

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the parish of Burwell held on Tuesday 2nd May 2006 at 7.45 p.m. in the Gardiner Memorial Hall, High Street, Burwell, Cambridge

Parish Council Chairman Michel Scarff 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 :- No apologies for absence had been received

**Approval of
Minutes :-** Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2005 were approved and signed

Proposed – D Harrison, seconded – J Perry

**Matters
Arising :-** A question was raised as to why there were no dedicated dog bins in the village. The chair explained that these bins were very expensive and we would need a large quantity in order to give the same amount of cover across the village as was achieved with normal refuse bins. The system for emptying the dog bins was not as good as that with the normal refuse bins, it was felt that it was more effective to continue to use the refuse bins as long as this was allowed for the disposal of dog waste.

A resident asked why some of the 5 a side goals were still being stored rather than being used on the playing fields. The Chair explained that we were looking at ways to secure the goal posts in order to comply with Health & Safety regulations and that if this could be achieved the goals would be reinstated when feasible.

Chairman's Report :-

Main activities during 2005/2006

Planning:

- ? The council made recommendations on 115 planning applications, of which 14 were refused. These consisted mainly of general extension and/or conservatory improvements to properties.
- ? There were applications granted for 54 new houses.
- ? The largest development was for 16 new dwellings at land off Kingfisher Drive.
- ? Other planning applications granted of note were at Newmarket Road (8), land to the rear of 109 North Street (6) and land to the rear of Harlech House, Isaacson Road (5)
- ? Planning permission has been granted for a new replacement storage building to be built on the old airfield site at the bottom of Heath Road.
- ? The New Library at the village college was completed and opened in February 2006.
- ? The application to build 6 light industrial units at the old Burwell Brick Factory was withdrawn.
- ? The 2 Developments in Newmarket Road should be completed in 2005/06

Other matters:

- ? The final piece of agreed work for the Traffic calming and road safety improvements were completed around the shops adjacent to St Mary's church. Monitoring undertaken by the County Council has shown a decrease in traffic speeds on the 3 main entrances/exits to the village.
- ? The Tan House Lane SC Working Group has now formulated plans for this building and is currently setting up a Charitable Trust and exploring the funding options available. The main hope is for the Scout Group to move to this site for all their activities and to include facilities for the cricket club and other village organisations.
- ? The parish council web site being constructed was unavoidably delayed and when it is ready we will notify you all via the Clunch magazine.
- ? The Parish Council funded Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Jonathan Hall has now been with us for a full year. Councillors consider that he is settling well in his role, providing a visual reassurance and developing a good relationship with the younger people of the village, which in turn seems to be reducing anti social behaviour in our village. Jonathan provides updates of what is happening in the village via Ecops and we would recommend that you register online via the following link www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops/ . You can also contact Jonathan on his mobile number 07921 094942
- ? PC Wayne Davies is our Community Beat Officer and his mobile phone number is 07710 994972
- ? The Parish Council continue to fund the illumination lighting at St Mary's church
- ? Donations have been granted to several village organisations
- ? The grass cutting contractor (K H Services) has now completed the first year of the 3 year contract awarded last year. We consider that the standard of cutting has been exceptional and this has been recognised by many of you during the year.
- ? The Parish paths P3 funding grant from the County Council was again vastly reduced and council therefore prioritised cutting to paths closest to the village.
- ? The 5-a-side goal posts were reinstated in Jubilee Green.
- ? Parish Councillor Anna Hopper regretfully resigned during the year, and by the time you read this we trust the co-option of a new councillor has taken place.
- ? Due to vandalism during Christmas 2004, councillors decided not to install a Christmas tree and lights on Pound Hill for Christmas 2005.
- ? The Grounds & Recreation Working Group is working with Burwell Swifts & Swallows FC's to improve the drainage and playing surface at the recreation ground. This should be financed through grants that are available to the football clubs and the residue from the Parish Council.
- ? The Grounds & Recreation Working Group is working with the cricket club to further improve the safety fencing adjacent to Reach Road properties.
- ? The Safety Working Group along with our PCSO, Jonathan, has produced a report of the road safety issues in the village, and is currently in discussions with the County Council and the police to progress matters.
- ? The Finance & General Purposes Working Group made recommendations to the council on pay and fee increases, progressing Quality Council Status and the implementation of the national agreement for salaries & service conditions for clerks.
- ? Our Clerk, Lesley and Responsible Finance Officer, Yvonne are currently undergoing training to obtain the Certificate in Local Government Administration.
- ? The Parish Council has been working with Hastoe Housing to further develop affordable housing of around 20 properties adjacent to Barkways. Funding for this development has been approved by the Housing Corporation, and plans are now in the process of being drawn up for approval. This development should provide some shared ownership and properties will be allocated to those with Burwell connections. Please contact the Clerk for details of what you need to do if you are interested in applying for this type of housing.
- ? An Environmental Action day was held in the village on 6 December and included representatives from the Parish Council, Police, Fire & Rescue, District Council, Hereward Housing and County Council highways.

Bank balance as at 31st March 2006 £90.53

Poors Fen

The Trustees held their customary three meetings during the year, and made four grants to local charities during the period under review. It was again resolved that the charity should continue to disburse grants up to the level of its annual income to local charities who benefited the elderly of the Parish. A note to this effect has been placed in the recent edition of "Clunch", but to date no current applications have been received. It is hoped that applications will be received between now and the end of August.

The annual accounts, a copy of which accompanies this report reveal a slight increase in our balances which on 31st March 2006 stood at the figure of £1390.46, an improvement of some £40 over the year. We are again grateful to Mr. Cyril Durrant for examining those accounts.

At our Annual General Meeting Mr Roger Fuller was re-elected Chairperson, and Mr. Derek Reader continues as vice Chairperson. During the year we were pleased to welcome Mr. Albert Ellis as a new Trustee, so our quota of nine Trustees is complete.

Income and Expenditure Account to 31st March 2005

<u>2005</u>		<u>2006</u>
	<u>Balances Brought Forward</u>	
	Current Account	133.62
1015.39	Business Premium Account	<u>1216.47</u> 1350.09
	INCOME	
11.33	Bank Interest	14.59
1131.19	COIF Interest	1204.76
<u>9.30</u>	COIF Dividend	<u>9.88</u> 1229.23
2167.21		2579.32
<u>21.00</u>	Unpresented cheques written back	
2188.21		
	<u>Less Expenditure</u>	
	Donations in lieu of salary :-	
100.00	Huntington's Disease Association	100.00
100.00	Parkinson's Disease Society	100.00
75.00	Sue Ryder Homes	75.00
13.12	Post and photocopying	13.86

Grants to local charities

500.00	Burwell Day Centre	500.00
	Burwell Nursing Aid Fund	200.00
	Burwell Sight	100.00
	Burwell Swimming Pool	100.00
<u>50.00</u>	Clunch Magazine	<u> </u>
838.12		1188.86

Balances carried forward

	Current Account	144.76
	Deposit Account	<u>1245.70</u>
1350.09		1390.46

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

133.62	Bank Current Account	144.76
<u>1216.47</u>	Business Premium	<u>1245.70</u>
1350.09		1390.46
27000.00	COIF Investment Fund*	27000.00
<u>265.49</u>	COIF Income Shares*	<u>307.56</u>
28615.58		28698.02

*both as certified 31st December 2005

The Burwell War Memorial Fund

The Burwell Nursing & Stephenson Bequest

I list as under details of our financial position for our year ending 31st August 2005 in respect of both Charities and also details of any major expenditure during that year.

Burwell Nursing & Stephenson Bequest
Balance £1022.52

With financial aid from the Burwell War Memorial Fund we once again were able to distribute £5.00 Christmas gifts to people who were over eighty years of age. This year the total was 229.

Burwell War Memorial Fund
Balance £20061.67

In the last year we have had some more maintenance work done to the heating system of the War Memorial Cottage and we envisage having to replace both the front and back doors.

BURWELL & DISTRICT DAY CENTRE

Staffing

One of our cooks, Debbie Halls, left us on Thursday 27 April to start a new job. At the time of writing this report we are in the process of recruiting a new Assistant Cook.

Premises

The Day Room was redecorated by Chris Marsh in December 2005 and commented on how much more welcoming the room now looks. Money for this work was donated by the Cambridge Evening News.

New blinds have been fitted in the dining room, using money donated by Newmarket Ladies Circle.

Our gardens, which are now looking very much tidier, are being maintained by a gardener, paid for from donations.

Donations

Minibus Appeal

We reached our target in March this year and are now proceeding with the purchase of a new minibus. We are most grateful for donations received from local businesses, Day Centre Members and members of the public. We have also received the following:

Awards for All	-	£5000
Mr Gibson	-	£5000
Lloyds TSB Foundation for England & Wales	-	£5000
Newmarket Rotary Club	-	£3000
Press Relief	-	£2000
Gredley Charitable Trust	-	£1000

Activities

We have had a wonderful, interesting year and now have a very varied entertainment programme. We have had talks by the Suffolk Punch Horse Association, Guide Dogs for the Blind and a local bee keeper and regularly enjoy visits from the children at BVC, the Red House Nursery and Early Learners. We have also used the minibus to go on trips and hired a coach for a day at Sandringham.

Membership and Volunteers

I am very pleased to report an increase in both Members and Volunteers but we are always happy to welcome new people to the Day Centre. We are also joined by the Heartbeat Walkers for morning coffee once a week and the Centre is regularly used by Camtad, the Over 60's, the WEA and Burwell Sight. The Centre is also available for private bookings, such as birthday parties.

The Day Centre and the provision of Meals on Wheels play a very important role in helping our older village residents maintain an independent lifestyle in their own homes for as long as possible. We are very lucky to have this facility and especially fortunate in receiving the support of local business and village residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to make our Day Centre such a success.

Financial Statement :-See attached

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Audit Commission recommend that Council reserves should be 100-150% of their annual precept. Our reserves are still low in light of this advice. The precept figure

has been kept more or less in line with inflation, however some things have risen more than inflation. We will therefore need to be mindful of this and start to put money back into the reserves over the next few years.

Precept :- The precept for the year 2006 – 2007 would be £93,000

Attendance of Councillors:- See attached

Up date on the Tan House Lane Site :-

The project has moved on very little. The possibilities of forming a Charitable Trust are being explored. There is still ongoing exploratory work being carried out to establish what sort of activities and group could use the site and what would need to be done in order to accommodate them. We are keen that the Scouting groups from the village should be a part of this project. At present we are still unable to say how long the project will take to complete or how much the likely cost could be.

It was felt that the village has continued to grow but there has been no growth in community facilities. It is expected that we will soon be in a position to appoint a paid worker to draw up the necessary papers for a trust to be established and to initiate fund raising.

The Scouts AGM was due to be held next week and H Williams offered to attend this meeting to answer any questions that they might have regarding the future of the site. It was hoped that the Scouts would feel that they would like to be involved in this project and there was a feeling that without their interest the project might struggle to get off the ground.

County & District Council Reports :-

Hazel Williams -County Councillor

I was elected to the County Council last May. The County Council have just undergone a re-organisation. I am on the Corporate Services, Scrutiny Committee and Environmental Scrutiny Committees. The Environment Committee have worked hard and managed to make a difference. The Scrutiny Committees are all cross party committees.

The Council Tax for the County is set for a 5% rise.

The Fordham By Pass is now complete and the traffic counts show that there is less traffic through the village.

We are very fortunate to have a new library in the village in light of all the library closures that have taken place in the county.

Burwell House has a new hygiene suite (disabled toilet facilities) plus they have had some other work done.

Waste issues – we are recycling more waste than any other shire county, and have achieved Beacon Status. New ways of treating waste are being investigated in order to reduce the amount of land fill.

Buses – half hourly buses are being funded by Kick Start. Due to cuts in the County Council subsidies the evening and weekend services to Reach have been cut, an effort is being made to find funding to run an extra bus.

The problems with the new bus passes are the fault of Central Government who gave too much money to some counties and not enough to others, thus creating a problem with the free passes.

Fire Authority – Emphasis of the Fire and Rescue Service is on community safety and rescues from vehicles. Statistics show that more time is spent rescuing people from cars than fighting fires, a lot of new equipment has been made available to help with their rescue work.

Paul Philpott – East Cambridgeshire District Councillor

I serve on the Planning and Community Services Committees.

The big issue last year was the proposed office move. Additional services such as the shuttle bus and new footpath are unlikely to happen. The owners of the land at Angel Drove put a premium on the land as expected and are insisting that the whole site is purchased at a cost of approximately £14 million. It is uncertain what will happen now but it is expected that the need for more office space will reduce.

Ely parking charges – Both residents and shop keepers are against this idea. The Ely transport plan is in disarray as this was linked to the office move. As it costs approximately £500,000 per annum to maintain

