

Local Community Network Meeting Notes

Meeting Title: Local Community Network - Avalon and The Poldens

Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Time: 7pm

Location: Shapwick Pavillion, Northbrook Road, Shapwick, TA7 9LN

Chaired by: Matthew Martin (Chair)

LCN core membership attendance:

Chair: Councillor Matthew Martin

Vice-chair: Parish Councillor Bryan

Knickerbocker

Councillor Simon Carswell

Councillor Liz Leyshon

Councillor Tessa Munt

Councillor Harry Munt

Councillor Heather Shearer

Parishes

Ashcott – Councillor Gus Wans

Baltonsborough – Councillor Mary Phillips

Catcott – Councillors Geoff Barnett and
James Hall

Cossington – Councillor Georgia Terry

Glastonbury – Councillor Jon Cousins

Meare & Westhay – Councillors Chris
Bennett and Gail Richards

Shapwick – Councillor Graham Croucher

Stawell – Councillors Phillip Jay

Street – Councillor Bryan Knickerbocker

Walton – Councillor John Harvey and Clerk
Helen Moore

Officer attendance:

Kate Hellard – LCN Officer (online)
Helen Bowen, Democratic Services Officer
Nathan Turnbull – Locality Officer
Ollie Lindsell - IT

Other attendees:

Somerset Cllr Suria Aujla, Jessica Lewin and Siobahn White – Connect Somerset, Jason Wyatt, Jenny Lawrence – Somerset Association Local Councils, Scott McMillan – The Volunteer Network

Apologies:

Name:

Cllr Claire Sully – Somerset Council
Cllr John Corsan – Ashcott Parish Council

Summary of discussion:

Agenda Summary of key points of discussion and outcome: Action by: item:

Item 36: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr John Corsan, Ashcott Parish Council and Somerset Councillor Claire Sully.

Item 37: Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Item 38: Notes from the Previous Meeting

The notes from the meeting held on 29 January 2024 were proposed by Councillor Chris Bennet and seconded by Councillor Geoff Barnett and were unanimously agreed.

Item 39: **Public Question Time**

There were none.

Item 40: **Presentation from the Volunteers Network**

Scott McMillan from the Volunteers Network was welcomed. He spoke about the work of the charity and detailed the following:

- It is a Glastonbury based charity that has been in existence for approximately 20 years.
- Originally it was a community volunteering charity but since Covid the demand for general support for people struggling with life in general has increased.
- Now provide such things as arts and crafts, women's allotment days, support for young parents and home workers feeling lonely.
- People who are struggling can join in activities with others and eventually feel confident to open up about what difficulties they are facing.
- Some of the issues are practical, such as completing Tax Returns or Housing problems, others include mental health issues, loneliness or coping with bereavement.
- People are looking for a warm, friendly and welcoming environment which does not put pressure on them or single them out with having issues. Eventually, when they are ready, they will reach out for help.

In response to questions from the group, Scott confirmed that he would like help from the Parish Councils in terms of fundraising and providing safe and accessible places for people to attend the work of the Charity, eg, releasing areas of PC owned land for allotments etc. He would like to recruit more volunteers to help with running the charity and also raise awareness of its work. If anyone is interested in assisting Scott and the Volunteer Network, his contact details are:

Scott McMillan – scott@volunteernetwork.org.uk

Item 41: **Table Discussion on Highways, Traffic and Civil Contingency**

A round table discussion was held where members were asked to consider the following questions in relation to Highways and

Traffic issues and Health issues. The results will be discussed at a future meeting.

Highways and Traffic

1. Please note all the Highways and Traffic issues you are experiencing in your Parish / Area?
2. What would you like to happen as a result of a meeting with colleagues from Highways and Traffic?
3. How can you ensure all parishes are represented - who should be included in the working group?
4. How often would you like to meet?

Health

1. What do we know about the needs of our residents, Children, adults and older people ? Some examples are - Mental Health, Physical Health and loneliness/ isolation.
2. What partners do we have that might know more?
3. How can we hear more from our residents?

Item 42: **Updates from Working Groups**

Councillor Chris Bennetts provided a comprehensive update on the Highways and Traffic working group which included the following:

- The group had met recently in Street in the Parish Council rooms.
- The Highways Steward scheme was further explained and consideration given to Terms of Reference and Agendas for the WG.
- Consider meeting with Highways Officers every 3 to 4 months.
- Updates currently provided to Parish Councils should also be shared with the LCN.
- These can be updated quarterly to show work completed, incomplete or not started and reasons for delays provided.
- Somerset Council will continue to deliver statutory services but consider the use of a Highways Steward for providing additional aesthetic services.

In the discussion which followed, Councillor Tessa Munt

suggested that this LCN could join with other Parishes and communities that had suffered with flooding recently and work with the Somerset Rivers Authority who would help co-ordinate flood defence work.

It was also noted that the working group meeting had occurred with very little notice. Nathan Turnbull confirmed he would schedule the next 3 meetings in advance.

A discussion was had regarding timing of the working group. It was advised that Highways Officers would not be able to attend evening meetings The Working Groups would have to find times that suited most members and a WhatsApp group was suggested as a good way to co-ordinate these, with consideration given to any member that did not use this technology.

The Chair requested that updates from the Working Groups be published on the LCN page. The link will be published in due course.

Health

This working group had not yet been able to meet due to time constraints.

Civil Contingency Working Group Options

This discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

Item 43: Action and Next Steps

Kate Hellard advised that this was the opportunity for the group to consider next years programme. There would be no LCN meetings in April and May but hoped the working groups would continue to meet and report back to the main LCN.

She suggested a poll of the members of the LCN on the preferred frequency and timing of meetings. Also, whether members were happy for contact details to be shared. Action – Nathan Turnbull.

Item 44: **Dates & Themes for Future Meetings**

The date of the next Avalon and the Poldens LCN was given as 10 July 2024 and will be the AGM. It will take place in West Pennard. There was a proposal to hold an unsupported meeting of the LCN in May.

Contact officer for meeting: LCN Team lcnsomerset@somerset.gov.uk