The Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 8th April 2019 in the Parish Room, Burrington, with refreshments from 7.00 pm

Letter from Paul Keel, Chairman of Burrington Parish Council

Dear Parishioner,

I hope you will be able to come to the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 8th April in the Parish Room. If you are unable to attend, this newsletter should give you an idea of the activities the Parish Council have undertaken during the past year. All our minutes of the meetings are available for anyone to read or view on the Parish Council website.

In the coming year, in addition to routine matters such as running the Burial Ground, overseeing the Church Yard maintenance, planning applications and managing the Public Toilets in Burrington we will respond to many of the Public Consultations that are issued by both National Government and North Somerset Council.

The Council has met seven times during the year and discussed many local issues. Councillors have attended many other meetings during the year, such as the Rickford Dash sub committee, the Langford and Churchill Mini bus committee, the Airport Parish Councils Consultative meetings and the Town and Parish Forums, arranged by North Somerset Council about issues that affect the Parish. During the last year we held three extra open meetings: first, on the Application to make Rickford – Burrington Lane into a Byway Open to All Traffic; second, a Police Forum to explain the implications of cost cuts and their response to support rural areas; and third, an introduction to the village defibrillator.

We have kept the Parish precept at the same level as last year and feel that we should be able to maintain services to the same standard.

Please feel free to raise any questions about the activities of the Parish Council at the Annual Meeting, with myself, other Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk or through the Parish website; www.burrington-pc.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Paul Keel
Annual Parish Meeting on 9th April 2018: At the Annual Parish Meeting last year 26 members of the public were present and 3 apologies offered. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited questions and concerns from members of the public. The Rickford/Burrington Lane Rights of Way application was discussed and the North Somerset Council Definitive Map was shown on the screen. It was explained that either end of the lane was a byway joined by a footpath in the middle. The Tithe Map of 1838 and the Ordnance Survey Map of 1884 were also displayed. Much concern was shown by all present and the Council undertook to keep all informed about progress on the Parish website.

A Resident living on Rickford Rise was concerned about the recycling collections. The Parish Council undertook to investigate and the issue has since been resolved.

In addition to the published report the Chairman offered his thanks to the many people who serve on the groups and committees that help in the smooth running of parish life; ranging from maintenance of the Burial Ground, the cleaning of the toilets in Burrington Combe and the trimming and sweeping of paths. Thanks were also expressed to Jeff Shipway, our area officer, for his assistance with drainage and highway problems in the Parish.

Reports were also received from The Parish Councils Airport Association, the Wedmore Charities, the Conservators and the Churchill and Langford Minibus Society. PCSO Pen Gatenby reported that there was no increase in crime but that the cattle in the Combe were causing a lot of concern and wasted Police time. Councillors undertook to raise the issues with North Somerset Council Highways Department.

The Annual Accounts were displayed on screen, explained to those present and adopted.

Parish Maintenance: The Parish Council has been very aware of fly-tipping in the Parish and we are reporting all case as they occur, sadly Jeff Shipway our Parish Liaison Officer has moved on to new pastures and we wish him well and thank him for all his help. We hope that we can have a similar close relationship with the new appointment in the future.

The Burial Ground has been mowed and cared for to a high standard by Jeff Martin. Alan Green, our Village orderly, trims the hedges and keeps the bus shelters and many of the paths in the Parish tidy. Pete Marshall trims the Burrington/Rickford Lane twice a year.
The Flooding in Lower Langford is still causing concerns, we understand that Wessex Water has plans in hand to ensure that the sewers and rain water drainage are separated.

**Parish Defibrillators:** As reported last year, the Parish Council has bought a defibrillator and a defibrillator safe that are now installed in the telephone box in the village square. It is listed with the Emergency services and has to be inspected on a monthly basis to remain operational. We thank Ian Hillman and family for undertaking this duty and reporting to the Ambulance service.

An information evening was held in the Parish Room when Jo Wessell and Ian Hillman kindly explained the use of the defibrillator and CRE to 27 residents. As a result of the evening, interest was shown in raising funds to acquire another defibrillator for the Rickford area. Funds from the Duck Race and the Rickford Dash have been given to the Parish Council to hold with the aim of buying this second defibrillator. It is planned to show the first one at the Annual Meeting.

**The Parish Web Site:** The Parish web site is updated weekly and contains a wide range of local information. In 2018, the web site was visited on 16,050 separate occasions, compared with 14,123 occasions in 2017. There were 9,570 unique visitors, (8,025 last year) who made 51,020 page visits, (73,211 last year).

The number of visitors was 19% up, but the number of pages visited was 30% down and the number of pages per visit was 39% down. These changes may be a reflection of the fact that only some pages are updated regularly. (Data are from *Advanced Web Statistics*.)

All contributions are welcome, especially information about events or local history, blogs, photographs, videos or literary items. Please get in touch through the web site <http://www.burrington-pc.org.uk> or the Parish Clerk.

**Planning:** We have responded to consultations on the **Joint Spatial Plan** and the **Joint Local Transport Plan** (for the West of England area), on the **North Somerset Local Plan (Issues and Options)** and on plans for **airport expansion**, including a current planning application. Our concerns include impacts on local roads, villages and the countryside. Details are on the Parish web site

**Speedwatch:** The previous team of speed watchers has stood down but the Parish Council still has all the equipment that is needed if any residents would like to undertake speed checks in the parish, after receiving essential training from the Police which we would be happy to support.
Rickford Lane/Burrington Lane: North Somerset Council’s Rights of Way committee refused the application of Axbridge Bridleways Association to classify the lane as Byway open to all Traffic. After we held an open meeting in June to explain the application process, many letters of objection were sent to North Somerset Council and after much research through minute books and studying the old tithe maps, the Parish Council responded to the application, as did many local residents.

Axbridge Bridleways Association and Mrs Craggs have now appealed against the decision and a Planning Inspector will be appointed to review the case. We have confirmed to the Planning Inspectorate our previous representations on the application and support of the decision of North Somerset Council. Updates will be posted on the Parish website when further information is available.

On the 1838 Tithe Map, Burrington Lane and Rickford Lane are two footpaths:

![Tithe Map](image)

Police Report: In November, the Police held a meeting in the Parish Room. PCSO Marie Broomfield, PC Paul Morris and Sgt Mark Raby came along to explain the new ways of working and changes in policing to the Parish. There is a drive to push Neighbourhood Watch and also Farm Watch to encourage local communities to report incidents and to help look after their communities. It also sends alerts to each member, so allowing them to find out what is happening in their area.

There have been several local incidents that have not been reported. The Police are encouraging those who suffer criminal activity to report them so that they are made aware and can assign additional resources to the area as required. Unless they are made aware of such incidents, resources will be prioritised to other areas where reporting is taking place.
**Burrington Combe:** The Parish Council has been very concerned about the number of accidents within the Coombe. The Council has had discussions with North Somerset officers about the speeding, the volume of traffic, of both cars and heavy goods and have been asking for more signage and that motorists should be made more aware that this is a recreational area for walkers, cyclists, cavers and climbers. Many of the accidents affect local residents and businesses and the council feel that the area should be treated as a special case especially as the horses, goats and cattle have a right to be grazing on the common land.

The Council is hoping that we can make progress during the next year and signage can be improved.

**Burrington Combe Toilets:** The Parish Council has been able to manage them effectively with only a few minor repairs and maintenance issues during the year. The Council is aware of the high volume of use that these facilities have and is thankful to groups of outdoor activity providers and the Mendip Hills Group that support the Council in keeping them open. With their support and donations in the “safe post”, and by keeping the costs lower than in the past, we are confident that we can manage to keep them open for the future at no cost to parishioners. The Husher family keep the toilets clean and to a high standard. These are now the only toilet facilities open in the AONB.

**Churchill and Langford Mini Bus:** The society is financially sound and has two vehicles, one of which is new, but is desperately short of drivers and people to help run the society. If you can help, please look at the Parish web site for details of whom to contact.

**Emails:** During the last year the Parish Council received more than 1500 emails, of which 750 were relevant and responded to or posted on the Parish Council website. 13 Planning Applications have been discussed and 4 tree and hedge applications in the Langford conservation area have been considered. The Parish Council has also responded to the Bristol Airport, Blagdon Water Gardens and Blagdon Gardens (Says Lane) applications. There is also one enforcement order that the Council has been following with interest.

**Transparency:** The Parish Council web site, where minutes and accounts are posted, is available to all. We also send reports on a regular basis to the local press. Notice Boards are still used, as we are aware that not everybody has an internet connections. This Newsletter is also an important medium for communicating with parishioners.
100 Years Ago: When researching the Rickford/Burrington Lane Rights of Way application, much time was spent sifting through told minute books and it was noted that the water supply to Burrington was being discussed in 1918/19. The supply from Twin Brook was piped to the village and extended to Langford Lane and Langford Court.

B E Somers Enq
Langford
Dear Bristol
Dear Mr Somers,

Burrington Water Supply

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th inst.

On Tuesday, April 16th at 3:30 pm Mr Powell and I attended a meeting of the Burrington Parish Council, on which occasion plans were produced and explanations given, clearly setting out the facts that the scheme prepared by Mr G A Mills for a supply of water to the Langford Court Estate, followed in spirit and letter the arrangements already arrived at by correspondence between the Parish Council and ourselves, acting for Mr Mills, viz. that we were taking overflow only from the tank at Puck after efficiency of supply was deemed to the existing system which various tests had assisted in inaugurating or, rather rendering more effective.

It was further explained that Mr Mills was replacing the old main from the Twin Brook, by an iron main to ensure complete adequacy of water.

15 Orchard Staat
Bristol June 12th 1919
Accounts: During 2018/19, the Parish Council precept was maintained at £3,000. Other income was £6,861. For the full year, expenditure is currently estimated at £8,300. (These are estimates at 28th February 2019.)

The precept will be maintained at £3,000 for the coming year.

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TOTAL RECEIPTS £9,861.85 TOTAL EXPENDITURE £8,149.03

BALANCE £19,253.07

Comprising:

Current Account £5,369.31
Deposit Account £6,605.18
Liquidity Account £8,054.58

less uncleared cheques £776.00

BALANCE £19,253.07
The Rickford-Burrington Dash: For the third year running, the Parish Council formed a subcommittee to arrange events in the School playing field in June. The main event of the day was the fun run around the village for all ages, followed by a family sports day including, music, BBQ, a bar, a bouncy castle, sideshows and cream teas, with many parishioners and children from the Primary School attending. The Council was pleased that so many gave their support by attending these events as it has made their organisation so worthwhile. Proceeds have been shared between Holy Trinity Church, the Primary School, the Defibrillator Fund and the Parish Room. The Rickford-Burrington Dash team was led by Johnnie Pratt who sadly was unable to attend but his leadership and organisation ensured that everything ran smoothly. The date for this year’s event has not yet been set, but a committee is looking at dates.

Broadband: After waiting several years for connections to high-speed broadband through the Government-funded scheme, Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS), TrueSpeed has made the commercial investment to provide a fibre-optic to the premises network in the parish.

Some residents were connected in February 2019. Services to other addresses are promised soon, although without firm programme dates. The CDS scheme is currently stalled owing to problems with their service provider, Gigaclear.

Dates for your Diary:

1st Friday of each month: Coffee Morning in the Parish Room, 8.45 to 11.00 am
June (tba): Rickford & Burrington Dash
Sunday 7th July at 11:00 am: Rock of Ages Service in Burrington Combe
Saturday 13th July: Rickford Duck Race
July (tba): Burrington Fete

Members of the Parish Council:

Paul Keel (Chairman), Rickford Farm, Rickford, Burrington, BS40 7AJ
Roger Daniels (Vice Chair), Lodgewood House, Upper Langford, BS40 5DQ
Richard Dors, Tankards, Burrington, BS40 7AD
Helen Jackson, The Hames, Ham Link, Burrington, BS40 7AR
Eddie Kinsey, 2 The Bridge, Langford Road, Lower Langford, BS40 5BL.

The Parish Clerk is:

Teresa Martin, Applegarth, Rickford Rise, Burrington, Bristol, BS40 7AN
Tel: 07908 566825, email: burringtonpc@yahoo.co.uk