

## BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on **MONDAY 15th July 2013**, in The Parish Room, Burrington.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mark Hughes, Head of Housing (Liaison Officer) NSC (MH)  
Cllr Liz Wells  
Mrs. Teresa Martin (Clerk) (TM)  
55 Members of the public

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr. & Mrs. Marsden-Smedley  
Mr. & Mrs. Leighton  
Letters of apology were read out from: David & Sue Simpson  
Alan Green  
Dudley Portch  
Peter Beddingfield  
PC Ray Bradley  
Sarah Allen

**Action**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and commented that the letter recently issued around the village regarding the parking and traffic in the square had raised some interest, but pointed out that the letter had not been issued by the Parish Council. He emphasised that the Parish Council meetings are always open to the public.

### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bob Shapland said he had not attended the last meeting and had not received the recently distributed letter. He asked where the letter and survey had come from and also asked for clarification regarding BVRA - Burrington Village Resident's association - who/where/what is it about? He pointed out that the village square is a public highway where parental control is necessary. He agreed that there are problems at various times, but felt that there should be a calm, collective way for people to discuss issues.

Martin Kerly thanked the Council for giving members of the public the opportunity to speak. He asked if anyone had looked into the cost of creating a car park, together with its upkeep and to provide security. Who would pay these costs, bearing in mind the Parish Council has a very low precept of £3,000 per annum? How much would it cost rate payers?

Mark Hughes (NSC) advised that Parish Councils can borrow from a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) who offer lower interest rates. He advised that the indicative figures on the PWLB web site to borrow £80,000 over 10 years show it would cost £90,000; and over 20 years would cost £110,000. MH advised that North Somerset Council do not have the funds to put into new car parks, and that the council are only able to build new car parks where the cost of construction is met from external funding e.g. grants, and that the operation of the car park would be self funding on a revenue basis e.g. through parking charges. He further advised that if the Parish Council wished to build a car park they would also need to make sure they could fund the ongoing management and maintenance costs including enforcement. Planning permission would be required and it is possible that business rates would apply.

Sarah Alvis - Burrington School PTA - said that the building works currently being undertaken at the school is causing more parking problems. The Keels kindly opened up one of their fields to ease the parking problem when dropping off children but only half a dozen or so cars used the facility. Parents with other children in the car would not leave them where they could not be seen. Sarah felt a new car park would not be used and therefore was unable to support this option.

Jonathan Pratt - It is good that we are exploring options for speed reductions.

Barry Smith - Burrington Farm - £80,000 is a lot to spend for an overflow car park for the airport!

Simon Clarke said he had the results of the survey. The presentation given at the previous meeting was to

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open a debate on the issues. 50% of those who responded to the survey acknowledged there were obstruction problems. BVRA wanted to get people interested in the issues and it was not meant to be a rival group working against the Parish Council. Simon apologised if he had given that impression. Councillors agreed to look at the results of the survey later.

Action

Don Gray - asked who were members of the BVRA but Simon did not wish to give names. Don also mentioned that a lot of building works going on at Church Farm was adding to congestion in the square.

ALL

Peter Harrison - Church Warden - was concerned that only a limited number of people had been asked to take part in the survey and a wider audience should have been approached. The Parish Room, Church and School all require parking.

Nicky Parsons, who farms land that is accessed from the village, felt she should have had the opportunity to participate in the survey.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** held on Monday 20th May 2013 were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

### MATTERS ARISING

**Access to Rickford** - the Clerk undertook to obtain an update on the situation from NSC.

**Rickford Ford** - It is likely that repair works to the Ford will commence this August.

**Burrington Combe Toilets** - the Chairman briefly informed the public of the situation stating that the closure of the toilets had been postponed until November in the hope that a resolution would be reached between the AONB, NSC and Outdoor pursuits businesses that use the facilities. It was not for the Parish Council to fund as none of the residents use them. It was noted that these are the only toilets still open in the AONB. A new company called BBC have taken over the cleaning, which is much improved. The Husher family were thanked for taking on this task. A further meeting regarding the future of the toilets is to be held on the 16th July.

TM

**Pedestrian Access, The Batch** - We are on the list for action, and have moved up one step.

**Flooding in Lower Langford & Blackwall** - JR reported that nothing further has happened, and he is disappointed in the lack of response from NSC giving ideas on what to do going forward. He would keep on the case. Mark Hughes commented that NSC had been overwhelmed with the number of reported floodings and were dealing with the more serious cases in order of priority. He agreed JR should keep in touch with NSC.

**Speedwatch / Road Signage** - PK advised the public that we have a Speedwatch scheme that may join forces with the Churchill scheme in due course. Speedwatch mainly takes place on the A368 Bath Road. JR advised that the painting of white lines has been carried out and foliage cut back revealing road signs. Also renewed signs are pending. Flashing signs have been requested at Langford Green and outside the Blagdon Water Centre but currently there are no funds available. It was noted that since the chevron was installed in Burrington Combe there had only been one accident.

JR

**Burial Ground** - the Chairman asked if anyone would be interested in working in the burial ground repairing the graves that have sunk. He asked if people could let him know if they were interested.

It was noted that the Village Orderly, Stan Croker, has handed in his notice. The Clerk undertook to prepare a letter of thanks for his valued service. The Chairman asked that if anyone was interested in taking over this role to please get in touch with him.

**Burrington Village Traffic / Parking** - Paul Keel declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the Hall after handing the meeting over to Vice Chair, Frances Wilson.

TM

Roger Daniels read out a paper which identified the issues and potential problems, and also offered potential solutions for consideration (see attached sheet that was prepared for the meeting). RD said further consideration would be given to the matter and a further report will be made at the next meeting.

FW asked if there were any further comments or questions on this item.

ALL

John Lee - Suggested a gate should be hung at the end of The Dring. FW said this would be added to the list of possibilities however it had been considered in the past but felt it would be too much of an obstacle for those trying to get equipment to the burial ground/playing field.

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Kate Jackson - lives in Rickford village and had not received a copy of the letter or survey, despite using the school. She felt that as Rickford is part of the parish of Burrington residents should have been given the opportunity to participate. By not issuing the survey widely enough it holds no credibility.

Mark Northcott commented there was no due diligence around the survey.

Jo Alvis, School Governor, non resident - advised that they do encourage parents to 'drop & go' and also to be considerate when parking. They will have a new influx of parents shortly and they will do their best to 'train' them to park sensibly. The number of children who are able to use the minibus has been reduced by NSC therefore more are coming by car.

Cllr Liz Wells advised that NSC would not support or fund a car park. She has lived close to Churchill School for 30 years and experiences plenty of congestion during drop off and pick up times. However, she knew the school was there when she bought the house.

Juliette Light, mother of three, commented that she takes full responsibility for her children ensuring they wear helmets when cycling and that they are properly trained in cycling and safety generally.

Mark Hughes said that, where possible, NSC would offer help and support to local communities who are looking at issues and considering how to resolve them.

John Rhodes has looked into the matter of installing a 20 mile speed sign in the village and advised that this would cost £5,000 which would have to be funded by the Parish Council. It is hoped that the Road Safety Officer will attend a meeting/visit the site in the near future. Agreement has been received from NSC that 'Slow School' signs can be erected in Frys Lane once a formal, written request has been received. The Clerk undertook to produce such letter.

Chris Woods asked what happens next? FW advised Council would look further into the issues, liaising with NSC. Chris felt that he and other residents should try to attend Council meetings but did not know when they were held. Roger Daniels advised that the Agenda is placed on the Notice Boards in the Parish (displayed in Burrington at the Parish Room the Church, in Rickford village and also in Langford) and can also be found on the website ([www.burrington-pc.org.uk](http://www.burrington-pc.org.uk)) along with copies of reports and Minutes.

TM

Richard Dors commented that a sign at the entrance to the village stating 'Burrington Village only' may prevent people mistakingly taking this turning for Burrington Combe.

It was suggested that a special meeting to discuss the Village parking/traffic matter be arranged. It was not felt appropriate to have a 'show of hands' for or against the car park proposal.

Frances Wilson advised that should the Parish Council feel the need to issue a survey on any matter, it would be sent to every household in the Parish. FW thanked everyone for their comments and support.

ALL

Paul Keel returned to the meeting and took over the Chair.

**Police Report** - in PC Bradley's absence, PK read out the Police Report. The crime figures for June were Blagdon 4, Burrington 1, Butcombe 0, Churchill 3, Winford 8. Last month 4 vehicles were attacked overnight in the Rhodyate area of Blagdon when the contents of their fuel tanks (diesel) were stolen. Following concerted efforts by plain clothes officers in the Winford areas, the recent spate of non dwelling burglaries appear to have stopped. The PCSO from Congresbury and Wrington has been covering Blagdon and Churchill also following the move of our local PCSO to Weston.

PK wished Ray Bradley a speedy recovery. He advised the public that Ray is due to retire next year and despite the cuts in the Police Force funding it is hoped that a successor will be trained and in place before his departure.

**District Councillor's Report** - There was none.

### **NSC Liaison Officer's Report**

MH gave an update.

- Work on the Weston package was now underway
- The Care Navigating Service provides help and advice to older people about accessing care, including enabling access to care at competitive rates.
- The national Comprehensive Spending Review in June indicates a 50% reduction in Local Authority funds

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from Government in the 8 years to 2018, and the Council are continuing to look at how it will manage these further reductions.

- The recently issued Localism Act allows for villagers to identify any local amenity for the parish etc to bid for should it come up for sale. Winscombe Library is the first in our area to be identified as such an amenity.
- House prices in the area are rising and the national Comprehensive Spending Review in June has identified some new schemes to fund affordable homes. PK thanked MH for his continued help and support.

TM

**Community Resilience North Somerset** - PK explained that this project is to put in place local plans should there be a major disaster like flooding, landslides, pandemic. NSC have equipment which Congresbury have been trialling and passing on information to us. A separate meeting of Councillors to discuss this particular topic will be set up. The Parish Council is to start the process then volunteers from the Community will be invited.

ALL

### CORRESPONDENCE

- **NSC Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Generation Survey** - noted.
- **NSC Electrical Waste Amnesty Event** - noted, but not felt appropriate for our small Parish. Perhaps a reminder on the website of where electrical goods can be disposed of would help to bring this to residents attention.
- **Neighbourhood Policing Awards** - All agreed that PC Ray Bradley should be nominated for an award and the Clerk undertook to take the necessary action.
- **Free Mapping for Parish & Town Councils** - Roger Daniels has signed up for one of the training courses in September.
- **NSC re parking in Burrington Combe** - PK read out a letter from the Senior Enforcement Officer saying that without evidence that cannot be refuted, they are unable to resolve the parking issue in Burrington Combe. They were therefore closing the case, but would continue to keep an eye on the situation.

ALL

RD

TM

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

13/P/0406/F - Aardvark Endeavours - application refused

13/P/0961/NMA - Burrington Primary School - non material amendment, no objections

13/P/1106/F - The Post House, Rickford Lane - no comments or objections

### BURIAL GROUND

The headstone and suggested wording for Mr. David Palmer was agreed.

### ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Parish Councils Airport Association	50.00
T. Martin, Clerk's salary April-June 2013	450.00
T Martin - Clerk's expenses April-June 2013	29.90
J G & T Martin maintenance of burial ground	150.00
Hire of Parish Room	<u>81.00</u>
	£ 760.90
	=====

Payment of the above accounts were proposed by Roger Daniels and seconded by Paul Keel.

### PAYMENTS RECEIVED

David J Brown, Masons re: David Palmer £70.00

PK advised that future payments to BBC for cleaning the Burrington public toilets would have to be made by the Parish Council and NSC would reimburse. All agreed that the payment should be made monthly and claimed back every two months.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The problem of dogs fouling the footpaths was raised and it was suggested that posters be hung along the lane to Burrington and in the village. The Clerk undertook to obtain posters.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 16th September 2013, 7.30 pm in The Parish Room, Burrington.

PK thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting which closed at 8.45 pm.

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### BURRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013

#### Agenda Item 5: Burrington Village Traffic and Parking

1. The meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May received a presentation from Mr Simon Clarke on problems of road safety and car parking in the Square, Burrington. Mr Clarke proposed various measures including a *Home Zone* approach to traffic calming, with a planted area in the centre of the Square to reduce road and parking space; designated spaces for disabled parking and deliveries; and a car park on Church-owned land accessed from the Combe with footpath links to the village.
2. Later in the meeting, the Parish Council discussed the issues raised and possible solutions, including those proposed by Mr Clarke. Issues and potential problems that were identified include:
  - Road safety hazards for children living in the village or attending the school from parked and moving vehicles;
  - Congestion caused by parents dropping off and collecting children for the school;
  - Vehicle speeds through the village;
  - Parked cars blocking drives/accesses of houses in and around the Square;
  - Obstruction of deliveries, refuse/recycling collection, and emergency vehicles;
  - Traffic entering the village mistakenly when looking for the Combe; and
  - Parking associated with events at the Church and Parish Room.
3. Potential solutions for consideration were discussed, including:
  - A village car park accessed from Frys Lane or the Combe, combined with
  - Car parking controls in the village;
  - Temporary car parking for special events at the Church and Parish Room;
  - A lower speed limit in the village, combined with other traffic calming measures such as ramps, narrows, road surface markings and other physical controls to indicate priority for pedestrians – similar to a *Home Zone* approach;
  - Improved signage of the village from Bath Road (A368);
  - Improved speed signage at all entrances to the village; and
  - Measure to reduce car journeys for dropping-off and collecting children at the school, and to manage car parking for the school.

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4. It was recognised that the Parish Council has limited powers and limited financial resources to implement traffic management and car parking measures. Implementation would depend primarily on North Somerset Council as highway authority, planning authority and education authority.
5. Members of the Parish Council have subsequently consulted some local residents, North Somerset Council, the School, emergency services and land owners on the various measures discussed.
6. The School and the Council's School Travel Adviser seek to minimise car nuisance in the Square, by encouraging other transport options (such as car sharing, minibus and walking) and seeking to control the time parents wait to drop off children at the school. New parents are advised to minimise car access to the Square. It was suggested that the Parish Council should also write to parents on the subject to highlight safety hazards and potential nuisance to local residents.
7. The Fire Brigade has not encountered any particular problems in the Square. They are accustomed to moving cars to access fire hydrants and would have to use hose pipes for Rickford Lane as it cannot be accessed with a large fire tender.
8. The Police are not aware of any reported incidents in the Square and have some concerns about access, security and management of a new car park in the Combe.
9. North Somerset Council officers have expressed no objections, in principle, to a 20 mph speed limit in the village and improved signage – subject to details and costs.
10. Next steps – subject to feedback from the Parish Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July include:
  - Receiving the views of local residents at the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July, including the results of a survey by the *Burrington Village Residents Association*;
  - Consultation with other local residents and landowners;
  - Detailed consideration of the implementation of speed limits, improved road signage, traffic calming and parking measures with North Somerset Council;
  - Investigating the feasibility of potential sites for a village car park in discussion with North Somerset Council and land owners; and
  - Consideration of whether it is appropriate and advantageous to promote this package of measures as a *Home Zone*.