

BUCKLAND DINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 16 May 2019 in the Village Hall, Buckland Dinham

Present :

Councillors Peter Corbett and Alan King; Mendip District Councillor Alison Barkshire; Parish Clerk Pauline Short; 12 members of the public

Apologies: Councillor John Reckless, County Councillor Philip Ham, and Viv Street

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, 24 May 2018: Minutes were agreed and signed

Introduction by Councillor Peter Corbett, Chair of the Parish Council:

Cllr Corbett welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he had recently taking the Chair of the council after the resignation of the previous chair Tamsin Aston. In her absence, he thanked Tamsin for all her contribution during her years as Chair. Cllr Corbett then introduced Alison Barkshire who had been elected as our new District Councillor at the recent local government elections and particularly welcomed her on her first visit to Buckland Dinham

District Councillor Alison Barkshire introduced herself more fully and explained that the District Council had changed from Conservative to Lib Dem after the election. She is one of ten Green Party Councillors in the team and hopes to be visiting Buckland often

Cllr Corbett continued by thanking the previous council for all they had contributed during the last four years and he particularly mentioned our previous District Councillor, Edward Drewe and our own Will Phippen, previous Deputy Chair of the Council, thanking them for all they had contributed. They will be much missed

He then talked briefly about the councils activity during the last year. Although lots of other situations had been addressed, the main topic throughout the year had been Traffic Management on the A362 and this work would continue to be added to some substantial progress so far

But first, some more councillors were needed to join the team. At the election time only three people, himself, Cllr Reckless and Cllr King, had stood to be elected. This meant the election was uncontested and all three were automatically appointed. Cllr Corbett explained that Buckland Dinham requires a team of seven councillors to be able to operate properly and the vacancies had been advertised, but further applications would be welcomed. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council had also been postponed to Tuesday 21 May, as there were not sufficient councillors available on the original date to make the essential quorum. This change had the extra benefit of giving more time for volunteers to come forward. At that meeting the three current councillors would co-opt four councillors to join them

Traffic and speed issues on the A362:

Cllr Alan King spoke on behalf of Cllr John Reckless who was unable to be present but who had done a considerable amount of work on this topic during the year, aided by a small group of councillors. Cllr King presented the results of the work done by this group, who also built on other efforts made by previous groups over the years. He outlined the contents of a report made to identify the main issues, include traffic statistics from updated counts, and list possible solutions

Since then the report had been circulated and a number of good meetings had been held with Somerset County Council and our county and district councillors to discuss the possibilities. A number of the suggestions, like crossings with pedestrian operated lights, had been discounted as impractical or because of lack of funding, but it had been established that road markings could be improved and a 20 mph speed limit through the village could be a way forward and, possibly,

be achieved within the next 12 months. Also residents of The Down had campaigned themselves for double white lines between Pillar Lane and their homes and had been successful in getting Somerset Highways and the police to agree that will be done

Cllr King went on to describe a new piece of speed monitoring equipment developed recently in a nearby village. This relatively inexpensive equipment would be unobtrusive and designed to monitor all vehicle speeds, capture the details of offenders on camera and provide the data for the police. Currently it is going through further testing and the council is waiting for more detail

In conclusion, the main proposal is the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit as a first practical step forward. An informal vote from all present was taken at this point to judge a sample of public opinion and the result appeared to be unanimously in favour of the 20mph limit

Cllr Corbett thanked Cllr King for his presentation and then briefly put forward the suggestion of restarting a Speedwatch Group in the village, partly as an effective deterrent to speeding

Open Forum: Cllr Corbett then led an Open Forum for other questions and suggestions from the public. This still centred mainly on the topic of the main road and speed

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm for more discussion over refreshments