morgan**

Cllr Morgan offered thanks for being able to speak at the meeting and recalled his early years as a resident of Kilve and his visits to the pub. He opposed the planning application for the car park and offered his view that as councillors on the committee had been unable to undertake a site visit, they may not have fully appreciated the issues. Cllr Morgan stated his opposition to the unitary authority as it will mean councillors will have a much larger area to represent and also that some services might be passed down to the parishes. He also spoke about Hinkley, he said it was progressing well but there was talk of a further new reactor on the site in future.

The chairman responded that the Parish Council had supported the creation of the One Somerset Unitary Authority.

**7 Kilve Church update – Pam Cuff**

Pam said that there would be a lot of changes over the next 5 years, as a result of the difficult financial position. It is proposed that Kilve be part of a pilot project for changes to the Deanery. A ‘focal minister’ (lay or ordained) will be appointed for the parish. She said that a meeting for parishioners will be held at the village hall once more is known, for the issues to be discussed.

**8 Kilve Court – Daniel Moncrieff**

Daniel offered his thanks for the support given to Kilve Court by the village. They have 14,500 young people each year, mostly on 2 or 5 day courses. The Centre reopened in May 2021 and now have even more bookings than pre Covid. Prior to the general reopening they provided support to 270 children in care and this new area of work is continuing with fortnightly visits of up to 14 young people and their foster carers. Support is also provided to young people vulnerable to involvement in antisocial behaviour, with referrals from Watchet, Minehead and Stogursey.

The centre receives no core funding from SCC but relies on income from the bookings.

During the past year they have constructed the new lake, rebuilt showers and toilets near the climbing wall and started to install en-suites to rooms in the main building. They have also replaced some of the outside lighting with LEDs that are more focussed and hope to be able to replace the rest soon. Significant tree work has also been undertaken and Daniel thanked the residents of Pardlestone for their forbearance during the works along the lane.

If anyone has any concerns, please do contact Daniel or Karl at the centre.

Daniel thanked Pat Woolley and Elizabeth Grigg from the Village Hall Trustees for their support during lockdown.

The Centre has new minibuses. Volunteer drivers already use these to transport some users of the Centre. They are also available for use by local groups, so please contact Daniel if interested.

**9 Kilve Village Hall – Ailsa Robbins**

Ailsa said that the hall has been owned by a charity since 1885 and managed on behalf of the village by trustees. Sadly, the last year has seen the loss of the WI and the Sugarcraft Club. However there has been refurbishment and repainting of the hall including improvements to the toilets, with more work on the accessible toilet due soon. An ozone sanitiser has been purchased. This will clean all contents of the hall but it can only be operated when the hall is empty. Please do not enter the hall when the orange signs are showing as the sanitiser is switched on.

The alcohol licence has been updated and the hall is also licenced for music and lotteries.

The hall is available for hire for clubs and events and reduced rates apply to local users. As well as the regular coffee mornings, the next event will be a free Cheese and Wine evening on the 15th October. If you have any suggestions about other activities, please do get in touch.

**10 Coastal Path – Isobel Pring SCC**

The England Coastal Path, including the routes though Kilve Parish was declared a National Trail by Natural England in 2016. Isobel said her job is to promote the path with an emphasis on;

Economy – supporting local businesses with circular walks via shops, pubs etc, walkers’ welcome schemes

Experience – encouraging as wide a range of people as possible to use the path e.g. replacing obstacles such as styles with gates

Engagement – supporting walking groups, litter picking events, history talks etc

Enhancement – improving signage and surfacing

Isobel said she was keen to learn from local communities about how the path can support and benefit them.

Please see the website https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/the-england-coast-path/ or contact Isobel, IPring@somerset.gov.uk for more details

Isobel was asked when the path diversion around Hinkley would be reopened. She said that a date hadn’t been fixed as it was dependant upon the progress of construction work.

**11 Quiet Lanes – Graham Keating and Greg Glendell**

Graham said that there had been a lot of concern about traffic speeds in our narrow lanes, so a committee of Graham Keating, Pat Wooley, Karen Scott, Greg Glendell and Bruce Eyley had formed to look at what might be done. The recent questionnaire for residents was overwhelmingly supportive. Quiet Lanes is a national initiative which can implement lower speed restrictions and appropriate signage to inform drivers. The committee would like a 20mph limit on all the minor roads. It requires the support of SCC Highways and a site visit will be held next week to discuss with the Highway Officer. A video explaining the issues and proposals was shown <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ClsLn69Evw>

Greg spoke briefly to provide some other updates;

The work to the Chantry will be completed by the end of the year after which the Herras fencing will be removed.

The proposal for a permissive path from the end of Rowditch Lane down to the village has progressed with the two landowners currently considering the legal agreements for its creation.

The path at Winrush up to the hill is being moved back to its original route, it will be fenced and trees planted.

If you have any issues with public rights of way please contact Greg who will try to help

**12 Alfoxton –** **Jayaraja**

Jayaraja is the Chair of the Alfoxton Park Trust who bought the site in June 2020 as a Buddhist Eco Retreat Centre. The building is in quite a poor state. Currently the Trust have sufficient funding to install a new sewage system and to update the electrics but are now fundraising to re-roof the building. This fundraising includes personally inscribed tiles for a donation of £250.

The local community has been invited to events such as the readings of the Rime of the Ancient Mariner and a classical music evening. More such events are planned as well as an ongoing series of retreats.

Jayaraja was asked to remind visitors to not use their sat-navs as these direct them via Pardlestone, and to go via Holford instead. Jayaraja apologised and said he was aware of this problem and did provide clear instructions in the directions to visitors.

**13 Quantock Foodbank**

Marlene was unable to attend but had provided a note to thank people for their generous support which has gone to feed over 10,000 people to date. At the present time their stocks are high but with increasing power bills and the reduction to Universal Credit, they are expecting demand to rise again later in the Autumn. Please continue to support the work of the Foodbank.

**14 Local Police update**

The police were unable to send a representative to the meeting but reported that they had recently moved into the Council office in Killick Way, Williton. The team has 3 new PCSO’s. Sue Marks and Sue Thompson are the PCSO’s for our area.

Bike register marking can be provided by the team and they also have new ways of marking valuables to deter thefts. There are also Special Constables, one of whom is operating a drone to help locate missing persons and unauthorised vehicles trespassing on protected land on the Quantocks and Exmoor.

More information can be found at www.avonandsomersetpolice.uk or a new Facebook page called ‘Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing’.

**15 Closing remarks**

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all the contributors and all the attendees. He hoped they found it informative but if anyone has any queries do speak to a member of the Parish Council who will endeavour to help.

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be in May 2022.