



TIMSBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of 27th April 2026 at 7.30pm at the Conygre Hall, Timsbury

- 1. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor K C Bradley**, welcomed all to the meeting. In attendance were forty-three Parishioners, plus speakers from various organisations and the Parish Clerk.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** – Phyllida and Keith Russell, Cllr Sean Stephenson-McGall, Sheila and Roly Clarke.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2025.**
It was agreed by those present that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting and advised that, although it is hosted by the Parish Council, it is not a Parish Council meeting but a public meeting designed to showcase what has happened in the village during the preceding year. He gave an overview of the Parish Council's structure and responsibilities followed by an outline of the planning procedure. He then introduced a number of speakers from various organisations serving the village.

- **Alison – Dial A Ride (driver and stand-in co-ordinator)**

During the past year there has been 800 journeys to and from Timsbury. Members join at £10 per annum and local journeys cost £5 return. Currently there are 15 members in Timsbury. Donations help with maintenance and journeys. Typical journeys are Clark's Village, Peggy Dodd centre, RUH and Cholwell House to visit relatives. Also available for young people with additional needs to go to jobs etc.

- **Jane Van Happs - LUX Youth Group**

Runs youth group on Friday nights at the YMCA where currently 16 young people of secondary age attend. They do many activities including cooking and games. Volunteers were needed to help with the group and, of course, they would be DBS checked. The group provides a free space where no-one is excluded on the basis of income and where young people learn to tolerate and respect each other. It is a place where young people dealing with many issues feel they can talk to safe adults. A long-time user of the youth group, Courtney, was introduced. She explained how the youth group had been so beneficial and enjoyable for her and how young people looked forward to it each week. The older ones help with the younger and it is an excellent place for those with additional needs.

- **Laura Smith – Co-ordinator of Timsbury Library**

Spoke of their commitment to providing services to suit all ages and the increasing awareness and use of the library by residents. Currently 18 volunteers worked at the library which is open four times a week. The Cuppa and Chat group meet every Monday afternoon and there are regular monthly story and craft sessions and continuation of the summer reading challenge. During the last year over 500 books have been borrowed and a library at home service is provided. The library was fortunate in having new chrome books donated to replace the existing laptops which will help secure the library's service.

- **Rev. Martin Blewett – St Mary’s Church**

Outlined the history of the church, which was rebuilt in 1826, replacing the Medieval church. Now 200 years later this is being celebrated. In recognition there will be a special programme of events including the Jane Lilley singers and a summer fete in July. Also a book, written by Larry Cunningham, has been published entitled ‘People, Places and Things and the church clock is being renovated with the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

- **Deborah Griffin - Chairman Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Expressed her delight that the Neighbourhood Plan was now underway following the idea being raised at the previous APM. The B&NES Local Plan defines the number of houses and their siting but the Neighbourhood Plan is a vehicle for the community to express what it wants to see from future developments. It gives the opportunity to consult on what is important for Timsbury, like the type of housing mix, with an aim to protect what is special about the parish eg requiring design that preserves the heritage, character and identifies and protects key landscapes. It will also give access to an additional 10% of Community Infrastructure Levy.

- **Martin Kendall – The Conygre Trust**

The focus is currently on improving facilities at the Conygre Hall. New fire doors have been put in place, a safety inspection carried out and electrical wiring remedial works will need to be done. Repairs to the fencing around the play area have also been carried out and decluttering of items that are no longer being used. Financially, there has been a large increase in turnover but this is still being offset by costs. There has been a loss of £5000 over the year. The hall is a large building that is expensive to run so new ways are being considered to receive new income. The Trust is grateful to the Parish Council for their assistance and to the funds received from the Ward Councillor. The National Lottery has also provided major funding for the fire and external doors. The Hallmaster booking system has been implemented to assist with bookings and invoices and as a result governance has improved. There are also new events and initiatives that have been proved very successful eg the classic car show, Grow Timsbury regular markets, the 200 Club, quizzes and the bar is now being run in-house which all help in mitigating losses. Well done to Jen Lewis for galvanising the team

5. Financial Statement by the Parish Clerk

Each year, normally December or January, the Finance Committee meet to set the budget for the following financial year and from that, decide what the precept for the forthcoming year should be set at. This is then presented to the Full Council for adjustment or approval. The precepted amount is the difference between the expected income and anticipated expenditure and for the year 2025/26 was set at £107,000.

Income for the year was down mainly due to timing of invoices sent out at the end of March and awaiting payments and VAT of around £2,600 yet to be claimed. Both elements will be included in the next year’s accounts.

Expenditure was down by £4,900 mainly due to not being spent on the play area because of the weather and Conygre field tree inspections not needed.

So the budget for the current year is showing £-3,647 but this is mitigated by the late receipts for the invoices raised and the VAT claim which will show in the 2026/27 accounts

6. Items Raised by Parishioners

- Parish Council to consider the idea of a vision for Timsbury
- Thanks to all the organisations who have attended the meeting and to the Parish Council for their service and commitment to the village and their selfless sense of duty. Thanks also to both the Parish Council and the Ward Councillor for the traffic calming improvements in the village which have been beneficial to pedestrians and wheelchair users.

- Speed cameras need relocating
- Review needed on the amount of money spent on the road improvements.
- Local Plan – at what point does the new Local Plan take precedence over the existing one?

7. Presentation of Timsbury Parish Council Good Citizen certificates

The Parish Council Chairman said he was delighted to be able to recognise the outstanding service given to Timsbury over so many years to two very worthy recipients, Veronica Packham and Jan Merchant.

Veronica Packham

Veronica was a leader in the fundraising for Conygre Hall and served as booking agent and secretary for the hall until the formation of the Conygre Trust.

She was involved in the creation of the Children's playground and the Village Fun Day.

She was a school governor and Chair of the Governors and the organist at St Mary's Church.

She served as a Parish Councillor and as Chairman of the Parish Council for thirteen years. In that capacity she was instrumental in setting up the first Neighbourhood Plan, creating the Library, the refurbishment of the War Memorial, the Queen's Silver and Golden Jubilee celebrations and opening the Miners' Garden.

Veronica was presented with a certificate for fifty years of service to the community and a bouquet of flowers.

Jan Merchant

Jan is a Conygre Trustee and a member of their fund-raising team, working tirelessly for the village hall.

She helps organise lunches for those who live alone and coffee mornings and is the chief fund raiser for St Mary's Church.

She is part of the Parochial Church Council and a member of the Patient Participation Group at the surgery.

She organises a Christmas Fair and organised the memorable outdoor plays at Parish's House.

Jan was also presented with a certificate for fifty years of service to the community and was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

8. Closing Statement by Chairman

The Chairman acknowledged the efforts put in by many groups and individuals in keeping the village in good order and offered particular thanks to the following:

- Angela Wilson, the Parish Clerk for her support and advice on legal and financial matters and who has kept everything financially and procedurally sound.
- Laura Smith, who oversees the Timsbury Community Library and to all the volunteers who keep the Library running.
- Madeleine Potts, for editing and publishing the Timsbury Newsletter
- James Tutchell, for keeping the village tidy with his litter picking and for distributing the Newsletter.
- All the volunteers who deliver the newsletters to residents.
- Mary-Anne Ansell and the volunteers who help with looking after the Miners' Garden, other green spaces and the village planters.
- Austin Sage, for the regular grass cutting on the Conygre Field.
- Ben Benetto, for maintaining the Haha.
- Tony Febry, for cutting the grass in the cemetery and keeping it tidy.
- Larry Cunningham, who has helped with promoting the Walking Books and advice on permissive footpaths.

Grateful thanks were also given to Clive Pearce, who has retired from sorting and distributing the Timsbury Newsletter. A job he has done diligently for ten years.

Apologies were offered to anyone who may have been missed off the list but they could rest assured that all those who help out in the village are very much appreciated.

The Chairman thanked everyone who came along to the meeting and for their invaluable input. He invited them to stay and chat and enjoy the refreshments.

He then declared the meeting closed.

Approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting

Chairman:..... Date: