

BURROUGH GREEN

NOTICE OF MEETING: **Annual Parish Meeting**
TIME: **7pm**
DATE: **Monday 19th May 2025**
VENUE: **Reading Room**

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

- 01 TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
Councillor Alex Monks and Councillor Khan – apologies accepted.
- 02 TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF:
a) The Annual Parish Meeting minutes of 7th May 2024 were unanimously APPROVED as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Motion carried. **Proposed TR Seconded GW**
- 03 TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
Over the last 12 months there are several items which the Parish Council (PC) has worked to deliver:
- Early in 2024 an application was submitted to the Local Highways Improvement (LHI) scheme for funding to install two new 40 mph speed limit 'buffer zones' on Bradley Road, Burrough Green. Thankfully this application was successful in the competitive process, and just recently the Parish Council has reviewed the draft designs provided by Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department. Notwithstanding the lengthy process that needs to take place before the physical install can commence, we hope that this project will be completed later this year.
 - Following the introduction of the 40 mph speed limit in Burrough End in 2023, the Parish Council has been keen to support enforcing this with the use of a new Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS). An application was successfully made to the Wadlow Wind Farm Fund, via the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, and funding has been provided for the purchase of a new solar powered MVAS sign. The installation is expected in the first half of 2025 and may well have happened by the time you read this report.
 - The Parish Council continues to monitor the traffic data from the existing MVAS in Burrough Green, and we recently saw the best set of results since recording recommenced in 2021. 60% of vehicles recorded a speed of 29 mph or under, and 13.5% recorded a speed of 35 mph or over – this has reduced from a peak of nearly 25%. The Parish Council continues to ensure that 'Reducing Traffic Speeds' remains our top priority, as identified in the 2023 Parish Survey, and we look forward to being able to use the data from the new Burrough End MVAS to support further speed reduction and enforcement measures.
 - Early last year Burrough Green was awarded £14,700 by the East Cambridgeshire Council's 'Pride of Place' scheme, to fully renovate the village pond. This work has largely been completed, with extensive pruning, dredging, landscaping and the installation of a new fence and signs. A special note of thanks to Peter Reid for his highly valued support to the project, by providing somewhere to place the sludge removed from the pond.

- Amongst the other points to note from the last year it is worth mentioning that the ongoing maintenance and repair of the Play Park equipment, and the Village Green grass cutting, both remain key ongoing tasks. Mark continues to speak with local landowners about any concerns or issues with footpaths, and overall, there has been a noted improvement in the year-round accessibility of our local routes – many thanks to everyone who has worked to make this happen.
- There was a £504.32 (3.75%), increase in the precept budget request for 2025-26. [The precept is a small element of the overall Council Tax amount used for the day-to-day expenditure of the Parish Council.] This rise was needed to cover inflation related costs increases for things such as maintenance, insurance and clerk wages. Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen reduction in the number of properties in the Parish that are liable to pay Council Tax (decreasing by 4.65%), this has caused the actual cost increase to be 8.8%. Hopefully next year the number of eligible properties will increase again, thus reducing the cost to each individual household.
- It is with great pleasure to report that we now have a full team of 7 volunteer Parish Councillors supporting the community, having recently filled the final 2 vacancies, including a resident from Burrough End. Many thanks to everyone who freely provide their time to help run the Parish Council, as well as other local voluntary groups and events – your support is invaluable in helping to improve the lives of local people, and to sustain a friendly and thriving local community.

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

- Working with the Highways Team to deliver the new 40mph ‘buffer zones’ at either end of the existing 30mph zone through Burrough Green.
- Working to support Burrough Green Primary School with it’s ambition to continue to grow and thrive in our local community.
- We will commence the process of producing Burrough Green Parish’s own Neighbourhood Plan; something which, amongst other things, assists with residents having an increased say in future new housing development, and the character of the local area.
- Some of the Play Area equipment is close to its end-of-life, so the Council will plan for replacing and upgrading equipment for the continued enjoyment of local children and families.
- Finally, the Parish Council will continue to focus on the priorities identified by the results of the 2023 village survey – Reducing Traffic Speeds, and Improving Footpaths, Cycleways & Bridleways.

04 TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Report – Burrough Green Annual Report May 2025 **County Council**

This year, the County has encountered several issues, and my report provides a summary of the key points relevant to Burrough Green residents.

Highways

Swaffham Heath Rd/ A 1303 Crossroads

After four years of waiting, the new staggered junction was opened towards the end of 2024. I am aware of one accident since, involving a motor cyclist and a car. We just need to keep vigilant and ensure that the safety of all road users is paramount.

Capital Maintenance of roads programme

The County Council has introduced a new system for the major resurfacing works which uses a scoring matrix to assess the roads most in need of major work.

That sounds a good idea, but I believe that the scoring matrix is very biased towards urban areas, leaving an unlevel playing field.

The normal pothole repairs come out of the revenue budget, but there needs to be better workmanship on those repairs than currently is the case.

However, it is good that the scoring mechanism has identified Bradley Road, as in need of work this year.

Mill Road Bridge

Back in October 2024, the Highways & Transport Committee voted to restrict Mill Road bridge in Cambridge to taxis, buses, and blue badge holders.

I am opposed to this scheme, as no account of the effect on side roads off Mill Road, such as Tennison Road and Coleridge Road, together with the extra traffic created on Cherry Hinton Road and Coldhams Lane was considered.

Highways Weedkilling

Our group opposed the Council's decision in 2023 to stop chemical weedkilling to save money.

I believed this to be a false economy and in 2024, the County Council were forced to reintroduce the chemical weedkilling, due to the state that it left our roads in.

Parishes and areas were able to continue without chemical weedkilling, which Cambridge City decided not to use. The state of roads such as Trumpington Road shows this to be an incorrect policy.

Busways – Cambridge to Cambourne and CSET

The Council voted to proceed with the busway from Cambourne to Cambridge going through an ancient orchard in Coton at a cost of £200m, as well as another busway going into Addenbrookes going over open countryside and the Gog Magog Hills at a cost of £162m.

I opposed both of those schemes, as there are much cheaper on-road solutions, which do not carve open our countryside.

Council Reorganisation

The County Council held a special meeting on 18th March to agree the Council's response to the Government's Council reorganisation, which Government requested for 21st March, with East Cambridgeshire District Council meeting on 20th March.

The response to Government consisted of a joint letter from all of the Councils within Peterborough and Cambridgeshire excluding Fenland.

The response was very much a holding response and Government are stating that the final decision from the councils is sent by 28th November and if the tier 2 authorities, i.e. District Councils cannot agree, then the County Council makes the decision.

Whilst I agree that there was a need for a reorganisation, this has been imposed by Government with little discussion and no opportunity for residents to comment.

Buses

The mayor, as his last act before announcing that he was not standing for election, decided to implement franchising. I have huge concerns on how this will be financed and could cause a huge financial burden on residents for many years to come.

The extra buses promised as part of the precept increase in 2024 had to go out to tender again, with it looking likely that those services will happen sometime during the summer, a year after residents were paying for them.

Education

The County Council is currently spending £25m on taxis to transport pupils around the County. Whilst a lot of the costs is unavoidable, I have raised concerns in the Education Committee about those costs and how we need to reduce them.

The availability of school places is another issue, as seen in Cambridge, where several secondary schools are full to new pupils, causing those school with places, such as Bottisham Village College, to take those pupils, with pupils having a longer than desired journey to school.

It is a difficult balancing act, but there is a need to take a look at the location and capacity of schools around the County.

Kingsway Solar

Kingsway Solar is a proposed 3,700-acre solar farm, which will encircle West Wratting and Weston Colville, whilst taking the resulting electricity ten miles on pylons across the countryside to the Burwell substation.

I spoke as the local member at the Environment & Green Investment Committee at County Council to express my concerns about the proposed application.

The application is in totally the wrong position, and I will continue to push for a decision that thinks about residents rather than those of opportunistic applicants.

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Waste Services

The system of collection will change from April 2026 to a four-bin system of different sizes. Part of this has been determined by Government legislation, which demands that general waste is put in a bin, rather than the bag system that ECDC uses and the weekly collection of food waste, which currently goes into the green bin.

More details will be shared of these changes later in the year to prepare residents.

Council Tax – Nil Increase

For the eleventh year running, the ECDC portion of the Council tax bill has been frozen and this is managed with no external borrowing, which is a testament to the way that the Council's finances are managed.

Planning

The planning team have had a year of challenges, and a reshaping of the department has been undertaken to make it more responsive and less bureaucratic.

East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC)

The wholly owned trading company (ECTC) continues to perform to a high standard.

The grounds maintenance team continues to win new contracts and recently won a major academy trust contract, not on price, but on service.

Ely Market continues to thrive with a waiting list of traders wanting to join it.

Palace Green Homes continues to build good quality homes, including £100k homes and a good percentage of affordable homes, whilst contributing back over £6m in saved costs to the council over the life of the Company.

05 TO RECEIVE VILLAGE GROUPS ANNUAL REPORTS

Burrough Green Cricket Club Annual Report 2024-25

Burrough Green Cricket Club participated in our 4th season since reformation in 2024, despite difficult weather conditions in March and April, we managed to play all 8 home matches during the season.

You will all be aware of the groundwork carried out to the green in late 2024, this included the flattening and relaying of the cricket square, which had deteriorated over the years. We hope that this wasn't too disruptive. This work should ensure that the green remains fit for recreational cricket for the foreseeable future.

As you may be aware a number of small local clubs have ceased playing over the last few years, this is a reminder of the hard work that goes into sustaining our club, both from our members as well as others in the community. We remain grateful for the support of the parish council, and the Burrough Green community for your help and support.

Looking forward, we start our 2025 season with a home game on the 3rd May, we will have 14 games throughout the summer, including 7 on the green. As always, anyone who wishes to join, either in a playing or none playing capacity, would be most welcome.

Thank you again for your support.

Ed Riddell,
Secretary and Child Welfare Officer
Burrough Green Cricket Club

Burrough Green Reading Room - Chair and Treasurer's Report

Income

Fund raising was up on last year mainly due to a successful bridge evening which for the second-year running was organised by Dulce Threlfall to whom we are indebted. There were other fund-raising events that produced significant funds and over all income came in at £4980.

The Montessori used the Reading Room but their usage was a little reduced on past years. We do have a booking for July so suspect this was just temporary.

Expenses

Our expenses continued to decline against prior year and we continue to prudently use our funds whilst at the same time ensuring that any maintenance that is required is done on time and diligently.

Reflections on the Year

The Reading Room remains in excellent condition and has seen similar usage to previous years although there has been an increase in children's parties. 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 £11,708 and this year we recorded a small profit. We know the bridge evening won't run this coming year so we will have to work hard to maintain our income at prior levels although we do have a significant credit at EON so all in all we can be pleased with our financial situation.

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 are looking to see if a simple letter signed by the Diocese can be issued to extend the lease.

Mrs Joanne Harrison/Mr Mark Batting

Burrough Green C of E Primary School

It has been an extremely productive year at Burrough Green Primary Academy.

We joined ACT Multi Academy Trust in September 2024. Our small school has benefitted immensely from the support and expertise and academy trust can offer and their impact here can already be measured. In October 2024, the Director of Education (an ex-HMI) for ACT was of the opinion that Burrough Green 'is a good school'. So many improvements had been made prior to that - a new curriculum, a new website, improved assessment scores in all areas and an improved, burgeoning sense of community. Parents were, and continue to be, positive about changes - our 4 surveys put out to parents since September 2023 have all been so positive - 100% of responders would recommend the school to others!

Other initiatives this year have include No Outsiders (a scheme that will embed equality and diversity across our whole community, not just the school), continuous provision in our playground (the impact of this has been astounding - to the point where other headteachers have enquired about how to set it up in their schools!) and the continuation of our developing curriculum (many subjects have been worked upon and from July 2025, we will have the 'Golden Thread' of equality running through every curriculum subject).

We have had day long audits on Safeguarding and Pupil Premium spending - both of which vindicated the brilliant work going on at Burrough Green.

There is an exceptionally positive feel to the school, and as this develops further, we hope more and 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 C of E Primary Academy will be provided the very best opportunities that we can deliver.

David Sandford
Headteacher

06 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

None were raised.

Meeting closed at 19.24

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Chairman

Chairman
Burrough Green Parish Council

*to be signed in May 2026