



Burrington Parish Council Newsletter: March 2021

Dear Parishioner,

Due to Covid Restrictions that were announced on 22nd February 2021, we are unable to hold the Annual Parish Council meeting in the Parish Room as would be normal, during the first or second week in April. Indeed, no Parish Council meetings have been held in the Parish Room this year, due to government guidelines, and the council has been meeting virtually via "Zoom". We hope that this newsletter will give you an insight into the activities of the Parish Council during the year. All the minutes of our meetings are available for anyone to read on the Parish Council website (www.burrington-pc.org.uk).

The Council met 8 times during the year and at our September meeting we welcomed a new councillor, Mark Northcott, filling a casual vacancy created by the retirement of Eddie Kinsey who had served as a councillor for 4 years. The Council thanks Eddie for his input and wisdom while he served on the council. The position of councillor was advertised in the appropriate legal way and 4 residents showed interest and applied. All applicants were of a high standard.

Mark Hughes, the Parish Council's Liaison Officer from North Somerset, has retired from his post at North Somerset and the Council wish him well in his retirement and thanks him for his support, we will miss his help. Mark's successor is yet to be appointed. We are grateful for the support and advice of Cllr Patrick Keating, particularly on planning matters, and his participation in Parish Council Zoom sessions.

Despite the Covid restrictions we have still had to discuss planning applications, 15 in total and 4 tree felling applications. We have supported North Somerset Council in their objections to the expansion of Bristol Airport; we have responded to the North Somerset Local Plan (2035) and we have also suggested upgrading certain Public Rights of Way within the Parish.

The management of the Burial Ground, reports of potholes, speeding issues in Lower Langford with the blocked drains and fly tipping have been discussion topics during the past year. The Council has been kept informed of all matters by our Clerk, Teresa Martin, who has forwarded in excess of 400 relevant emails to the councillors.

The Rickford Defibrillator has been purchased using funds generously donated by the Plume of Feathers following the Rickford Duck Race, together with donations from the Rickford Village Association and also those raised at the Rickford Dash. The defibrillator has now been fitted and is listed with the Ambulance Service and is checked by Matt Hartley. It is hoped that, when Covid regulations allow, a "*Meet the Defib Evening*" for local residents will be arranged. The Burrington Defibrillator is being checked by the Hillman family as both have to be inspected weekly to meet the standards that the Ambulance service expect.

The public conveniences in Burrington Combe were closed during the first lockdown on the instruction of the Police. However, they had to be inspected and cleaned on a regular basis due to people defecating in the doorways and the surrounding area. Unfortunately, we have lost the support of those activity groups that cave and rock climb in the Combe who have contributed towards the running costs. We have since decided to reopen the conveniences to save the mess and to keep the area clean, and we have been looking for financial support to help us continue to keep this important amenity open to the public. We appreciate the efforts of the Husher family to keep the conveniences open and clean.

Due to Covid restrictions many young people have struggled to find placements for their community work for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Two young parishioners have offered to carry out litter picking and footpath clearance within the parish. This started off well, but the council decided that during the latest lockdown they should cease work, so that they were not put at risk. We hope they will offer to continue when restrictions are lifted.

The Parish Council website is currently being redeveloped with the support of a local digital marketing agency. The new site will use a different platform which will improve both user accessibility and the Council's ability to create and maintain a user focused website. The Parish Council is also considering what other forms of social media could be used alongside the updated website, which will be released in due course.

Normally, the Churchill and Langford Minibus Society provides door to door transport for members, making trips for shopping, healthcare services and social events. It also provides transport for various local clubs and societies. The usual trips have not taken place during the Covid Pandemic, but the society has instead been offering services such as food shopping and medication deliveries to those in need. Hopefully, the usual timetable will resume as soon as possible after restrictions end. Details will be posted on the parish website when they are available.

If you wish to raise any questions with the Parish Council please write, email or telephone the Parish Clerk or any of the councillors:

Parish Clerk, Teresa Martin:	<u>burringtonpc@yahoo.co.uk</u>
Chairman, Paul Keel:	<u>paul_keel@hotmail.co.uk</u>
Vice Chairman, Roger Daniels:	<u>roger.p.daniels@outlook.com</u>
Richard Dors:	<u>richard.dors75@gmail.com</u>
Helen Jackson:	<u>622jackson@gmail.com</u>
Mark Northcott:	<u>drnorthy@live.co.uk</u>

You can also contact the Parish Council on the Web site:
www.burrington-pc.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Paul Keel Chairman

The Parish Council's annual accounts for 2020/2021 will be posted on the web site after they have been audited and the Council Tax precept will be maintained at its current level for another year.