# Sampford Brett Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Sampford Brett Annual Parish Meeting which took place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Sampford Brett Village Hall, commencing at 6.30pm.

Parish Councillors Present: J Swan (Chairman), N Brodrick (Vice Chairman), M Blazey and B Doyle

In Attendance:District Councillors L Whetlor and I Aldridge.Five Members of the Public and Mrs T-A Biss (Clerk and Responsible Financial<br/>Officer)

### The meeting commenced at 6:30pm

# 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

# 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2021

Apologies received from Cllrs D Brooks and S Miles due to illness and family commitments.

# **Resolution:**

The minutes of the Sampford Brett Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 were approved as being a true and accurate record and signed as such.

# 3. ANNUAL REPORT – Presented by Cllr J Swan (Chairman)

### 3.1 Two Valleys Project

The Two Valleys Project which has involved running a natural flood maintenance development in the Williton Area which goes from the Quantocks to Exmoor, covering the catchment area which flows into the Doniford and Monksilver streams has continued. The project team have worked with Landowners to figure out where to put more natural solutions in place to help reduce the risk of flooding in the area. It is not about building massive attenuation features, it is about putting a pond in the right place, putting wood in the streams at the right places where it is not blocking any bridges - everything that can allow the flow of water over the surface during heavy rain fall to slowdown. Funding to continue this work will cease at the end of this month but the monitoring programme will continue.

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# 3.3 Village flooding

The work on the Doniford Stream has now been completed and thanks goes to District Cllr I Aldridge and Cllr M Blazey for their support in moving the project forward. The Parish Council has been requested by SW&T to collate information relating to the responsibility of riparian owners within Sampford Brett.

- 3.4 Planning applications; 9 during the year 2021, with 8 granted and 1 refused: Granted:
  - (a) Removal of Condition in respect of landscaping at Memoirs.
  - (b) Erection of dwelling with detached garage at Former Union Quarry.
  - (c) Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house at Cloverfields Barn.
  - (d) Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic curtilage with siting of converted storage container at Lower Thornes House.
  - (e) Siting of converted storage containers at Lower Thornes House.
  - (f) Erection of first floor extension over attached garage at 66 Tower Hill.
  - (g) Erection of a glazed link on the north elevation at The Barn, Elmfield.

# Refused:

(i) Demolition of agricultural building and erection of dwelling at Cloverfields Barn.

# 3.5 Local Government

The Government has confirmed that Somerset's five councils will be replaced by a single council delivering all council services to communities in the county.

The election will take place on the 5 May 2022, and these are crucial elections for Somerset with the creation of a new, unitary council in April 2023 – the first major change to the way the county is governed in almost 50 years.

For their first year, the councillors will take responsibility for all current County Council services and oversee the local government reorganisation to establish a single unitary council on 1 April 2023.

From 1 April 2023, the 110 councillors of the unitary council will be responsible for services that are currently delivered by the county and four district councils, ranging from adults and children's social care to highways and housing, and from libraries to planning and licensing. Town, and parish council elections also take place on 5 May

# 3.6 Local Community Networks (LCNs)

The LCNs are being developed to support the new Somerset Council when it replaces the current county and district councils in 2023. The proposed purpose of LCNs is to make sure that local areas will have an ongoing voice to shape the new council to suit local needs.

The Parish Council is awaiting clarification and further information. Somerset County Council confirmed they are currently working on the following issues:

- Develop and consult on potential LCN geographies.
- Learn more from similar networks in other Unitary areas.
- Draw up LCN governance arrangements.
- Work with LCN pilots to assess what works and create toolkits that will help all LCNs, ready for when the new council is in place.

# 3.6 Telephone box

Thanks goes to Terri Pratt for continuing to co-ordinate the books, games etc. resources which has continued to grow.

Initialled by: NJB

- 3.7 Climate Emergency Fund established by Somerset County Council.
  - (a) Community car share scheme; Bickwatch Community Electric Vehicle This project, which is a collaboration of efforts between Bicknoller Parish, Sampford Brett Parish and Watchet Town Councils, is soon to launch. The electric vehicle has been collected and inspected by the groups and a Community Vehicle coordinator has been appointed. This role has received full funding for one year and will employ an individual for 15 hours a week to oversee the day-to-day operation of both the existing Watchet Electric Community Car and the new Bickwatch vehicle, which is larger, accessible EV. This vehicle will be available to all members of the community for an affordable tariff, and subsidised rates will be offered to those in possession of valid travel pass. Volunteer drivers are required.
  - (b) The bid for renewable energy for the village hall solar PV panels and air-source heat pump was unsuccessful.
- 3.9 Footpaths Cllr N Brodrick is in regular contact with the county footpaths officer regarding maintenance and clearance of trees blocking the paths.
- 4. The Chairman thanked all those in attendance and the meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Chairman's Signature: NJ Brodrick

Date: 8th March 2023