

BURROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Karen Peck, email: clerk@burroughgreenparishcouncil.org.uk
Chair: Tom Rusk

NOTICE OF MEETING: Annual Parish Meeting
TIME: 7pm
DATE: Tuesday 7th May 2024
VENUE: Reading Room

MINUTES

Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Councillor Rusk, Batting and Way. District Councillor Lay and District and County Councillor Sharp. One member of the public.

01 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Councillor Khan - work commitments

02 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF:

- a) It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes from 8th May 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Motion carried.

03 TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Over the last 12 months there are several key items which the Parish Council (PC) has worked to deliver:

- In spring 2023, the Parish Council conducted an opinion survey, giving all Parish residents the opportunity to shape the future of our community. 157 surveys were hand delivered to all households in the Parish, of which 52 completed surveys were returned. A response of 33%, which is exceptionally high for this type of task. 90% of responding households were in Burrough Green, the remaining 10% were in Burrough End. Within these households 101+ adults reside, and 35 children; 35% of all responding households had children. 'Reducing Traffic Speeds' was seen to be the number 1 priority for the Parish Council, followed by 'Improving Footpaths, Cycleways & Bridleways'. A large amount of highly valuable insight and information was gathered, and indeed some of it was used in our most recent funding applications.
- A new 40 mph speed limit was introduced for Burrough End, which utilised the Cambridgeshire Council Local Highways Improvement (LHI) scheme to fund the majority of the costs. The PC were very pleased to have had the application accepted, and that the delivery was done relatively smoothly. The PC would have preferred the 30mph limit requested, however the setting did not meet with the national guidelines; it has however provided a big improvement for local residents, and the opportunity to use this as a base to introduce further speed reduction measures.
- We had success with our 'Pride of Place' application for funding to fully renovate the village nature pond on the green. Burrough Green was awarded £14,700, which will be used to fund working with a contractor to dredge and clear the pond and add new pond plants to attract wildlife. We'll ensure that the pond has shallower slopes so it is safer for people, and will allow wildlife, such as hedgehogs, to access the water.
- This last year saw a major change within the village. Les decided that it was time to retire from cutting the village green at the end of 2023. The Parish Council are enormously grateful for the service he provided to the community over the last 20 years. The Parish Council wholeheartedly appreciate the time and effort taken by Les to make our community look as beautiful as it does. We reiterate our thanks and best wishes to Les.
- Following on from the above, the Parish Council have secured a contract with McGregor Services, the ground maintenance firm who also cut grass for other local villages. Whilst the wet weather was against Tom and his team initially, they're now growing their understanding of when the grass needs to be cut, to keep it looking tidy.
- Recently we've had a significant challenge with flooding on the B1061 towards Great Bradley, along with the associated problem of the road surface being in a very poor state of repair. Numerous potholes opened up, debris

on the road was an issue, and in sections, the surface completely disintegrated. Earlier this month substantial repairs were made to the road, and whilst it took more effort and time than expected, we were happy to have been able to influence the County Council to make the repairs required.

In addition to the repairs, Peter Read kindly cleared the ditches on one side of the road, enabling somewhere for water to run-off. The County Council has cleared ditches on the other side, and we hope that together, these improvements will prevent a repeat of the flooding which caused road closures and inconvenience to so many people.

- Amongst other achievements in the last year it is worth mentioning that we have replaced the dilapidated village gates at either end of Burrough Green, as well as renovating the 2 benches near the playpark. Mark has also been busy talking to local landowners to ensure that the local footpaths are kept clear and useable.

It is also important to mention that residents saw a sizeable percentage increase in the element of their council tax which goes towards funding Burrough Green Parish Council. This was caused by 2 reasons...

1. There was a modest increase in the precept [the total amount we ask for to fund the day-to-day activities of the Parish], which was needed to cover the increased costs for things such as maintenance, insurance and clerk wages.
2. In the previous year, a request was made to redefine the Parish boundary, resulting in 16 households moving from Burrough Green Parish to Westley Waterless. This was the right thing to do, as those households are located in Westley Waterless, and it's been an enabler for the community in Westley Waterless to form a fully functioning Parish Council. The knock-on impact of this change, was that the Burrough Green precept is now split over fewer houses, which had the unfortunate one-off effect of increasing the council tax bills for the remaining Burrough Green residents.

The Parish Council will do its utmost to control costs over the next year.

Looking forward to the next 12 months, the Parish Council has a number of items which it aims to focus on:

- Increasing the number of Parish Councillors supporting the community – filling the vacancies which we currently have, and ideally finding one or more persons to represent the residents of Burrough End.
- Delivering the pond restoration project – Mark will lead on this, with support from us all. The aim is to deliver a renovated pond that the community can enjoy and be proud of.
- A new LHI application has been submitted to implement 40mph 'buffer zones' at either end of the existing 30mph zone through Burrough Green. We await to hear the outcome from the process for this round of funding, due in July.
- A separate application has been proposed to be made to local charitable organisations, for funding towards a 2nd mobile vehicle activated sign (MVAS) – if successful, this will be deployed in Burrough End, to reinforce the 40mph limit.
- Burrough Green Primary School has, over the past few years, been significantly impacted by falling pupil numbers – the Parish Council will look for ways to support the viability of the school, so that it can be there for many more future generations to come.
- We have started the process to understand the benefits of producing of our own Parish Neighbourhood plan; something which, amongst other things, assists with having an increased say in future planning permission decisions.
- Finally, the Parish Council will continue to focus on the priorities identified by the results of the village survey – Reducing Traffic Speeds, and Improving Footpaths, Cycleways & Bridleways.

04 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report from District Councillor James Lay Citizen Advise Bureau

Newmarket needs better opening hours for the CAB in Newmarket. In Woodditton Ward 90 families have enquired for help in the last year. ECDC has provided £25,000 to support the operation each year for the next 3 years.

As the representative on the CAB for ECDC I have agreed to recruit and find extra funds.

I have recruited 3 volunteers to cover the opening hours of Wednesdays at Newmarket. All three have to be trained and I have the task of raising £7,000 to cover staffing cost.

Cambridge and Peterborough Joint Authority.

I sit on the committee that has responsibility for Employment and Skills on the Joint Authority. I have been talking to West Suffolk College re setting up more Apprenticeships in the ECDC area.

ECDC Planning.

I am your representative for planning at ECDC.

Anglia Revenue Partnership (ARP).

The ARP Collect Council Tax on behalf of 5 local authorities and I sit as the representative for ECDC.

Kings Theatre Newmarket.

We now have a Cinema on our door step in Newmarket and I have raised funds on their behalf.

Development of Newmarket.

I will sit on the new body that will look at Racing, Breeding, and development of Newmarket.

Annual Report from County and District Councillor Sharp**Cambridgeshire County Council Report – Report on 2023/2024****Congestion Charge**

The year started with congestion charging still being discussed as a live possibility. Whilst that has now gone away, as an immediate concern, there is still the nagging doubt that it may come back as a possibility.

More traffic restrictions

The ruling administration at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) made permanent some temporary features within Cambridge City, including the plastic wands down East Road, restricting traffic at Trumpington Road mini roundabouts, which is causing delays for buses, thus not encouraging drivers to use public transport.

I have ideas on how we can solve traffic issues within and outside the City and will continue to put those forward and welcome any suggestions from residents.

Buses

The mayor has increased the mayoral precept by **200%** from £12 to £36 for a Band D property, which will apparently be spent on bus transport including Demand Responsive Transport, one scheme that will be in East Cambridgeshire towards the east of the district.

Some proposals have currently been put forward and they will come to a Transport & Infrastructure Committee meeting in late June.

The Combined Authority is considering using franchising to improve the bus service within the County. A Bus Service Improvement plan bid needs to be made to central government by 12th June, but there are no scheduled meetings due before that date to offer constructive comments on the submission and the previous submission 3 years ago, was roundly condemned by Government.

Potholes and Highway Repairs

It has been a frustrating year in getting highways repairs done. Despite continued pressure from the opposition, the speed at which repairs were being done has been unacceptable and the standard of the repairs has both angered residents and caused a lot of additional cost. Our team proposed the allocation of £26.8m on top of the £20m allocated by the JA, but this was rejected.

The Cheveley Crossroads, Broomstick Corner, is a prime example of my having to exert considerable pressure on officers to get the maintenance work done. This should not be the case, but this work should be part of proper maintenance.

In terms of Highways, another issue has been the unprecedented water issues, which have not been handled very well. Whilst there was a huge strain on the flood team, there have been long delays in getting things done.

The Council is looking at improving the management and performance of the maintenance team, as there are too many issues that are arising with work not being done.

Weeds Policy

Pressure from our team and the subsequent pressure from parish councils, persuaded a change of policy by the JA and reverting to the previous policy.

Mill Road

This continues to be an issue, as the judge has allowed a large number of the issues involved in the action to proceed to the next stage and be heard, thus no work can be undertaken by CCC until this legal action is finalised.

CCC Budget

The CCC increased their precept by 4.99%, the maximum allowed.

ECDC

The precept for ECDC remained the same for the 11th year running, with nil increase.

Waste System

The Government are standardising the way that refuse collection is undertaken by local authorities. The District Council are currently discussing how this will be implemented, probably in 2026, which will include black bins, instead of black bags, food caddies, with a weekly collection of the food waste in those caddies. The current timetable is to take the final proposals to Full Council in October, so I will update later in the year.

East Cambs Trading Company

ECTC has contributed over £6m in reduced costs and income to East Cambridgeshire District Council, whilst delivering affordable housing, such as the renovation of 92 homes at the RAF site in Ely, Kennett Garden Village CLT with 400 homes and the Paradise Pool site in Ely with 16 homes.

05 TO RECEIVE VILLAGE GROUPS ANNUAL REPORTS

Reading Room - Chair and Treasurer's Report **Income**

Fund raising was down on last year as in 22/23 we were the recipients of significant monies from the Warm Hub initiative (£840) vs (£270) in 23/24.

The Montessori continues to use the Reading Room and we have now also a regular bridge afternoon. The Bridge evening again made significant funds for the Reading Room raising over £1500 this year and remains an important fund raiser for the RR.

We did raise the hiring rate to £12 an hour which has not seemed a problem.

Expenses

Our expenses were significantly down against prior year with no significant items.

We decided this year to take on a cleaner who now cleans the RR once a month to ensure that it remains in the best possible condition and following a couple of issues where the heating was left on we have put in place an automatic turn off at 10pm in the event it is again left turned on by a hirer.

Reflections on the Year

The Reading Room remains in excellent condition but it would be fair to say underused. We know from feedback that we have received that those who use the reading room appreciate the facilities.

Our bank balance remains in a healthy position with just over £11,400.

We would like to thank most sincerely the reading Room Committee for their hard work and time over the past year, who quietly and efficiently ensure that the Reading Room is ready and available for use by the local community.

The Coming Year

We have started the process of extending the lease on the Reading Room and we know this will not be an issue and can be handled locally. We just need to create the necessary paperwork to agree the extension. We hope to run a few theme evenings in the summer to increase the usage of the Reading Room.

Mrs Joanne Harrison/Mr Mark Batting

Burrough Green C of E Primary School – Annual Report 2023-24.

It has been a productive year at Burrough Green Primary School. Following my appointment, which began in September 2023, we set to work on our journey of school improvement. Firstly, we looked at the curriculum and revamped its content – subject leaders worked tirelessly to improve the provision we provide for our children. Training was delivered, by staff, on various lesson components to improve our children's experience at Burrough Green. The new curriculum was released just before Christmas on our new website, which took time to build.

Financial issues meant we had to restructure during the spring term, but now this is complete we are all looking forward to a bright future at Burrough Green.

Our second consecutive 'Requires Improvement' judgement in January 2023, meant that the school would be forced to academise. We will be joining ACT (which has Buckden Primary School as its primary school) and I have been working closely with the CEO, Alison Anderson. As I write, we are expecting a June 2024 conversion. Pupils and parents will notice little change (apart from a new school sign!) – uniforms will stay the same etc. The main benefit is that our small setting will be able to share the expertise from other school within the trust (Buckden is an outstanding school) and this will greatly assist us on our improvement journey. We have 62 children on roll and really want to see this number grow. There is a positive feel to the school, and as this develops further, we hope more parents trust us to deliver the very best for their children. Our facilities are tremendous – I have certainly never worked in a school with so much space and we have a highly skilled set of staff who are all working, effectively, as a team.

As for the future – who knows, but what I can personally guarantee is that all the children at Burrough Green School will be provided the very best opportunities that we can deliver.

David Sandford
Headteacher

Burrough Green Cricket Club

The 2023 season was one dominated by the weather. In total we had 5 games cancelled and with the instability of regular games we struggled to get any consistency resulting in us ending up a solid mid-table, having won 6 and lost 5 games. Having been promoted back-to-back in 2021 and 2022 we felt this was a disappointment and certainly aim for better things in 2024. In amongst that we had some fantastic individual performances. Ed Riddell scored 159 not out at Little Shelford and ended up top run scorer. We had some good bowling performances with 5 wicket hauls for Aslan Khan, Rob Altringham and skipper Matt Ashcroft. The latter ending up top wicket taker across the season. It would be remiss of any report not thanking the Parish Council for their continued support, and Les for mowing the field last year. In addition, we wish to thank Ian Threllfall for donating a great mower to the club, and also Danny and Tina at the pub who provided post-match food throughout the season.

Our 2024 season was due to start on the 4th May which turned out to be a fantastically sunny day. Unfortunately, the day before saw a deluge which meant Royston couldn't finish preparing the wicket, and subsequently cancelled. Our first home game is the 18th May with games weekly thereafter. As per above our goal is promotion and weather permitting, we fully expect to achieve this. Our main challenges remain having enough players and particularly volunteers to keep the club going.

06 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no questions from the floor.

Meeting closed at 19.24

Chairman
Burrough Green Parish Council

To be signed at next Annual Parish Meeting in May 2025