

# BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2016**, in The Parish Room, Burrington.

## **PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Mr. Paul Keel (PK) - Chair  
Mrs. Frances Wilson (FW) - Vice Chair  
Mr. Roger Daniels (RD)  
Mr. Richard Dors (RDors)  
Mr. John Rhodes (JR)

## **ALSO PRESENT:**

Mrs. Teresa Martin (TM) Clerk  
Mr. Matt Thomas (Rickford Community Association)  
Mr. Chris Head (West of England Rural Network)  
Ms Lyndsay Newman (Village Agent)  
PCSO Marie Broomfield  
4 Residents

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Mr. Mark Hughes (North Somerset Liaison Officer)  
Cllr Liz Wells  
PCSO Pen Gatenby  
Mrs Sarah Gell

2. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** - There were none.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** held on 9th November 2015 were approved by the Councillors.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING**

- **Burrington Combe Public Conveniences** - A copy of the Lease had been reviewed and all Councillors were happy with the content. The Lease was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk, who undertook to return it to Michelmores. Our insurance company has confirmed that we are covered up to £10million for public liability. The only possible risk might be if personal belongings of those using the toilets are damaged by workers on the Wills Estate, but it was felt the risk was negligible. Once all the documentation has been completed the £8,000 from North Somerset Council will be forwarded to the Parish Council bank account. A peppercorn rent of £5.00 per annum will be payable once matters have been finalised.

- **Broadband** - Roger Daniels introduced Chris Head from WERN - part of his role being to work with Parishes not covered in the first stage of the Connect Devon & Somerset project. He confirmed that we will be included in the second phase which will be underway once the tender process is complete. The information provided on WERN website is misleading and Chris handed out a correct map of the area and exchanges/cabinets. He advised that Churchill have a new cabinet and that Blagdon will be receiving one shortly. Chris is asking Parish Councils to provide information to assist him in highlighting the urgency of improved broadband in the area. The information he has requested is regarding the number of people who work from home in the Parish; those unable to work from home due to poor connections; number of children needing to use broadband for homework (the school is on a 'grid for learning' council lease line). Parish Council undertook to request this information within its Annual Newsletter which will be delivered to all residents in the parish in March/April.

- **Neighbourhood Development Plan** - it was agreed that a meeting be set up with Churchill Parish Council in March to discuss matters of mutual interest.

- **Burger Van in Burrington Combe** - consent has been given to the burger van with a number of conditions which, to-date, appear to have been upheld. The van has become popular as it is open at different times to the Burrington Inn.

- **The Queen's Birthday Celebrations** - Events are taking place in London over the weekend of 10th June and it is hoped local celebrations will coincide with those dates maybe with the school/church doing something on the Friday; an event in the school grounds on the Saturday and people doing their own thing on the Sunday. A mail drop will be issued inviting all Parishioners to join a meeting in the Parish Room on Thursday 4th February at 7.30pm to discuss ideas on how to celebrate this event. The Clerk undertook to draft a letter which RDors will photocopy and all will assist in distribution. The Chairman confirmed that our insurance will cover public liability for events that the Parish Council is organising.

- **Churchill & Langford Mini Bus Society** - have applied for a funding grant and this has now been approved. Part of the terms is to ensure more people in the area have access to the facility. The Society are constantly looking for more drivers.

- **Bristol Airport's Annual Community Review** - PK, RD & FW attended the update meeting in December. We have in the past applied to the Airport Community Fund for a grant but were not successful. However, we feel strongly that the airport does affect our area and a donation, to assist with improved road signage for example, would not be unrealistic and RD undertook to draft a further letter to the Airport Community Fund. The problems caused by the traffic lights near to the airport were raised, where long delays can be expected at rush hour, and a meeting is scheduled to discuss how to improve the situation.

- **Mendip Hills AONB Parish Representatives** - all agreed to vote for Frances Wilson and the Clerk undertook to return the application.

## BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

- **NSC Planning for Future Housing** - On 18 September 2015 the Secretary of State confirmed a new housing requirement of 20,985 dwellings for 2006 to 2026. In November and December, NSC consulted on modifications to some policies in the Core Strategy to accommodate these numbers. Current housing capacity in terms of completions, commitments and windfall is 19,270 dwellings; leaving a shortfall of 1,715 dwellings to be identified through the Sites and Policies Plan. The proposed modification to Core Strategy Policy CS14 (housing distribution) demonstrates that the housing requirement of 20,985 dwellings can be delivered over the plan period without change to the existing policy framework. Other than updates to the dwelling numbers and distribution, no material change proposed to the remaining remitted policies. No changes are therefore expected in rural areas like Burrington, although there are a number of planning applications for housing in the larger villages, including Yatton, Congresbury, Sandford and Churchill. A recent planning appeal in Congresbury was dismissed and probably indicates that most of the current applications will not succeed.
- **Repairs to Waste Bin - Rickford village** - PK has spoken to Jeff Shipway of NSC who is looking to supply liners that will fit.
- **Hedge cutting, Ham Link** - Jeff Shipway confirmed that a small tractor had been enlisted to do the job but it wasn't 'man enough' and therefore, although an improvement, the end result is not perfect.
- **Drain Covers on A368** - some work have been undertaken to seal the drain covers but Jeff Shipway will be applying for funds in April to allow installation of new piping to improve the situation.
- **Grass cuttings, Burial Ground** - continual rain has prevented any cutting in the burial ground. Storage bins will be emptied when things dry out.

### 5. SPEEDWATCH & ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

RD had chased NSC and Avon & Somerset police for replies to our correspondence regarding road signage and improvements but nothing had been received. The Clerk undertook to write to both saying that at our meeting today a number of residents raised questions which we were unable to answer. Figures are still in the process of being compiled following the installation of the temporary Vehicle Activated Sign through the Parish. However, it was noted that there is an increase in speeding offences at times that coincide with the end of shift at Yeo Valley and the Clerk undertook to draft a letter to them asking if they can bring this problem to the attention of their staff. If we were successful in our application for a grant we would put this towards purchasing a permanent VAS. JR undertook to look into the provision of 'wig-wag' signs at The Batch which flash telling drivers to reduce speed to 20 miles per hour at school time. The possibility of reducing the speed limit from 40 to 30 was raised but this has been applied for twice in the past and refused, mainly on the basis of cost. It was felt that it would be more effective to continue our efforts to get improved signage and not put another request to NSC. However, if the Rickford Association want to get residents to sign a petition and put this forward, the Parish Council would be happy to add its support as, no doubt, would the School. It was noted a Rickford Association meeting would be held shortly to discuss the issues.

### 6. POLICE REPORT

Apologies were received from Pen Gatenby. PCSO Marie Broomfield (MB) attended and advised that there were no recordable crimes in Burrington Parish. Animals in the road, particularly in The Combe has become a problem. The Mendip Hills AONB have asked NSC to look at The Combe as 'a place', not 'a road' as it is the gateway to the Mendips and road signage should reflect this i.e. 'Tourism' sign. The bad weather conditions have caused many accidents over recent weeks. Matt Thomas from the Rickford Association asked if Marie could provide the name of the police officer who collates statistics on accidents and she undertook to send details in an email to him, copying the Clerk. Residents advised that their main area of concern is speeding on the A368 and the danger, in particular, to children crossing at The Batch. MB advised that in view of reduced numbers of police and larger areas they have to cover it was difficult to spend time enforcing speed limits and dealing with offenders. Marie was brought up to-date with the action taken so far by the Council and was asked that our requests of NSC be supported by the Police. PC Dave Adams, the speed awareness officer, has been very helpful in discussions with NSC. Marie undertook to chase the feedback from the motor cycle reports. PK mentioned that there has been an increase in poaching over recent weeks. MB asked that all sightings are reported even if it is not possible to get the number plate. PK undertook to email MB and consideration will be given to organising another 'poaching operation' in the near future. PK asked that cards be provided with police contact details on so that they can be given to elderly residents. This had been raised some time ago but with all the changes that have taken place it has not been actioned. Marie confirmed that her mobile number is 07702 113 872.

### 7. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was none. Apologies received from Cllr Liz Wells.

### 8. NSC LIAISON OFFER'S REPORT

Apologies received from Mark Hughes, who asked that we forward any relevant issues to him to deal with.

### 9. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BURRINGTON

It was noted that there are training opportunities offered by NSC but it had been agreed that there was no need for 'wardens' in our area. In the event of ice or snow falls the Parish Council can request refills of the salt bins provided in the villages.

# BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## 10. VILLAGE AGENT

Lyndsay Newman joined the meeting to inform us of her role as Village Agent. She works 10 hours a week and is employed by the West of England Rural Network in North Somerset villages. Lyndsay is the first point of contact to point those looking for assistance in the right direction, i.e. the elderly needing meals on wheels, transport etc and to assist those in social isolation. The Chairman thanked her for attending and undertook to mention her role in our Annual Newsletter. Lyndsay will provide leaflets that we can distribute with the Newsletter.

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Road signage Frys Lane/Ham Link** - an email received from a resident regarding road signage in Ham Link was read out. After consideration it was agreed that the matter should be referred to North Somerset Council for their comments/advice, and the Clerk undertook to forward the email.

- **New Year Honours List 2017** - No nomination

- **Request for local Community Grants - Somerset Storyfest** - Having considered the request for a donation up to £900 it was agreed that we do not have sufficient funds to support this venture and the Clerk undertook to advise accordingly

- **PCAA draft response to Joint Spatial Plan & Joint Transport Study** - responses noted

- **NSC free annual flowers for Summer 2016** - in view of small public display area it was agreed not to take up this offer

- **NALC Transparency Grant** - The Chairman advised that there are a number of costs that we can apply for under the Transparency Grant application, which is available to local councils with an income of less than £25,000. For example, we can apply for website setup and annual costs. RD undertook to put in an application

- **Mendip Hills Tourism Workshop 23Feb + Survey** - as two councillors attended the last workshop it was not felt necessary to attend the one in February. RD undertook to complete the survey

- **Royal Garden Party - nominate Ex-Councillor** - Councillors asked to consider any nominations.

## 12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Chairman has received a complaint regarding No.6 The Link. The bicycle shop that has closed in Burrington Combe has now reopened in the garage of No. 6 without planning permission. The Clerk undertook to write to the Enforcement Officer regarding the matter.

15/P/2753/WT - The Byre, Langford Road, Langford -Bay Tree & Leylandii - reduce crowns - GRANTED

15/P/2719/WT - Alden House, Langford Road, Langford - Yew tree - thin & remove deadwood GRANTED

15/P/2587/F - Bramley Cottage, Langford Road, Langford - Erection of conservatory GRANTED

15/P/2618/F & 15/P/2619/F - Emley Farm, Bourne Lane, Burrington - Erection of two replacement agricultural buildings GRANTED

15/P/2332/MMA - Oak Tree Barn, Frys Lane, Burrington - Minor material amendment to planning permission for application 14/P/1744/G - GRANTED

15/P/2401/F + 15/P/2404/LB - Agricultural Barns at Bourne Farm, Bourne Lane, Burrington - Change of use to two single holiday units with provision of a bat roost in neighbouring barn - GRANTED

## 13. BURIAL GROUND

The Chairman suggested that as the payment of £50 per session has remained the same for the past 3 years, an increase to £55 per session be made for maintenance of the burial ground. This was proposed by Frances Wilson and seconded by Roger Daniels.

## 14. BUDGET & PRECEPT

Discussion took place on how much precept to request this year and it was decided to keep it at the same rate of £3,000. Although we have healthy reserves in the bank there is a risk factor regarding taking over Burrington Combe toilets that we need to consider, and we may also need to call on reserves to assist in purchasing road signage. The amount was proposed by Richard Dors and seconded by Frances Wilson.

## 15. ACCOUNTS RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

### Receipts

Bank Interest (Nov15)	0.28
DJ Brown Stone Mason re: Patrick Parsons	70.00
DJ Brown Stone Mason (Sent in error to be refunded)	70.00
CV Gower Funeral Directors re: David Francis	130.00
<b>Burrington Conveniences:</b>	
Safepost Box (Cash)	200.00
Mendip Hills AONB Annual Donation	200.00
<b>Automated Donations into Bank Account:</b>	
Mendip Outdoor Pursuits (Nov/Dec 15)	200.00
Caving Services (Nov/De15)	20.00
Infra Logistics (Nov/Dec15)	<u>5.00</u>

**Total Receipts** **£895.28**

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## BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Payments

North Somerset Council - Recharge Election	
Expenses re Election held on 7th May 2015	89.08
C Husher, cleaning of BC toilets	
28th November 2015 -29th Jan 2016 - 9 wks @ £40	360.00
T Martin - Clerk's salary Oct-Dec 2015	490.40
HM Revenue & Customs tax on Clerk's Salary	9.60
DJ Brown Stone Mason (Sent in error to be refunded)	70.00
Alan Green - village maint. 38hours @ £8.00 phr = £304	
+ repair of hedge trimmer = £54.00	358.00
Blagdon Forge Ltd - BC Toilet maintenance	240.00

**Total Payments**

**£1,617.08**

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Payment of the above accounts was proposed by Roger Daniels and seconded by Frances Wilson.

### **16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- It was noted that a lot of rubbish is being left by the BC toilets, including dog mess left in bags.
- The temperature in the hall was mentioned and all agreed that it was much colder than it should be. The wall heaters on the back toilets are not working and black mould is now growing on the walls. The Clerk undertook to write to the Chair of the Parish Room asking him to look into the matter.

### **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 22nd February 2016 to be held at 7.30 pm in The Parish Room, Burrington.

The date for the Annual Meeting was also agreed as Monday, 11th April 2016.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9.17 pm.