

A scenic view of a village street in Freshford. In the foreground, a low stone wall runs along the left side of a paved road. Behind the wall is a large, multi-story stone building with a tiled roof and several windows. The text "Freshford Annual Parish Meeting" is overlaid in large, yellow, bold letters with a blue outline. Below this, the text "8.00 pm, 27th April 2017" is also overlaid in the same style. The background shows more buildings and a hillside under a blue sky with clouds.

Freshford Annual Parish Meeting

8.00 pm, 27th April 2017

Agenda

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of APM held on 26th April 2016
- Report of Responsible Financial Officer
- Chairman's Report
- Any questions?
- BBC Film – Freshford, 31st March 1974
- APM 2018 – Thursday 26th April

All documentation will be published online - FreshfordVillage.com

Agenda

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of APM held on 26th April 2016



Responsible Financial Officer's Report 2016/17

Financial Report 2016/17

- Balance in account is - £8,609 (£10,806)
- Income for year - £52,165 (inc. £22,000 precept)
- Income higher than last year because
 - B&NES S106 funding for play equipment - £15,931
 - Grant for PC and projector - £1,365
 - Grant from FoF for hedge-laying - £250
 - VAT reclaim for 2015/16 as well as 2016/17 - £6,061
 - Water rate repayment - £225.99

Expenditure 2016/17

- Expenditure was £54,340 (£33,423)
- Items to note
 - Play equipment - £15,931
 - Cemetery tree work - £1,975
 - Cemetery fence - £954
 - War memorial - £275
 - Repairs to notice boards - £1,030
 - Station Road street light refurbishment - £1,691
 - Contribution to Hall car park repair - £998
 - Hedge-laying project - £2,771 (grant of £2,000 expected from CCB)

A scenic view of a village. In the foreground on the left is a two-story stone house with a tiled roof and three chimneys. A stone wall with pink flowers runs along the bottom. In the background, a stone church tower sits atop a grassy hill. A road on the right has several cars parked. The sky is blue with white clouds.

Chairman's Report 2016/17

Your Parish Council

- **Nick Stevens**, Vice Chairman
 - NP projects
 - Highways/Rail & Bus services
 - VPA/Community rail partnership
 - Parish Charter Working Group
- **John Adler**
 - IT, Broadband, Mobile phone
 - Trustee – Memorial Hall & FLiSCA
 - Bathavon South Forum

Your Parish Council

- **Jean Hawker**
 - Tree surgery applications
 - Hedges, walls, footpaths
 - Street sweeping
 - Tyning Advisory Group
- **Peter King**
 - The Bulletin
 - The Galleries Shop and Café
 - Valley Parishes Alliance

Your Parish Council

- **Roger Paine**
 - Planning policy & applications
 - PCC & Bath Preservation Trust
- **Martin Walker**
 - Heritage and fixed assets
 - Planning applications
 - NP projects
- **Sue Wingrove** (to October 2016)
 - The Tyning Advisory Group/Hedge laying

Your Parish Council

- **Andrew Orme**, Chairman
 - Anything else
 - Village website
 - Community database
 - B&NES Parishes Liaison/ALCA

Our Clerk

- **Ingrid Maher-Roberts**
 - Minutes and Agendas
 - Records and Accounts
 - Management of:
 - The Cemetery, Street Lighting, The Tynning
- Now moving on
 - After almost 6 years
 - Reliable, efficient, committed, friendly
 - We thank her and wish her well
- Our new Clerk – **Ghika Savva-Coyle**

We also thank...

- **Malcolm Shirley**

- Our flood rep

- **Hugh Delap**

- VPA Highways group
- Now standing down

- **Neil Butters**

- Ward Councillor

- **Graham Jenkinson**

- Neighbourhood Watch

- **Many other residents**

- who give their time and energy for the community

- And the **Cotswold Volunteer Wardens**

- for enhancing our environment

Our meetings

- We meet on 2nd Monday of each month
- 7.00 pm at the Village Hall
- 12 meetings this year
 - + Annual Parish Meeting
- Members of the public are welcome
 - Only 2 meetings had no public present
 - Public can speak in the 'Open Forum'

Planning applications

- A key responsibility for the PC
- We ensure a community voice in planning decisions
 - Neighbourhood Plan
 - Villages Design Statement
- 28 applications considered
 - 15 'support'
 - 9 'comment only'
 - 4 'oppose'
 - +8 Tree surgery applications

Consultations

- We are asked to contribute to consultations
 - Planning and Housing Bill
 - 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement
 - B&NES Parking Strategy
 - Highways England Route Strategy
 - West of England Joint Transportation Study
 - Telephone box on The Hill

Links to other bodies

- B&NES Council
- Wiltshire Council
- Valley Parishes Alliance
 - Highways Group
 - Avon Valley Action Group
- Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership
- Highways England
- Avon and Somerset Police
- Avon Local Councils Association
- Parishes Liaison
- Bathavon South Forum
- Bath Preservation Trust
- FLiSCA
- Village Hall
- PCC

We try to enable residents to keep themselves informed

- The website **FreshfordVillage.com**
 - Agendas
 - Minutes
 - Papers
 - Contributions to consultations
 - And much else besides
- The Bulletin
 - Quarterly
 - Delivered free to every household
 - Key issues
 - News
 - Profiles of residents
 - Timetables
 - Contact information

Keeping residents informed

- Community Email Database
 - News and events that affect the community
 - Not excessive, c2-3 per week on average
 - No cost to community
 - But residents need to sign up at

FreshfordVillage.com

- Please encourage others to do so

- And of course Freshford's unique communication tool - The Candyboard!



A gentle nudge

- We need new Councillors
 - Younger/older, female/male, new arrival/long-term resident
- If you have not yet done your turn on the PC, please consider doing so
 - No special skills needed
 - One evening a month
 - Plus a few hours when you can fit them in
- If in doubt
 - Come along to a meeting and see for yourself
 - Have a chat with the Chairman or any Councillor

A photograph of a two-story stone building with a garden. The building has a tiled roof and several windows, some with leaded glass. A large, dense green vine covers the right side of the building. In the foreground, there is a black metal fence and a stone wall. Behind the fence, there are various potted plants and a white metal chair. The text "The Precept and the Budget for 2017-18" is overlaid in the center of the image.

The Precept and the Budget for 2017-18

Precept 2017-18

- Increase by £3000
 - A high percentage – 13.6% (of the Precept, not the total Council Tax bill)
 - But a relatively small impact on households
 - Increase equates to £10.50 p.a. for Band 'D' properties
- Brings Freshford's precept income to £25,000
- Why has the PC decided on this level of increase?

Precept 2017-18

- New 'principles' govern Council Tax rises
 - Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18
- These require councils to go to referendum if increases amount to more than 2%
- Originally this was going to apply to all councils
- But now only larger councils this year
- Smaller councils have been reprieved – but for how long?

Precept 2017-18

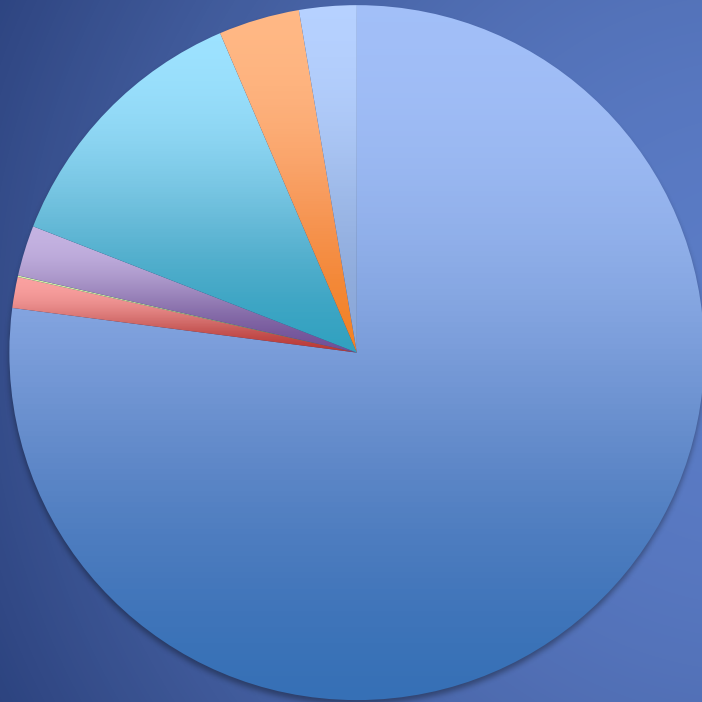
- If in future we needed to raise, say, an extra £1000 for necessary expenditure in the community
 - More than 2% of our current precept
- We could have to pay B&NES to conduct a referendum – c£2500
- If increase approved, we would have had to raise the precept by £3500 to get £1000 to spend
- If increase not approved, we would have spent £2500 and achieved nothing
- And that £2500 would come out of our reserves

Precept 2017-18

- In future, if referendum rules were to apply to small councils it would be practically impossible to maintain local services
- And, while B&NES' funding is being cut back, there would be no hope of the PC taking up the slack – even on small items
- A few failed referenda would wipe out our reserves
- FPC feels it is prudent to raise extra precept now to give some protection to Freshford's interests in the coming years

Budget 2017-18

Income - £31,840



■ Precept
■ Bank Interest
■ Street Cleaning Funding
■ Bulletin Sponsor
■ Tax base
■ Cemetery Fees
■ VAT refund

Expenditure - £31,840



■ Administration
■ Printing
■ Tyning
■ Assets
■ Subs
■ Street Cleaning
■ Street Lighting
■ Cemetery
■ Hall

A photograph of a narrow, paved village street. On the left, a stone building features a light blue door and a circular plaque that reads "ABBOTSLIGH COACH HOUSE". A large, leafy green bush grows against the wall above the door. The street is flanked by stone walls and buildings, with a clear blue sky and a few clouds visible in the background. The text "Around the village 2016 - 2017" is overlaid in the center in a yellow, stylized font with a blue outline.

Around the village 2016 - 2017

Freshford Fields, Pipehouse

- S106 agreement
- 4 units of affordable housing
 - Now occupied
- Funding for play equipment - £15,900
 - Received. Equipment installed.
- Funding for footpath from development site to A36 - £24,000
 - B&NES have up to 10 years to implement
 - So 2020 before it will be programmed

Community Infrastructure Levy

- S106 is now replaced by CIL
- £100 per m² on new builds
 - And on extensions over 100 m²
- 25% straight to the community
 - Because we have a Neighbourhood Plan
- Balance of CIL, after admin, spent on infrastructure through CIL Strategic Reserve
 - B&NES 'Regulation 123' list of approved projects
 - Includes Memorial Hall and step-free access to far platform at Freshford Station

Cables at Park Corner

- Concern over ugly cabling at Park Corner
 - Raised by Ray Benfield
- Meeting with SSE Networks to see if anything can be done
 - Very expensive
 - BT and power are separate
 - Considerable upheaval
 - All neighbours would need to agree
 - But SSEN promise better communication in future

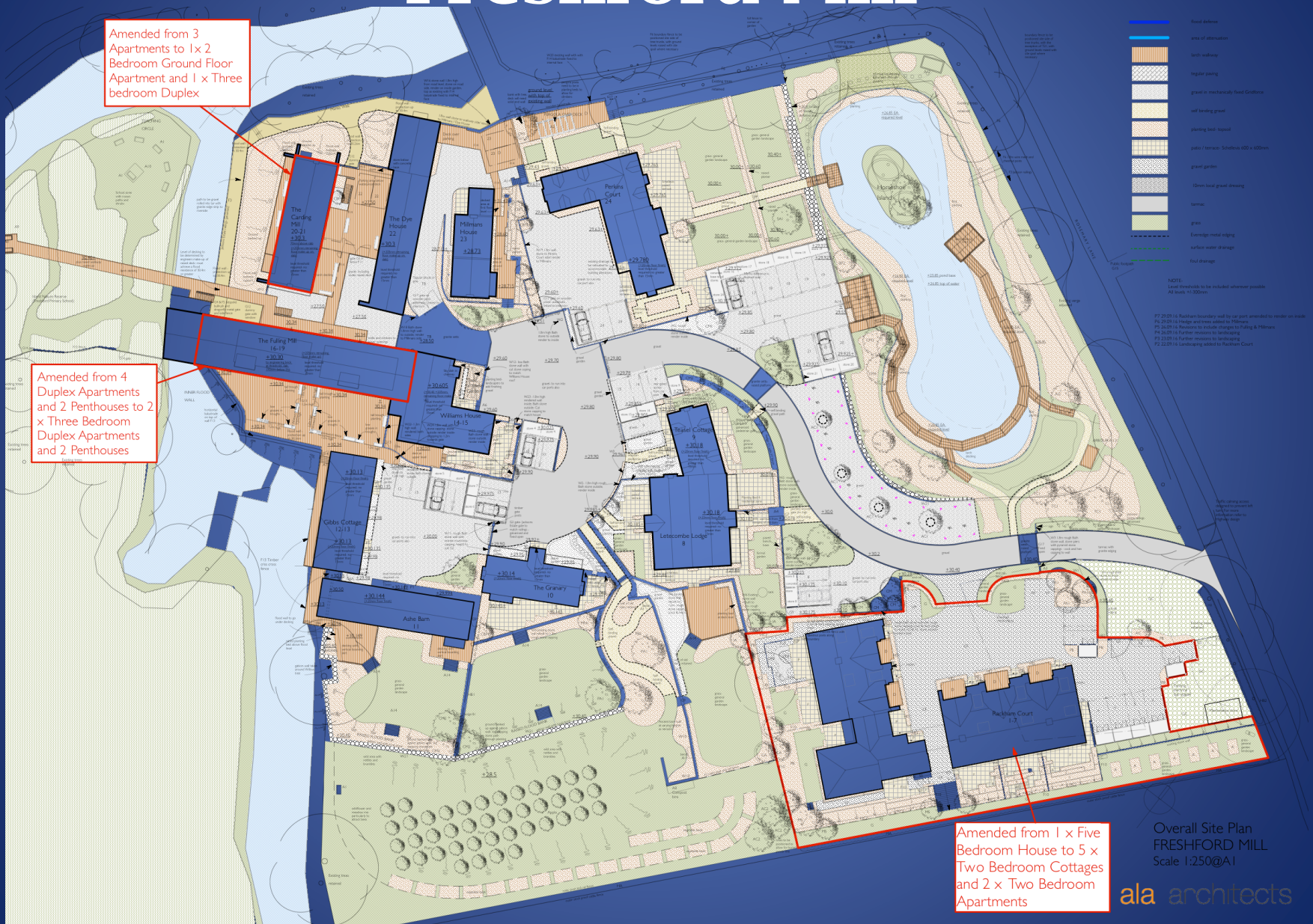


Hedge Laying

- Long overdue
- Grants from Cotswolds Conservation Board, FPC, FoF
- Terrific community involvement
 - c30 volunteers
 - + children from the school
- Not ideal for laying
 - but give it time



Freshford Mill



Freshford Mill update

- Revised approval for 24 units instead of 21
- Still pumping Peradin chemicals off the site
- Redesigned flood wall
- Correcting defective work by Ypres Rose
- Additional ecological complications as result of delays
- Work recently restarted
- Temporarily renting part of field nearby for car park and office
- Good communication with community
 - Consultation on changes, 19th October
 - Notice board in place
 - Access layout modified

Avoncliff footpath

- Was horrendously muddy
- Good relations with B&NES PROW team
- In response to requests, budget found
- Concrete path laid
- Reinforced by gabions
- Great improvement
- Until you get to Wiltshire



Two more successes

94 bus reprieved

- In Jan 2017 Libra were set to quit
- But new contract agreed
 - though Monday to Friday only



No kissing gates on canal

- Wessex Water wanted to install gates
- But backed down after large number of objections



A scenic landscape photograph showing a wide, grassy hillside in the foreground. A narrow, light-colored path or track runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the center of the image. The hillside is covered in lush green grass. In the background, a cluster of stone buildings, likely a village or town, is visible, nestled among trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and rural.

The Tynning

Tynning Advisory Group

- Tynning Advisory Group collated over 50 detailed submissions from residents
- And looked at options
 - Legal
 - Practical
- To give the PC a balanced overview of residents' wishes

The guidance

- Don't overmanage
 - Shorter grass for recreation
 - Let pathways develop through usage
 - Other areas left for longer grass and wild flowers
- Mow appropriately
 - Keep shorter on flat(-ish) area and popular pathways
 - Occasional topping elsewhere
- Make safe
 - Remove barbed wire, old fence posts etc
- Try to control
 - Parking
 - Dog fouling

The result

- A highly popular local amenity
 - For residents as they walk round the village
 - For children, somewhere to play
 - For families going to and from school
 - For dog walkers



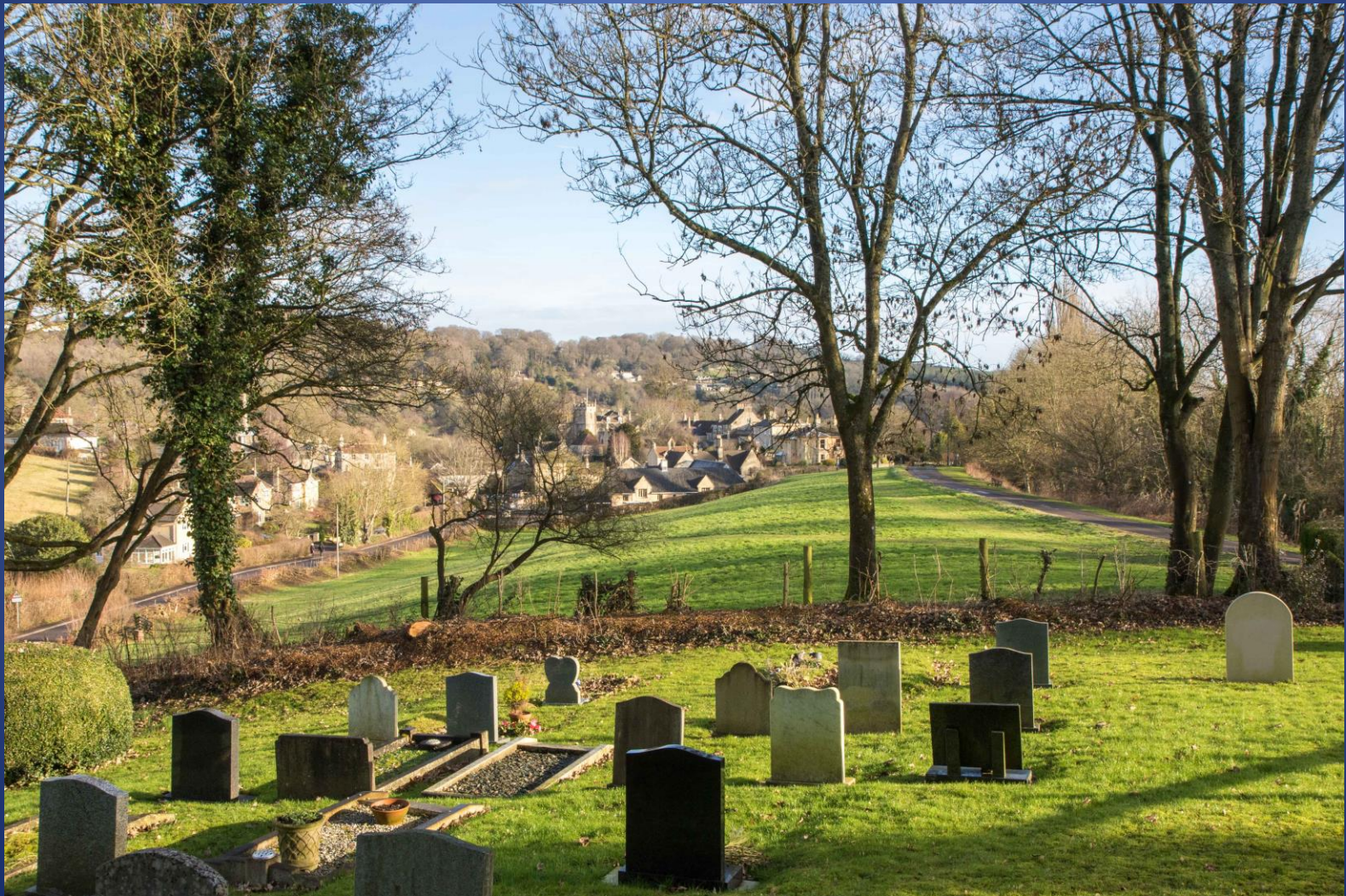
A black manual water pump stands on a stone-paved ground. Behind it is a rustic stone wall partially covered in green ivy. Above the wall, there are lush green plants with bright pink flowers. The pump has a decorative top and a long, curved handle.

Our other Community Assets

If we want things to stay as they are
– we can't just leave them alone



By contrast - major improvement between Cemetery and The Tynning



Assets

- The PC now has a register of over 60 assets for which we are responsible
 - Benches, waste bins, War Memorial, The Tynning, Cemetery, fencing, signs, notice boards etc, etc
- The register shows condition and maintenance requirements
- We have some catching up to do, as and when funds permit

Assets

- Work this year has included
 - Notice boards (x4) repaired and furbished
 - War memorial repair and re-pointing
 - Dilapidated and dangerous benches removed from Dark Lane and The Tynning
 - Safety fencing at lower end of cemetery
 - Straighten and reset headstones
 - Remove barbed wire from The Tynning
 - Refurbishment and re-installation of street light on Station Road

Memorials

- We welcome memorial benches and similar donations that will benefit the community
- But we cannot bind future PCs to accept an obligation to maintain them indefinitely
- We hope that any residents considering donating an asset will understand that
 - Either volunteers or family should undertake maintenance
 - Or funding for maintenance should be provided
 - Or the asset may have limited life



Problems



Parking

- Our history and topography make parking difficult
- But things are getting worse
 - More cars
 - Larger cars
 - A few thoughtless drivers



Parking

- Our Neighbourhood Plan requires any development – extension or new build – to provide sufficient off-street parking
- We cannot solve existing problems at a stroke
- But we hope to target specific situations to make incremental gains

Parking - School rush

- We are working closely with the school governors
 - Better understanding of the concerns among parents
 - The Inn is kindly permitting use of car park at morning drop-off
 - Trialling asking residents to support 'on drive' parking spaces
 - Trialling 'Drop off only' on Freshford Lane at peak time
 - Amending School/Parent Agreement

Parking – The Tynning

- Residents don't want The Tynning to become a car park
 - The verges are being damaged
 - The lane is getting wider
 - Bollards are knocked over
- When other measures are in place we will put up a clearer 'No Parking' sign
- However there will always be the need for a passing place

Parking – The Hill

- Cars parked on the pavement cause inconvenience and even danger for pedestrians
- And hamper progress of buses and emergency vehicles
- B&NES have a budget to improve matters
- Constructive dialogue between residents and PC
- Discussions with B&NES in hand

Parking – elsewhere

- New Road/High Street
 - Narrow road/large cars/bulging hedges don't mix
- Thoughtless parking at junction of Rosemary Lane and Abbey Lane
 - Under discussion with B&NES
- Parking ruining the verge at entrance to Hall car park
- Station car park

Dog fouling

- Any B&NES or FPC bin may be used for dog waste
 - New bins now installed - off Freshford Lane by gate and near The Inn
- Most owners who walk their own dogs act responsibly
 - They “bag it and bin it”
 - And of course they don’t ‘decorate’ hedges
- We feel there may be an issue when dogs are walked by others on behalf of owners
- Where this is the case, owners must
 - Equip walkers - paid or family - with scoop and bags
 - And make sure that they are used

After questions, a short film

- 31st March 1974
 - Becoming part of new county of Avon...
 - ...and not happy about it!
- Film of the 'wake'
 - Sorry about the quality
 - No sound at the beginning
 - Lasts about 8 minutes



Any questions?

