



PARISH OF LOCKING

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** for the **PARISH OF LOCKING** held on **THURSDAY 24th APRIL 2025 at 6.30pm** at Locking Parish Hall, Grenville Avenue, Locking.

Meeting opened at 6.30pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Paul Jones, Locking Parish Council Chairman

Present:

4 members of the public

8 members of Locking Parish Council

Mr M Randle Head Teacher Winterstoke Hundred Academy Parklands

1. Apologies:

Mrs Anthea Raine – Senior Club

Rev Larissa Trust – St Augustine's Church

Cllr Ian Hilder

Cllr Elfan ap Rees

Cllr Tom Sizer

District Cllr M Solomon

2. Confirmation of Minutes: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held on 18 April 2024.

The minutes for the Parish Meeting held on the 18 April 2024 had been displayed on the notice board and Locking Parish Council website from 03 April 2025 and copies were circulated within the Hall.

The Minutes were **AGREED** by all present and signed as a correct record of that meeting

3. Locking Parish Council Reports:

a) Chairmans Report for Annual Parish Assembly

Welcome everyone to this year's Annual Parish Assembly.

This Annual Parish Assembly is being held tonight so that residents who live within the Parish of Locking can come together to make their opinions, views, representations known, it's also an opportunity to raise issues with the Parish Council.

It is your opportunity to ask, 'what we are doing for you or what are we not doing for you or perhaps what can we do better'?

Hopefully, we will be able to answer your questions tonight, if we cannot then we will provide an answer to you as soon as we can.

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I have again throughout the year used our seasonal editions of 'Looking at Locking' and other social avenues to provide you with my 'View from the Chair'. My view hopefully does provide information as to what we as a Parish Council have and will continue to do for you in this our growing community. I hope that you have found the information that has been published helpful and informative.

You will have seen in our recent 'Spring Edition of Looking at Locking' some of the initiatives that we have put into place to help parishioners during these continuing difficult times. Our book exchange and successful Pop-up café is held every Tuesday morning at the newly refurbished Nurse Thomas Suite – all are welcome.

We have continued to assist Parishioners through our partnerships and meetings with Local Businesses, St Augustine's Church, Locking Parklands Developers, North Somerset Council (NSC), Avon & Somerset Police, the new Doctor's Medical Centre and Primary and Secondary Educational Centres to ensure that your voices are heard.

Our agreed Parish Council Projects will continue this year with further work to complete the resurfacing of the carpark at the Old Banwell Road Playing Field and the installation of electric gates (subject to funding) so that the car park can remain open to all during daylight hours.

Our representations to upgrade the Spinney were finally taken on board by North Somerset Council and works were completed late last year to this important 'Travel link' to the new Doctor's surgery, new schools and hopefully new commercial businesses on Locking Parklands. It is now a safe, well-lit path for all users.

You may have noted in the Spring edition of 'Looking at Locking' that a Tiny Forest (funding from Land Authority Treescapes fund via NSC and Earthwatch) has been installed on the Old Banwell Road Playing Field. This dense, fast growing native woodland is about the size of a tennis court. It encourages butterflies, birds, bees and other wildlife, but it also a place for people to connect with and learn about nature.

We have also had further native trees installed around the southern edge of the field which hopefully will help in retaining water and will in time provide shade and cover for users of the playing field funded by NSC.

Our Parish Orchard also continues to grow (no pun intended) as we have planted further fruit trees earlier this year, we thank the Branching Out fund for their generous grant towards this important project.

Chairs of our Parish Committees will tonight, also provide an update of what works and initiatives we have been able to complete over the past year. There are currently 11 Councillors on the Parish Council with 4 vacancies. If you have time to give and want to be involved in making difference in our community, please contact the Clerk for further information on how to be a Parish Councillor.

Paul Jones

Chairman

Locking Parish Council

b) Assets & Amenities Committee Chairmans Report from Cllr Wendy Ashdown:

We have had another busy year with planning and progressing projects for the Hall and Park, the Old Banwell Road playing field and the Parish of Locking, which includes:

The Spinney, a path which links Locking Village to the A371 and Locking Parklands has been

upgraded with all works completed. It has been resurfaced and low-level lighting installed which makes it a safe well-lit path for all users.

We have recently installed a 'Tiny Forest' with 600 trees in 200sqm along with 13 native trees at the Old Banwell Road playing field. This was achieved with the help of many volunteers from Locking Primary School and Winterstoke Hundred Academy. Also on board was North Somerset Council and Earth Watch who made it all possible.

There is now a Community Orchard in place at the Old Banwell Road playing field with pear, cherry, plum, mulberry and chestnut trees, all of which will be for Locking Parish residents to enjoy picking (and eating) when they are ripe and ready.

The newly refurbished Nurse Thomas Suite has been busy hosting the weekly 'Living Room' and the Book Exchange which is very well attended throughout the year. We also have a 'Police Surgery' held there once a month with our local PCSO in situ.

The 'Skatepark' project has finally been given planning permission and will now hopefully progress into the next stage. We wish Locking Skateboard Group the very best of luck as they attempt to secure funding to continue the project

The Park equipment along with the equipment installed at the Old Banwell Road playing field is checked weekly by the Council's Parish Orderly Mike, and both are subject to an annual inspection by a specialist company.

With Spring already here and the Summer fast approaching we will be busy planting up the many planters around the Parish. The bedding plants are given to Locking Parish from North Somerset and we thank them for this generous donation.

And finally on behalf of the Committee we would like to thank the Parish Orderly Mike, the Hall and Changing Rooms cleaner Kevin along with our Contractors for all their hard work over the last year. We would also like to thank our regular hirers for continuing to support the Parish Hall and the Nurse Thomas Suite and not forgetting the Playing Field.

c) Finance & Human Resources Committee Chairmans Report from Cllr Bill Bearsby:

The council produced an expenditure budget which we managed to come in under due to questioning all quotes, as well as striving to achieve value for money. We also produced a revenue target, which we managed to over achieve, by pushing our facilities, helped by creating the Nurse Thomas Suite, which has been well received by users. This has been thanks to a grant from North Somerset Council.

Due to these figures, we are in a relatively healthy position, thanks to the controls we have in place regarding reserve and expenditure, and managed to replace some reserves for future projects. We have managed to do some more work at the Old Banwell Road playing field and hope to finish the car park in the coming year. This includes electric gates at the entrance and clearing the ditch on the OBR side, this is to help drainage. We have replaced our photocopier which was 13 years old and not efficient.

We are also looking at putting a ramp east side of the hall for health and safety reasons, as the fire exit only has steps, which is not ideal for disabled and elderly people.

We have appointed a new Clerk's Assistant, Kelly Harvey who has completed her probationary

period successfully and is settling in very well.

Finally, my thanks to our Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Dawn Tremlett, for her due diligence in keeping our accounts and for her advice.

- **Draft Statement of Accounts for Financial Year 2024/25**

Cllr Bearsby presented the statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the last financial year and highlighted the level of reserves.

The un-audited accounts for the Financial Year 2024/25 were presented and agreed subject to audit.

4. North Somerset Council: Ward Councillors Report – Cllr Porter reported on the following:

- We have seen after considerable pressure from Mike, myself and the Parish Council The Spinney link now improved, being surfaced and with low level lighting it has made the access to Locking Parklands more safe.
- We did work with the Parish Council to finally get the planning application for the Skateboard Park approved. Mike has been contacted by Zoe, the mother of Ben to say the LPC have now closed the working group, but are still in support of the Skateboard Park. She has asked Mike Solomon if North Somerset can help them in proceeding with the fundraising. Mike is looking to see if anything can be done.
- The provision for additional sites in North Somerset will have a considerable effect on North Somerset and Locking. The government changed our local plan figure from 14,000 properties to 23,805. This has meant the need for an extra 9,000 properties. If we don't allocate them, then the government will do so. The planning officers received some 25,000 call for sites. Those in the flood plain were initially excluded and the remainder were allocated on suitability and sent out to consultation. The plans showed, those in yellow the most suitable, the orange other possible sites and brown those not really suitable.
There are some 7,000 properties in the yellow allocation, so even if all these were all accepted there would still be a need for some 1200 more houses in the orange category.
- We are waiting at the present time for the results of the consultation. Considerable discussion followed on planning in North Somerset and the challenge being experienced with a large number of planning applications. It is difficult to secure 106 funding for infrastructure improvements until the Local plan is approved.
- There was discussion on whether Locking Parish Council is a consultee on changes of planning conditions. There was considerable concern that developers were finding it very easy to get them changed, and Parish Council concerns are often ignored. I will seek clarification of this point.
- There have been considerable changes in the provision of buses for North Somerset.
The 7 to Locking Parklands will now be every 30 Minutes
The 126 will use A371 and no longer go through Hutton. I have had a number of Locking residents raise concerns over the changes introduced in April. I have raised these concerns with officers concerned.
The Bus shelter programme does not affect Hutton, Locking or Bleadon.
- We will keep pressure for a 20 MPH scheme in Locking, and following the considerable discussion on the need for a 20 MPH scheme at the meeting, I will seek clarification of where Locking is in the list, and an indication of when the scheme may be expected.
- We supported the Parish Council in its application for grant funding from North Somerset to create the Nurse Thomas Suite in the Parish Hall.
- We both look forward to working with Locking Parish Council over the next year.

Questions for Cllr Porter:

- A member of the public summarised her views on the inadequacy or lack of public consultation of residents regarding Locking Parklands. There was the initial consultation of the Master Plan in 2011/12 and a further consultation for the Locking Parklands Educate Together Primary School but nothing since. The 'Snowdome' site is now allocated for residential use again with no public consultation taking place. Concerns raised that residents were not allowed a voice. Cllr Porter advised that North Somerset Council had conducted a wider consultation for the Local Plan.
- Discharge on Condition for Locking Parklands – it was discussed that LPC were not statutory consultees for the development and could only make comments as member of the public. Cllr Porter would look into this.
- Speeding Vehicles and 20mph scheme for Locking Village – although the Parish Council had submitted an application 3 years ago they were still a long way down the list. Discussion surrounding the setting up of a Community Speed Watch group – it was suggested that the Clerk put an article in Looking at Locking asking for volunteers.
- With regards to 20mph scheme Cllr Porter will look into where Locking sits on the list and report back to LPC.

5. Reports from Locking Community Groups/Organisations

a. Winterstoke Hundred Academy- Report from Mr Matthew Randle Head Teacher

Mr Randle who had been in post for the past year introduced himself and give the following report: This is the first full year for Winterstoke Hundred Academy at Locking Parklands, it's been a busy, positive year, with the school almost at full capacity.

Although the current cohort takes students from the whole of WSM and the surrounding area overtime the cohort may change and it will be mainly students from Locking.

Although Winterstoke Hundred Academy cover two sites (Locking Parklands & Beaufigther Road) its very much one school. A Community School working hard to be a part of the wider community, with community facilities open for the public to use.

We have been busy with the following:

- Tiny Forest initiative – this was planted recently on the school site working alongside North Somerset council and Earthwatch, thank you to LPC for assisting with this.
- Travel to and from the school site – we are aware of the impact on local roads and are working with NSC highways/transport for signage, road markings and crossing areas to be installed.
- Landscaped garden at the left-hand side of Keepmoat – landscaping will be taking place to create a garden for students to enjoy.
- Parking off site – we are working with parents and reminding them to park with consideration for the neighbouring properties.
- Recent planning application for footbridge from Mead Field development onto Locking Parklands will provide a safe pedestrian route to school which may help reduce the need for parents to drive their children to school.
- Library is now up and running and are looking for book donations.
- Prom Shop set up to help with the costs of Prom outfits, they had received lots of donated items and were pleased to say that they have passed these donations on to others.
- School will be hosting a Summer Conference on 4th July 2025
- They will also be hosting Lime Hills Academy which is a specialist school for students with an EHCP where SEMH is the primary need.
- Winterstoke Hundred Academy will be working with Citizens UK a social enterprise group that focus on supporting students to become leaders, build strong relationships with families and neighbouring organisations. It is a way for schools and colleges to address issues *beyond* their

gates as well as issues which have a direct impact on the wellbeing of their young people and families. Working together to drive community-led solutions.

b. St Augustine's Church – Report from Rev Larissa Trust

St Augustine's began 2024 in vacancy and much hard work went on during that time! So, I need to start by saying a very big THANK YOU! to all who kept the show, not just on the road, but in such good order.

Much of the worship leading responsibilities and organisation fell on Rev Geoff and Cliff. Thank you for all you did then and for your continued diligent planning and preparation of worship. More practical tasks were done by our Church Wardens Margaret and Simon. I am so grateful for your help and diligence.

Welcome and hospitality is a particular strength of St Augustine's. The Community Café is a wonderful initiative that brings the village together in the church centre. The kitchen team and the craft table team work so hard to cater for everybody and keep the children busy and happy and create the wonderful atmosphere. All who attend help to create a warm, friendly and caring atmosphere. It is also a great opportunity to connect with local charities and those doing God's work in other ways. Hazel's contribution must be highlighted for thanks.

A benefice afternoon tea was held in August which was well attended and enjoyed by all. St Augustine's and St Mary's went on a joint trip to Buckfast Abbey in Summer 2024 and an excellent day was had by all. The Remembrance Service was very well attended by local families paying their respects to the armed services and those who have lost their lives or been injured in conflict. Our Christingle and Carol Service were popular as usual. Every seat in the church was taken on both these occasions – congratulations to the welcome team for managing the seating on both occasions!

Representatives from the Church visit Locking Primary for assemblies and the relationship between the school and Church is strengthening.

I am very much looking forward to seeing what we get up to this coming year and how God calls us forward to serve him and our village. Whilst some of our church's ministry is through the tasks that I've just mentioned there is also so much wonderful Christian work, witness and service carried out quietly and faithfully. I'm so grateful for the unique and indispensable part each and every one of you plays in our church family which gives St Augustine's its wonderful joyful character.

A busy year with all activities continuing, both in relation to normal Sunday Services and Hall Hiring, as well as working with Locking Primary School and the uniformed organisations and providing special services and associated activities for Remembrance Day, Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

c. 1st Locking & Hutton Scouts – Report from Gareth Coombes

What a year for scouting in our area still growing and changing the way we do things, new leaders coming on board, big plans for the group with activities we do and some very big camps planned for the next year and into 2026.

The scout field has a mixed night on it with growing, cooking, games and seeing what nature brings to our area.

With Paul and Beverly running Wednesday night scouts, the village is a big part of what they plan in their program and seeing the group grow its all ways good but always space for more.

With the village fete what a turn out more people than ever come along. It's good to see different organization from around the village come together for the day and people coming along to show

their support. This will happen again this year with a V A Day party with the British legion at the heart of the day.

Santa float was out again going around the villages with now over 6 nights. Bad weather did not stop the villages seeing Santa with more house now on Parklands the group does 2 nights to cover this area lots of people came out and said hello on the night, planning is under way see you all in December.

What more for the group in the next year

More of the same

One of the big things is 40 scouts in 2026 are going to Kandersteg Switzerland for 8 days to see the sites and how scouting is around the world as the camp will have over 400 scouts from 20 different countries.

As well as changing young people lives and expectations on life.

d. Locking Seniors – Report from Anthea Raines:

Our club meets fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon in St. Augustine’s Church Centre.

Membership, at the moment stands at 24 Ladies and we live in hope of a few gentlemen joining us in the future!

We are a happy friendly group, enjoying laughter, chatting and quizzes, which usually end, in some cheating and of course, we are experts at putting the world to rights!!

Funds are in a very good place and we are looking forward to an afternoon tea in July from Parkside Café. December, we hold our Annual Christmas Dinner at the Beachlands Hotel and both of these events will be subsidised by the club, this year.

Since covid, we have found that members are quite happy to make our own entertainment but we do enjoy two visits in the year from the lovely Parkland singers.

At our AGM in January, I enlightened members to the fact, that in our club, we had 1,648 years of knowledge and wisdom between us and that there should never be a dull moment in our meetings!

I can honestly say, there isn’t!

I would like to thank all members of Locking Parish Council for their continued hard work and support in looking after our Parish.

Best wishes for the coming year

6. Electors: Questions from the floor:

Questions from the floor:

- MacDonalds Planning Application – had this been approved.
No decision had been made at the date of this meeting.
- Locking Village, will this remain a rural village or is it now considered an ‘urban village’
Given the continued growth of Locking Parish as a whole it can no longer be looked at as ‘rural’. The Strategic Gap remains in place and NSC has have no plans to change or amend that but with this Government it might well change.
- Has Trenchard Road - land next to Locking Grove been sold off.
LPC are not aware whether it has been sold or not.
- In this area Homes England have lots of ‘pockets’ of land are they going to sell these off.
Cllr Porter and LPC responded that they were not aware of the intentions of Homes England at this point.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm

Signed..........Date.....23/4/2026..... Chairman

