

BURGHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 6th May 2021 virtually via Zoom.

Councillors: Mr T Ansell, Mr P Lawrence, Miss M Cresser, Mrs A Gallagher, Mr B Neilson, Mr C Greaves, Mr D Godding, Dr R Longton, Mr D Godwin, Mrs C Jackson-Doerge, Mr N Morse, Mrs L Sharp, Mr I MacFarlane, Mrs S Awberry, Mr I Morrin, Mrs J Ansell

Apologies:

Officers: Clerk to the Parish Council, Assistant Clerk to Parish Council

Public: 3 members of the electorate

1. Introduction and Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting with following statement:

Welcome to the annual Burghfield Parish Meeting, an historic event as it will be both the first and the last to be held online. As quick intro this is a Parish meeting not a Parish Council meeting. A chance for members of the Parish raise points and ask questions of each other. In order to be allowed to speak by law your name must be on the electoral role so could I ask that if you wish to speak you have your name displaying as it is on the Electoral role so the clerk can check your eligibility to speak. As is tradition at this meeting the chairs of the parish council committees will give a brief summary of the years activity, however they are not here as parish councillors they are in the same position as everyone else - parishioners who are on the electoral role.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2019

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting from 2019 were acknowledged by those present, having been approved as an accurate record of events.

4. Annual Report from the Chairman of the parish Council

The Chairman gave a brief summary of the highlights and achievements of the Parish Council during the previous year.

“Whilst this relates to the ending April 2021 I cannot start without saying how sorry, disappointed and cross I and the whole parish council are about the recent increase in graffiti within the Parish and surrounding areas and especially the racist graffiti at the weekend on the Post Office.

This has been a challenging year for the parish council, it has had continued successfully to carry on business as close to normal during a year when there have been constant legislation changes. These changes have effected every area the Parish council is responsible for including Opening and closing the play areas and skate park

Ensure all the open spaces are kept as litter free whilst protecting the parish workers responsible for keeping all our open spaces clean and safe for everyone. The work to protect our open spaces from uninvited people who wish to camp on the land has also been completed.

Lastly we have taken the opportunity to make the village useable in the future by making the necessary changes required due to Covid for it to return to normal use. This we have achieved during the time when the village hall could not be used by anyone.

The impact on mental health of everyone has been significant during this difficult year and this has been clearly reflected in Parish councils across the country where 20% of Parish have had their clerks resign due to bullying and intimidation from councillors and the general public, there are a number of parishes that no longer have a council due to the resignation of all the councillors due to public harassment.

Burghfield Parish council has seen the impact of the on people in terms of the correspondence received, whilst most decisions made are met with a level disagreement the most time-consuming correspondence has been the receiving of over 200 Freedom for Information requests which take a considerable amount of time to respond to.

All the things that have been achieved will be covered by the chairs of the committees that work so hard to keep Burghfield 's facilities and open spaces running safely and operating within the ever-changing laws so the whole community can benefit.

As we ease out of lock down I will continue to focus on ensuring that this remains a friendly social and inclusive community remembering that everyone has had a difficult socially isolated year and we will all respond to this in different ways over the coming months.

(N.B: The report provided factual information only specifically relating to the parish of Burghfield)

5. Reports from the Chairman of the Committees upon the Council

Reports were presented by the Chairman of the Communications Committee, the Community Committee, the Infrastructure Committee, the Asset Management Committee and the Governance & Finance Committee outlining the achievements and highlights of the previous year.

The Chairman thanked members for their hard work during what had been a particularly difficult year.

6. Questions ahead of the meeting from Parishioners/Electorate

In order to assist the efficient administration of the meeting, members of the public were asked to email their questions in order to provide opportunity for a fuller answer to be provided. The Chairman advised that no questions had been received prior to the deadline date of Friday 30th April, as stated within the published agenda.

7. Questions at the meeting from Parishioners/Electorate

Due to no questions having been forwarded prior to the meeting under item 6. of the agenda, there were no further questions.

8. Chairman's closure of meeting

The Chairman thanked the parishioners present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 19.18pm.

Chairman: