

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held in the Council
Chamber 5 July 2017 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr J White, Mayor. Cllr J Tunnel-Westmacott Deputy Mayor, Cllr D Cohen, Cllr S Lofthouse, Cllr D Cotterill, Cllr P Bush, Cllr M Taubenheim, Cllr N Mills, Cllr A Temple-Bruce, Cllr I Brown, Cllr N Field-Johnson, Maggie Andrews - Town Clerk. John Yeatman – Treasurer.
Sue Haywood - member of the ‘Responsible Planning in Burford’ group. (RPiB)
Laith Reynolds, Nigel Barraclough.

Mr Reynolds asked the Council to approve in principle, the erection of 20mph speed signs in Witney Street. Some residents are prepared to contribute financially toward this. Mr Barraclough reported that waste bins are being left permanently outside number 16 Witney Street and Plum Tree Cottage. WODC are dealing with this matter

1. MINUTES. Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting 7 June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

Burford Golf Club. Members of the club have voted not to proceed with any building development.

National Parks. After perusing the SWOT analysis of a Cotswold National Park proposal, Council agreed that to protect our areas of outstanding natural beauty was a sensible idea. However the Conservation Board has no position on this and only informal discussions have taken place. Informed debate is encouraged across the Cotswolds AONB.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None.

4. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION.

Burford Golf Club. Application for Variation of Club Premises Certificate. Council had no objection to this application to extend their licensing hours, which can be viewed through the online Public Access Portal.

Website. Discussion took place with regard to improving the site. John Yeatman to make enquiries and report back.

RPiB/Neighbourhood Plan. We have been asked if we would contribute to the funding of this process. BTC have already pledged £500 which has been paid out of our reserves. It was suggested that RPiB influence other organisations for financial help. BTC are in favour of supporting RPiB’s objectives but are concerned about dipping further into our reserve funding.

Cllr Cotterill declared an interest regarding funding.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

John White circulated a paper suggesting various stages: Why do we need a Plan? – Decide what area the Plan should cover – Engage the Community – Build the evidence base – Decide what the Plan should actually do – Write the Plan – Consult the Residents – Submit the Plan – Independent Examiner.

Councillors were asked to study the paper for discussion at the August Council meeting.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The following Councillors declared a personal interest because they represent the Council as Chairmen of the following committees:-

Cllr White – Chairman of Traffic Committee. The Mayor declared an interest by way of the fact that he received a cheque for ££596.50 being reimbursement for wine/drinks for the Mayors Festival Reception.

Cllr Taubenheim – Chairman of the Pavilion committee & Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott – Cemetery & Environment. Cllr Tunnell declared an interest by way of the fact that she received a cheque for £600 being catering costs for the Festival Reception.

Cllr Brown – Recreation Ground.

7. TREASURERS REPORT.

John Yeatman circulated a summary first quarters figures against the budget.

The appeal against the increase in the Rateable Value for the Cemetery was lodged on 4 June – this normally takes 12 weeks for a decision.

He has enquired about discretionary rate relief for BTC but Precepting Authorities are not entitled to apply. WODC will advise if a special Government relief is available.

He looked at the process of applying for a loan from PWLB, should funding be required for the HGV project.

Under payments he stated that the donation to Coles Field fund exceeded our allocated budget, the remainder would be from the contingency reserve fund.

Payments for approval:-

Council account:-

Mrs Andrews	818. 25
Inland Revenue	453. 04
J Yeatman	252. 80
Nest Pension (D/D)	16. 31
Mr & Mrs K Dadge	97. 50
David Buckland	1215.05
Petty Cash	75. 00
Margaret Johnson – office chair replacement	298. 72
John White reimbursement – Festival reception	596. 50
Jane Tunnell – Festival Catering	600. 00
Talkingoutloud, Baton relay sound set up /website	50. 00
McCracken & Son 4 th grass cut	1737.60
Ken Gray Fighting Fund/Coles Field	500. 00
Executive Fire Protection – Pavilion	35. 57
Castle Water	39. 75
Brightpay (reimbursement John Yeatman)	274. 80

The above were passed for payment.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr White reported that he had attended an extremely helpful meeting with Brize Norton regarding their Local Plan.

He also attended an OCC meeting on Health & Safety at the Primary School.

He met with Ken Gray to discuss the ongoing HGV matters.

9. WODC REPORT Cllr D Cotterill

Cllr Cotterill reported that activity is still concentrated on establishing Publica Ltd and transferring WODC staff to the organisation during the Autumn under TUPE rules.

Saving money is such a key priority that staff are no longer available to support all projects and councillor activities. Nothing is happening on the car parking strategy or open space mapping and grass cutting contracts because all available staff who would progress these are tied up with transferring the waste and recycling collection arrangements from Kier to Ubico. There is now talk of 'streamlining' councillor activities by reducing the number of Overview and Scrutiny committees from three to two and, maybe, reducing the number of councillors.

10. NEW CAR PARK

Cllr Cotterill is applying for planning permission for a temporary car park. He is also investigating the possibility of a footbridge next to the existing bridge to the car park. Cllr Brown suggested a new site for additional car parking at land on the A40/Tanners Lane junction. Discussion took place but it was felt there was the difficulty of parkers getting to and from the High Street.

11. OCC REPORT Cllr N Field-Johnson

Cllr Field-Johnson had met with officials from OCC regarding the enforcement and signage costs for HGVs. Figures are awaited. A further meeting has been arranged for 10 August at County Hall with Cllr White & Cabinet Minister to discuss HGVs.

The idea of a Unitary Council will probably be deferred.

Resurfacing work will commence on the Fulbrook/Burford Road mid July.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

An email, together with photos were sent to the Clerk from a resident regarding the pavement outside the Burford House Hotel. The Mayor will write to the proprietor asking that the pavement is made passable for pedestrians, scooters and buggies and to remove any clutter which may deter pedestrian access.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

The following plan was considered and our comments sent to WODC planning department.

17/01608/HHD & 01682/LBC. Fysshers Croft, Church Lane. Alterations and erection of single storey extensions, internal and external alterations to include single storey extensions. No objection

Recreation Ground/Pavilion

Scouts. The wild flower area west of the scout hut is now looking tidy and work is in progress.

McCrackens are to remove the dangerous and dead pine tree – we need to monitor the other pine trees some of which are deteriorating.

Pavilion. The toilets have been repainted.

It was proposed and agreed that the cladding to the pavilion is treated with wood preserver before the winter.

A fund raising football match is to be held on 14 July.

Environment & Cemetery

Council working parties continue to try to keep the paths litter and weed free. Concern was shown over the state of the frontage at Hacketts. BTC have written to the owners but no reply has been forthcoming.

Generally, the Cemetery is in very good order. We are waiting for a quotation to renew/replace some coping stones to the Lichgate roof. A quotation for repainting and repairing the guttering and downpipes has been received in the sum of £250.

Councillors accepted this quote.

Traffic

Witney Street. The matter of speed signs in Witney Street was discussed and Council agreed in principle to their erection. However, we were reminded that the average speed recorded during a survey was 29 mph. Positioning of any signs will be important.

Some Councillors felt that one sign would be adequate. Further discussion required.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott reported she had attended the Bishop of Dorchester and The Lord Lieutenant's invitation to 'Dinner at Dorchester Abbey' for Mayors and Chairs. BEAP (Burford Emergency Action Plan) is in the process of being updated. We would be grateful for more volunteers.

The satellite dish on the front of Hanover House has been removed to the back of the property.

The Cubs/Scouts will have a sale of books under the Tolsey on 15 July.

They are also holding a BBQ after their July AGM.

15. CHARITY MATTERS.

None.