

# Sampford Brett Annual Parish Meeting

## Wednesday 8th March 2023

Minutes of the Sampford Brett Annual Parish Meeting which took place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Sampford Brett Village Hall, beginning at 6.30pm.

**Parish Councillors Present:** N Brodrick (Chair), B Martin, J Russell, and S Voller

**In Attendance:** County Councillor R Woods.  
Mr D Croxton, Chair of the West Somerset Community Car Schemes Partnership.  
Five Members of the Public and Mrs T-A Biss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

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**The meeting began at 6:30pm**

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY TRANSPORT, EVIE AND BICKLIFTS, BY DAVID CROXTON, CHAIR OF THE WEST SOMERSET COMMUNITY CAR SCHEMES PARTNERSHIP

- 2.1 Cllr Brodrick welcomed David Croxton, the Chair of the West Somerset Community Car Schemes Partnership.
- 2.2 The partnership currently is the umbrella for fourteen schemes across Somerset which are delivered through the Volunteer Section and are “not for profit” organisations.
- 2.3 The Bickliffts scheme has a pool of volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to supply transport for residents. There are currently six drivers with between 200-300 trips per year, so volunteer drivers are always welcome. The scheme pays drivers 35p per mile and provides vehicle insurance for these trips. Residents must register with Bickliffts and two days’ notice for the journey is asked (journeys are usually local to the area).
- 2.4 The “Evie” scheme covers Bicknoller, Sampford Brett and Watchet. This scheme has one electric vehicle which is based at Bicknoller and is also dependent on volunteer drivers. This vehicle can carry four passengers and one wheelchair.
- 2.5 Any Question session:
  - *Are drivers committed to 24hrs availability?* No, drivers decide their own commitment period.
  - *When is the service available?* The service looks to runs in office times, but on occasions can runout side this period.
  - *Confirmation about insurance?* During the period drivers are driving for the schemes there is a specific insurance, but you are advised to inform your own insurance provider.
  - *Does the service run seven days a week?* Yes, the service does run seven days a week (available drivers permitting).

- *Example of journey distance for Bicklifts?* This is a local service only e.g., Taunton transport stations would be an example of the longest distance travelled.
- *Does the scheme pay parking charges?* No, the person booking the transport pays for any parking charges, however Musgrove Park Hospital do allow those using the scheme to park for free.

Refer to Appendix A for information leaflets.

2.5 Cllr Brodrick thanked David for the informative presentation on the history and services provided by the Bicklifts and Evie schemes.

### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH 2022**

Apologies received from Cllrs J Swan, T Skinner, and S Miles due to illness, travel disruption and work commitments. Four members of the public also sent apologies due to Covid.

#### **Resolution:**

The minutes of the Sampford Brett Annual Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 approved as being a true and correct record and signed as such.

### **4. ANNUAL REPORT – by Cllr J Swan (Parish Chair) and presented by Cllr N Brodrick**

#### **4.1 Councillors**

There have been several changes to the parish councillors in the last year due to the May elections and some co-options:

- Martin Blazey, Bernie Doyle and Diane Brooks stood down at the election; Cllr Swan sent thanks to them all for their many years of loyal service.
- Julian Russell, Brian Martin, Stephen Voller and Tracey Skinner joined the council; and Cllr Swan would like to take this opportunity to welcome them.

There have also been changes at District and County Council level – and there are more changes to come as there will be a single Unitary Authority for Somerset from the beginning of April 2023.

- Cllr Swan took this opportunity to thank Loretta Whetlor, Ian Aldridge and Hugh Davies who have been the District Councillors for several years.
- Hugh Davies (wearing his second hat!) and Rosemary Woods elected as the County Councillors in May and will be continuing as our councillors on the new Somerset Council.

Moving to a unitary authority is a major upheaval and only time will tell how well it works.

#### **4.2 Defibrillator**

- During the year, the defibrillator was recalled for an upgrade and subsequently had a new battery.
- Cllr Miles ran two CPR/defibrillator training sessions in the autumn. They were very well received but attendance was rather disappointing.

#### 4.3 Flood Management

- Following the change in councillors, Brian Martin took over from Martin Blazey as Flood Warden.
- A major storm on August 16th caused flood damage in several properties, However, the night brought the best out of Sampford Brett with lots of people rallying round to help others – Cllr Swan thanks everyone.
- As a result of discussions with the Environment Agency the Parish Council were encouraged to apply for a grant to improve the flood resilience. This was successful and in the next couple of months the Council will be erecting a shed behind the village hall garage to store flood defence equipment. The Council will also be increasing the supply of aqua sacs etc.
- The Council will also support the formalising of a flood volunteer response group, with training session organised for volunteers later this month. Volunteers are welcome, please talk to Cllr Martin.
- Lastly, the Environment Agency are going to install two flood gauges in the village stream. These will send automatic alerts to nominated people if the stream level starts to rise. One will be located by the grill outside Sampford House and the other sited at the bottom of Brett Close.

#### 4.4 Planning

Six applications have been decided during the year affecting five properties; five were granted, one refused, and one other was withdrawn.

- Those approved were extensions and updating at Mouse Cottage, Kiln Ridge, Castaways (Brett Close) and Applegarth (Tower Hill)
- Demolition of Cloverfield Barn (Weacombe) and replacement with a new house was refused.

#### 4.5 Grit bins

The village hall management committee approached the Parish Council with a request for the purchase of a small grit bin which could be placed close to the entrance of the hall to enable easier salting of the ramp. This request followed a member of the public slipping on ice whilst entering the hall. This request was approved, and the grit bin is in place.

#### 4.6 Telephone box

- There was an issue at the beginning of the year with water ingress in the phone box which was damaging any books that were stored on the floor. The glass panes have now been sealed with silicone, so it is now watertight.
- Terri Pratt continues to look after the library in the telephone box –Cllr Swan wished to thank Terri.

#### 4.7 Seat by bus shelter

One of the wooden slats rotted away soon after the seat was renovated last year. Phil Swan has now replaced it and Cllr Swan sent her thanks.

#### 4.8 Footpaths

Cllr Swan sent thanks to Cllr Brodrick for continuing to consult with the council's footpaths officer. Over the last few years, the Parish Council has worked steadily to get footpath stiles changed to kissing gates. The last stile was on the path between Mill Farm and Williton. Getting it changed to a gate was harder than the Council expected as referral to the land registry was required to identify the owner. Cllr Swan is pleased to report that no stiles remain, and all access is through kissing gates.

4.9 Precept

Following the December Parish Meeting, Councillors resolved that to cover rising costs a £300 increase in the Parish Precept for 2023/24 was requires increasing it to £3,700.


D J Swan. 08.03.23

4. The Chair thanked all those in attendance and the meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Chairman's Signature: DJ Swan

Date: 13th March 2024

Issue 11 (Sampford Brett)



**BICKLIFTS**  
Community Transport Project

The community transport service  
provided by and for  
the residents of Bicknoller  
and neighbouring areas

**ABOUT BICKLIFTS**

The **BICKLIFTS** community car scheme commenced operations on 1st September 1999 in response to a need expressed by the local community. The scheme aims to overcome many of the shortcomings of public transport services in rural areas, particularly in respect of accessibility of such services to the frail and elderly. The scheme is open for use by all, regardless of means, and Somerset Travelpass holders may enjoy a 50% discount on **BICKLIFT** fares. All **BICKLIFTS** drivers have been DBS checked and all journeys are covered by the scheme's public liability insurance. For passengers with mobility issues, **BICKLIFTS** has a lightweight folding, but comfortable, wheelchair that can be provided if requested when a journey is booked.

**BICKLIFTS** endeavours to be as flexible as possible, but cannot cover every transport need. It is not a substitute taxi service!

**WHAT JOURNEYS ARE ELIGIBLE?**

- Shopping, banking, collecting prescriptions etc.
- Social occasions, such as visiting relatives and friends
- Attendance at hospitals or clinics for which transport is not provide by other services
- Trips to and from Taunton and Bridgwater bus/train stations and local bus stops ("from" trips available only to users equipped with a mobile phone).

**WHAT JOURNEYS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?**

- Journeys to work or school
- Trips outside a 20 mile radius from Bicknoller shop
- Trips for which hospital transport services are available

**HOW DOES BICKLIFTS OPERATE?**

You must be pre-registered with **BICKLIFTS** before making a booking (forms available from co-ordinator). When you need transport, contact the Co-ordinator and book your trip – stating the primary reason for the journey and giving the names of all passengers to be carried. Be considerate regarding the timing of calls and give at least 2 days notice (only under exceptional circumstances will bookings be accepted for trips less than 2 days ahead) The co-ordinator will confirm the availability of a driver and the fare. The co-ordinator will also be the final arbiter on any question regarding eligibility of the trip.

If a telephone answering machine is connected when you call, do not hang up. Leave your name, telephone number and details of the trip you wish to book. The co-ordinator will get back to you as soon as possible and confirm your travel arrangements.

If you have been issued with a disabled badge, bring it with you - it will help the driver to maximise your comfort and convenience. If you use a walking aid or wheelchair, advise the co-ordinator.

**HOW MUCH DOES A BICKLIFT COST?**

Typical fares are listed in the table overleaf. **Sharing is encouraged and fares may be split between all passengers sharing the trip.**

**WHO IS THE CO-ORDINATOR?**

Mrs Lucy Croxton, telephone 01984 656489

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?**

If you would like to help with operation of the scheme, either as a driver or administrator, please inform the Co-ordinator.

**Typical return journey fares per trip. Sharing encouraged).**

Sampford Brett (Residence) to	Fare "per passenger"			
	1	2	3	4
<b>Bicknoller</b>	£2.40	£1.20	£0.80	£0.60
<i>Travelpass holder (after 9.30 am)</i>	£1.20	£0.60	£0.40	£0.30
<b>Williton</b>	£3.60	£1.80	£1.20	£0.90
<i>Travelpass holder (after 9.30 am)</i>	£1.80	£0.90	£0.60	£0.45
<b>Watchet</b>	£4.80	£2.40	£1.60	£1.20
<i>Travelpass holder (after 9.30 am)</i>	£2.40	£1.20	£0.80	£0.60
<b>Minehead / Dunster / Bish. Lyd.</b>	£10.80	£5.40	£3.60	£2.70
<i>Travelpass holder (after 9.30 am)</i>	£5.40	£2.70	£1.80	£1.35
<b>Taunton</b>	£15.60	£7.80	£5.20	£3.90
<i>Travelpass holder (after 9.30 am)</i>	£7.80	£3.90	£2.60	£1.95
<b>Bridgwater &amp; Hankridge Park</b>	£15.60	£7.80	£5.20	£3.90
<i>Travelpass holder (after 9.30 am)</i>	£6.60	£3.30	£2.20	£1.65

Typical fares are based on "drivers" mileage bands without detours. **Extra mileage resulting from detours requested by passengers is charged at 40p per mile.** ALL trips are charged as return journeys (as our driver has to get home!). There is no discount for single (one-way) trips, but no extra charge for additional passengers picked up from same start point or along direct route. Passengers producing a valid Somerset TravelPass may benefit from a 50% concession (max £5.00 per single journey). Fares collected by driver at completion of trip.

**HOW IS BICKLIFTS FUNDED?**

Running costs are met by fares from users. Drivers, all volunteers, are reimbursed running expenses on a "per driver mile" basis. Voluntary donations from users, friends and supporters are always welcome. The Travelpass concession is funded by and administered by Somerset County Council.



PID

**Passenger Registration Information**

Bicklifts is not a taxi or mini-cab service. It is a Community Transport service run by volunteers. All passengers must be pre-registered passengers and all trips pre-booked.

If you are either a Bicknoller resident, or are resident in an adjacent parish that does not have its own Community Transport service, you may register with the project by providing the information requested below. The information you provide will be held on the Bicklifts database and used only for operational and statistical purposes directly connected with the running of Bicklifts. If requested, it may also be divulged to legitimate third parties such as Somerset County Council and/or West Somerset District Council.

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Style (Mr, Mrs, Ms etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Housename \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use a Wheelchair or Zimmer frame? (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you registered disabled? (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the level of any disability \_\_\_\_\_

**Somerset TravelPass (TP) concessions are available on Bicklifts, to a maximum of £5.00 per passenger. If you have a TP, please provide:-**

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Valid to (date) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Print name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If not applicant, what is your relationship to applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed form to Chris Smith, Gatchells, 5 Dashwoods Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EQ

**BICKWATCH EVIE – HERE4YOU DRIVER ENROLMENT FORM**

<b>Driver Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone Numbers:</b>	Home: _____ Mobile: _____
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Driver Checks</b>	Valid Driving Licence? <b>Yes / No</b> Points on Licence? <b>Yes / No</b> If yes how many: _____ Valid Car Insurance? <b>Yes / No</b> (This must include the insurance company being made aware of voluntary driving), even if not using own vehicle Valid MOT? <b>Yes / No</b> (If the vehicle is older than 3 years) Declaration of health issues – are there any medical conditions or medication being taken that would affect their ability to safely drive <b>Yes / No</b> If yes, please specify: _____
	<b>Vehicle Details: Give both if Drives &amp; BickWatch</b> Make and model: _Nissan ENV 200_____ Nissan Leaf _____ Vehicle Registration: __WH21 AJU _____
	<b>Vehicle and Driver Restrictions:</b> Please tick boxes that apply to you: <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to accommodate larger mobility aids (e.g. Zimmer frame, folding wheelchair) <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to assist with lifting (passenger/passenger belongings) <input type="checkbox"/> No pets <input type="checkbox"/> No evening appointments <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please list): _____
	I agree to advise the car scheme coordinator if any of the above details change
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Printed:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	

Please return completed forms to Donna Stevens, [coordinator@watchconnects.com](mailto:coordinator@watchconnects.com) Tel 07599 955096

**Application form (Somerset Residents Only) for an English National Concessionary Travel Scheme Pass**



Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS, using Black Ink. Mark check boxes with a ✓

**Your District/Borough**

All applicants must be resident (sole or principal residence) in one of the following: (Please select your District/Borough) - to whom you pay your Council Tax.

- Mendip  Sedgemoor  South Somerset  Taunton Deane  West Somerset

**Your Details**

Please complete in block capitals

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Female  Male

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

National Insurance Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility**

I confirm that I am applying under the following category: (please tick one box)

Pensionable Age: (Please check that you are eligible at [www.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age) or [www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary) and use the age entitlement ready reckoner).

Disabled person: (Please read the associated guidance notes before completing this form and then specify the category that most appropriately describes your disability) (tick one box only).

- A. Blind or partially sighted  E. Without arms or long term loss of use of both arms  
 B. Profoundly or severely deaf  F. Learning disability which must have started before adulthood  
 C. Without speech  G. Person not permitted to drive on medical grounds  
 D. Severe difficulty in walking

- please tick one of the boxes below, indicating reason  
 Epilepsy  Severe Mental Disorder  
 Sudden Attacks of Giddiness or Fainting  
 Unable to read a Registration Plate  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Data Sharing Consent**

Somerset County Council has collected the above personal data for the purpose of providing you with an English National Concessionary Travel Pass. Once the application has been approved this information will be stored electronically and all paper evidence once no longer required, will be securely destroyed. If you are applying on grounds of disability and Somerset County Council's representatives find the supporting evidence you have provided is not e.g. adequate, robust, full or clear enough to issue you with a travel pass, Somerset County Council could contact the evidence provider direct and share information/evidence you have provided to request clarification or further information regarding your disability (only) to help process your application.

If you are willing to give your consent to this data being shared please sign below.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Securely attach your low gloss colour passport style photo here

Please turnover to find out what to do next. →

**What to do next**



**Returning your Application Form**

Please return the completed application form to the following address:  
 Somerset County Council, PPC302, Transporting Somerset, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY.  
 Please ensure you read the guidance notes for this application, available at [www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary) and provide appropriate evidence for age, residency and disability categories where appropriate; then tick to confirm you have enclosed it.

- One recent low gloss colour passport style photograph (name & postcode written on the reverse in block capitals).  
 Photocopy of proof of age e.g. a copy of Medical Card, Driving Licence, Passport.  
 Photocopy of proof of residence e.g. copy of Council Tax Bill or Utility Bill.  
 Photocopy of proof of disability (if you are applying as a disabled applicant) See guidance notes.

Please Note: Applications will be rejected if any required evidence is missing.

**Data Protection Information**

Data Controller - Somerset County Council  
 Purpose for processing - Provision of Concessionary bus travel pass and its usage to monitor and prevent misuse.  
 Legal basis for processing - By law, under The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 Fraud Act 2006  
 Data Sharing - The personal data provided will be shared with the customer records management provider  
 Transfers abroad - this data will not be transferred abroad  
 Data Retention - this data will be retained for a period of 7 years after the record has been deactivated to meet the Department for Transport requirements  
 Your Rights - You have the right to ask Somerset County Council to a copy of your data, the right to rectify or erase your personal data, and the right to object to processing. However these rights are only applicable if the Council has other legal obligation concerning that data.  
 You also have the right to complain to the regulator, <https://ico.org.uk/>  
 Consequences: If you do not supply this information to us, we will not be able to provide you with a concessionary bus travel pass.  
 For more information see [www.somerset.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/privacy)

**Declaration**

I certify that the information given on this form is correct and I am a permanent resident in Somerset. I meet the qualifying age criteria or confirm my disability proof is accurate and current. I understand that the authority is required by law to protect the public funds it administers. It may also share information provided to it with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, in order to prevent and detect fraud.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unable to fill out the form yourself, someone else can do it for you, provided they state in what capacity they are doing so.

To request this document in an alternative format, please call 0300 123 2224