

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the parish of Burwell held on Tuesday 1st May 2007 at 7.45 p.m. in the Gardiner Memorial Hall, High Street, Burwell, Cambridge

Parish Council Chair Jackie Peavot chaired the meeting. There were 21 Parishioners present this number included Parish and District Councillors

**Notice
Convening
The
Meeting :-** The Clerk read the notice convening the meeting

Apologies :- Apologies for absence had been received from Mr Ellwood, Mrs D Jones, Mrs S Evans. Mrs H Williams had notified the clerk that she would be late arriving.

**Approval of
Minutes :-** Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May 2006 were approved and signed

Proposed – S Durrant, seconded – J Perry

**Matters
Arising :-** There were no matters arising

**Chairman's
Report :-**

Main Activities during 2006/07

Planning :

- ? The Council made recommendations on 102 planning application, of which 13 were refused. These consisted of mainly general extensions and/or conservatory improvements to properties.
- ? There were application granted for 39 new dwellings
- ? The largest development was for the extension to the Barkways site on Newmarket Road by Hastoe Housing Association. This will consist of 20 dwellings in total for affordable housing (6no 1 bedroom flats, 10no two bedroom houses and 4no three bedroom houses)

Other Matters :

- ? The Parish Council is at present continuing with the joint funding of PCSO Jonathan Hall. Jonathan has worked hard with various groups and agencies within the village to foster relationships in an attempt to reduce the amount of anti social behaviour, illegal parking etc. Jonathan provides regular updates to the council by means of a monthly report and via E cops. If you wish to contact Jonathan you can contact him on his mobile number 07921994972, or through the Council office where he has a desk were messages can be left. We would also suggest that you subscribe to E cops which can be easily and freely done via the following link www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops/.
- ? In order to contact the police on non urgent issues please use 0845 456 4564.
- ? The Parish Council continues to fund the illumination lighting at St. Mary's Church.
- ? The Parish Council web site went live in September 2006. Whilst at present this is a basic site where minutes, reports and contact details can be viewed it is hoped that this will be developed further in the future.
- ? The Parish paths P3 funding is again expected to be reduced this will mean that the parish will only be able to offer limited cuts on the paths closest to the village.
- ? Parish Councillor Tania Baker was co-opted to the council but unfortunately due to business commitments later resigned, as did Paul Webb. Ina Hayes who lives in Roman Close was co-opted onto the Council during the year.

- ? The Parish Council consulted with East Cambridgeshire District Councils conservation officer regarding the changes to the conservation areas within the village these have now been approved.
- ? We were involved in discussions to preserve the public car parking at the Ex Service Mens Club in The Causeway. It is likely that the number of public parking spaces available might be slightly reduced and a limit imposed of the length of waiting time.
- ? The Parish Council was successful in its bid to the Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements Scheme to establish a footpath along Newmarket Road. It is intended to join up all the little bits of path that run along in front of the houses to make one continuous path to the High Street. Council intends to consult with householders prior to the commencement of the scheme.
- ? The safety fencing to the rear of the cricket ground at Mingay Park was completed.
- ? All Parish properties which were not formally registered have now been registered with the Land Registry
- ? Donations have been granted to several village organizations and the Council was once again pleased to be able to sponsor the Summer Reading Scheme in conjunction with the Library.

Plans for 2007/08

- ? To progress the improvement of the playing surface, drainage and pavilion at the recreation ground
- ? For the Safety Working Group to continue to lobby the Highways Department for some minor works to improve safety throughout the village
- ? For the Finance & General Proposes Working Group to continue to progress towards Quality Status Accreditation
- ? To progress work on the Tan House Lane site

Police Community Support Officers Report :-

Inspector Adam Gallop gave the following report.

PCSO Jonathan Hall had arrived in the village and was beginning to make his mark. He had been joined by PCSO Stuart Thorburn and the two are working well together as their policing styles compliment each other. PCSO Hall had already made some useful contacts within the village.

In relation to other areas the crime rate in the village is fairly low. There were 254 reported crimes in the last twelve months in comparison to 207 in the previous year. 106 of these reported crimes were criminal damage. There had been an increase in crime during the month of December and an action plan had been put into place. There have been 6 reports of arson since January. There has been an increase in vehicle crime from 15 – 34 this represents a large percentage increase it is thought that most of this crime is committed by outsiders to the village. Inspector Gallop emphasised the need for everyone to report incidents no matter how small, in order for the police to get a true picture of what happens in the village.

The next twelve months should see the rolling out of Neighbourhood Panels and this seems to be the way forward. It is hoped that by March 2008 the Panels will be rolled out across the whole of the area.

The police are starting to engage with youngsters although there is a perception amongst children on the street that there is nothing for them to do, there is less open space available to them and it was felt that the amount of open space in the Westhorpe area was no longer big enough for the amount of children/youths there. It was felt that there was a need to find out from the youth as to what type of facilities they would like and we were reminded that the skate park came from a request from a group of youngsters.

The youth bus which is based in Soham was going to travel around the district and if the right type of project came up for the village then the council would probably be willing to support it.

Charity Reports :-

Charles Hunt Charity :- See attached

Ann Turner Charity :- See attached

Poors Fen :- See attached

The Burwell Nursing & Stephenson Bequest :- See attached

Burwell & District Day Centre :- See attached

Finance :-

Financial Statement :-See attached

M Scarff took everyone through the finance report and was available to answer any questions.

Precept :- The precept for the year 2007 – 2008 would be £96,000

Attendance of Councillors :- see attached

Tan House At the beginning of the year Council had 4 options and we agreed to pursue option 1 which would give the village a large community hall. At this point in time, there were two main user groups interested, the Cricket Club and the Scouts.
Lane Site
Update :- A major village consultation had been planned but unfortunately this was halted by the fire which occurred at the site in March. Whilst the building was insured it appeared to be taking a long time to settle the claim. The Council have engaged a company to act on its behalf in order to try and expedite this.
Since the fire Council agreed at their last meeting to concentrate their efforts into achieving option 3 which would again give the village a community hall but not of the same scale as option 1. Grant applications have been made and the Council will try to act as swiftly as possible once our insurers notify us of our options.

County & District Council Reports :-

Hazel Williams -County Councillor

Council tax is to rise by 5% for the County Council share. Cambridgeshire are one of the lowest taxing areas in the country. There are expected to be cuts in services especially the Highways and Adult Social Services. The amount of senior officers has been cut by restructuring and various changes in the leadership of the Council. The Chief Executive of the County Council is leaving in June.

Transport – the Reach buses had been axed but Burwell has gained some extra buses. The effect on Reach was that workers were unable to get home from work. The 5pm bus has now been re-instated. Free bus passes are now available for the over 60's. The plans for the guided bus have now been approved.

The Waste and Minerals Plan is now out for consultation. The sewage works along the A14 look set to move to Quy .

Waste – Private Waste Initiative waste is put into landfill by the County Council and the landfill tax has risen so the amount of waste going into landfill needs to be reduced or the cost will increase further. Donarbon are investing in a new treatment plant where there will be two separate types of compost one from garden waste and one from the treatment plant.

Highways – The Highways maintenance contract has been awarded to a new contractor. Accident figures show that there were 404 less casualties, 75 fewer serious injuries and 3 less deaths on the counties roads.

The Area Joint Highways Committee looks at a number of Highways issues and at present is reviewing the speed limit policy. Highways discretionary budget which was used for small minor repairs such as pot holes etc has been scrapped.

A bid has gone in for a youth bus for this patch.

Fire –A new Chief Fire Officer was appointed last week. The Integrated Management Plan is reviewing fire stations to see if they are effective. Burwell and Swaffham Prior are under review and this has caused some concerns as to whether there might be plans to close one.

Paul Philpott - East Cambridgeshire District Councillor

The District Council has purchased some land to provide extra parking for Ely Station which is situated at the far side of Tesco's. This extra space should provide 180 spaces. It is hoped this will be ready in October 2007.

Community Services Committee – Leisure and Tourism have been looked at. A bid has been made to the National Lottery for a County Park – there is a big piece of land available that could be used. P Philpott is the council's representative on ADEC. An arts delivery method has been chosen to oversee Arts in the District. A private company has been set up as private funding is available that would not be available to the District Council. There are plans to look at the provision of a portable theatre in order to provide films at various locations around the district.

There are more plans to do outreach work in the villages and it is felt that film projects are a good way of engaging people especially the youth. It is suggested that films are made about their lives in the area.

Parish Plans – Burwell is too large to be considered for any initiatives, and has now in fact been tagged onto the small town's initiatives.

Derek Reader - East Cambridgeshire District Councillor

At present serving on the Planning Committee and Strategic Development Committee. Strategic Development is responsible for some of the grants and loans available for the restoration of historic buildings. They are also responsible for looking at the Local Development Framework which is looking at areas of likely development over the next 21 years. At present this document is out to consultation with Parish Councils and public consultation will follow.

We have recently received the list of pay phones which are to be removed, along with Sue Finlayson we have worked to have as many pay phones retained as possible but some will be made cashless i.e. card phones. It looks likely that in Burwell cashless kiosks will be sited in Ness Road, North Street and the High Street.

The Planning Committee meets every month with a varied list of applications to go through and discuss prior to approval or refusal. The largest developments that have been approved in the village are the two separate developments off Newmarket Road having eight dwellings in each and the one adjacent to Kingfisher Drive with sixteen dwellings approved.

Another of my roles at the District Council is that of Independent spokesperson on the Delegated Review Panel. This also meets once a month to look at planning applications that the Parish Councils and planning officers have differing views on. The Chair and Vice Chair of the planning committee along with myself and the spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats look at these plans and decide whether to support the officers decision or to refer the application to the full Planning Committee for a decision.

Hazel Williams – East Cambridgeshire District Councillor

There has been a great debate over the Ely river bridge and the best way forward. County Council have more or less said that it is a very difficult and the best option would be to wait for the Ely Bypass. However, this could be 10 – 12 years in the future and then if money is not available at that point not at all.

The leisure facilities working group are continuing to look at the gaps in leisure facilities in the district. and suggest that any future leisure facility for the district should be centre on Ely.

There is an on going debate as to whether or not a trust should be formed to cover all of the leisure centres in the district instead of each centre having its own trust.

Licensing Committee – the changes in legislation have gone fairly smoothly but the new act does little for village halls.

Waste Collection – There are now several plastic banks throughout the village and it is unlikely that plastics will be collected kerbside as it is too expensive.

It is likely that the district will adopt the alternate weekly collections scheme once the pilot scheme in Bottisham is over.

Any

Tan House Lane site – It was felt that it would be a shame to lose this facility however the need for it to be financially viable was recognized as being of prime importance.

Other

Business :-

It was thought that there was a demand for a facility that could be used by the youth of the village and as the Scouts were in need of a new hut it was felt that this might

provide the right type of facility. Consultation should take place across a broad spectrum of the village in order for as many views as possible to be aired.

The Chair advised that the priorities for the year would be the Tan House Lane site and the expansion of the Recreation Ground. It was also pointed out that the Parish Council had been unable to purchase further land in order to extend facilities.

The Chair thanked all those attending for their time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed this day of 2008 _____