

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually on Thursday 6th May 2021, at 8.00pm.

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

In Attendance: Clerk to the Parish Council

Apologies: None

The Chairman opened the meeting with the following statement:

“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 affected every area the Parish council is responsible for:

- *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 hall 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 councilors and the public, there are several parishes that no longer have a council due to the resignation of all the councilors due to public harassment.

Burghfield Parish council has seen the impact of the lockdown 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 lockdown, 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”.

Open Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting by reiterating that questions from parishioners were at his discretion and that a total of 15 minutes would be allocated accordingly. The chairman, to ensure fairness for all residents in attendance, stated that the time would be divided accordingly amongst those wishing to ask a question. The maximum time of 3 minutes was allocated to each individual, upon which the speaker would be placed on mute and the next question taken. The session will close after 15 minutes to ensure all remaining business upon the agenda could be transacted. Residents were also reminded that upon closure of the

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

question time, they were in attendance in an observational capacity only and to not to cause a disturbance. The following questions were presented:

- 1) Mr G Harris wished to raised his concerns regarding the proposal for a pop-up pub on the Common recreation ground.
- 2) Ms Z Matthews raised concerns regarding the proposal for a pop-up pub, specifically in relation to their proposed frequency.
- 3) Mrs Godding expressed her support for the proposal of the pop-up pub, highlighting that given the current climate, events within the community are very much needed.
- 4) Mr K Mortimer expressed his concerns regarding the skate park having had to close. Mr K Mortimer also expressed his support for the pop-up pub, believing the event would encourage community spirit.
- 5) Mr G Townsend provided a very brief report to those in attendance regarding the proposal for a pop-up pub, answering some of the concerns having been previously raised.

The chairman closed the floor to questions and started the proceedings of the Parish Council meeting accordingly thanking the members of public present for their time and understanding.

1.0421 Election of Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing Municipal Year

Invitations for the nomination of chairman of the parish council were received.

Resolved: That Mr T Ansell be elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year. Proposed by Cllr P Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Macfarlane and resolved unanimously. Mr T Ansell was declared Chairman and took the position accordingly.

2.0421 Election of Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing Municipal Year

Resolved: that Mr I Macfarlane be elected Vice- Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year. Proposed by Cllr N Morse, seconded by Cllr C Greaves and resolved unanimously. Mr I Macfarlane was declared vice chairman.

3.0421 Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office for the appointed Chairman and vice chairman

Mr T Ansell duly signed the required documentation following his appointed post, holding the signed document to the camera for confirmation.

4.0421 To report, approve and record apologies for absence (and the reasons) from members of the Parish Council

No apologies for absence were presented.

5.0421 Declaration of any personal or financial interests

Cllr T Ansell declared his position of Vice-Chairman of the Burghfield Santa's, declaring an interest in item 17.0421 upon the agenda.

Cllr D Godwin declared an interest in item 17.0421 due to being a regular volunteer for the Burghfield Santa's.

Cllr C Jackson-Doerge declared an interest in item 17.0421 due to being a regular volunteer for the Burghfield Santa's.

6.0421 Applications for Dispensations

There were no items upon the agenda that necessitated a member to present a written request for dispensations for a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

7.0421 Councillors to confirm they have read and fully understood the councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct for the ensuing municipal year

Members present were reminded of their obligations to ensure they had read and understood the councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct. Each member is required to confirm by way of signature they had read the documentation at the next scheduled meeting.

8.0421 To confirm the council's eligibility, as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils General Power of Competence Order 2012, and subsequently adopt the General Power of Competence for the current financial year

Burghfield Council resolves from 6 May 2021, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

Proposed by Cllr P Lawrence, seconded by Cllr C Greaves and resolved unanimously.

9.0421 To appoint members to serve upon the various committees upon the council for the ensuing year

Resolved: that the following appointments be confirmed:

a) Communications

Mrs L Sharp (Chairman), Mr N Morse, Mr D Godwin, Ms A Gallagher, Mr T Ansell, Mrs J Ansell, Mr B Neilson.

Resolved: To appoint Ms L Sharp as Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr D Godwin, seconded by Cllr A Gallagher resolved unanimously.

Resolved: To appoint Mr D Godwin as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr T Ansell, seconded by Cllr L Sharp and resolved unanimously.

b) Community

Mr I MacFarlane (Chairman), Miss M Cresser, Dr R Longton, Mr B Neilson, Ms A Gallagher, Mr D Godding, Mrs J Ansell, Mrs S Awberry (8)

Resolved: To appoint Mr I Macfarlane as Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr B Neilson, seconded by Cllr M Cresser and resolved unanimously.

Resolved: To appoint Cllr J Ansell as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr M Cresser, seconded by Cllr A Gallagher and resolved unanimously.

c) Infrastructure

Mr C Greaves, Mr P Lawrence, Dr R Longton, Miss M Cresser, Mr D Godwin, Mr T Ansell, Mr I Morrin, Mrs S Awberry (8)

Resolved: Unanimously to appoint Mr C Greaves as Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr P Lawrence, seconded by Cllr M Cresser and resolved unanimously.

Resolved: To appoint Cllr P Lawrence as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr C Greaves, seconded by Cllr M Cresser and resolved unanimously.

d) Asset Management Committee

Mrs C Jackson-Doerge (Chairman), Mr P Lawrence, Mr I Morrin, Mr C Greaves, Miss M Cresser, Mr D Gooding, Ms L Sharp, Mr N Morse, Mr I Macfarlane (9)

Resolved: To appoint Mrs C Jackson-Doerge as Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr T Ansell, seconded by Cllr L Sharp

Resolved: To appoint Mr C Greaves as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed by Cllr C Jackson-Doerge, seconded by Cllr I Morrin and resolved unanimously.

Finance & governance

Mr C Greaves, Ms L Sharp, Mr I Macfarlane, Mr T Ansell, Mrs C Jackson-Doerge
(The committee consists of the appointed chairman of the various council committees)

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(The Chairman adjourned the meeting to permit the various Committee members to meet to appoint their Chairman and Vice-Chairman accordingly)

10.0421 Appointment of Representatives to Serve on Outside Bodies

Resolved: that the following appointments be confirmed:

AWE Liaison	Dr R Longton & Mr N Morse
Allotments sub-committee	Mrs J Ansell
Bland's Trust	Dr R Longton & Mr I Macfarlane
BMNAG	Dr R Longton & Mr I Morrin
Burghfield Charities	Ms L Sharp, Mrs C Jackson- Deorge
Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Centre	Miss M Cresser
Willink Recreation Centre	Mr I Macfarlane & Mr C Greaves
Wokefield Common	Dr R Longton & Mr C Greaves
NDP Steering Committee	Dr R Longton, Mr D Godding & Mr I Morrin

11.0421 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th April 2021 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12.0421 Clerks update

The end of year accounts closedown procedures has been completed with the financial statements having been prepared by council's accountants and presented to the Finance and Governance Committee meeting and approved accordingly.

The end of year audit has also been completed with the report having been presented to the Finance & Governance Committee meeting and approved accordingly.

13.0421 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman

The Chairman advised that all items had been previously addressed within his opening statement.

14.0421 Questions to the chairman previously submitted in writing

No questions had been received.

15.0421 District Council Report

A written report was presented to members having been prepared by District Cllr G Bridgeman. District Cllr R Longton provided a brief verbal report to members. A reminder was presented by the chairman that future meetings require a written report in advance of the meeting to be circulated to members accordingly. *(A copy will be held in the minute book)*

16.0421 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 8 April 2021 approve the recommendations therein

The minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on 8 April 2021 were received and the proceedings endorsed and adopted.

17.0421 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Community Committee held on 29 April 2021 and approve the recommendations there in

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Committee held on 29 April 2021 were received. The recommendation therein regarding the proposal for a pop-up pub was rejected by members with a majority vote of 12 members. Members requested the item be debated,

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

with each member being provided the opportunity to express their own reasoning for their individual decision. Cllr T Ansell requested the clerk put him in the waiting room whilst members debated and voted on the proposal. Cllr I Macfarlane (Vice-Chairman) was asked to chair the item in his absence. Cllr T Ansell left the meeting at 21.08pm and Cllr I Macfarlane took over the position of chairman accordingly.

Resolution: To grant permission for the operation of a pop-up pub on the Common Recreation Ground for the summer period.

Proposed by Cllr C Greaves, seconded by Cllr D Godding and resolved with a majority vote of 8 members in favour, 5 members against and 1 abstention.

Cllr T Ansell returned to the meeting at 21.40pm.

18.0421 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Finance Committee held on 29 April 2021 and approve the recommendations there in

The minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Finance Committee held on 8 April 2021 were received and the proceedings endorsed and adopted.

Resolution: To approve and adopt the Standing Orders as presented to include the appendix relating to the Scheme of Delegated Powers granted during period of 7th May to 30th June 2021 further to the High Court Judgement on Remote meetings.

Proposed by Cllr J Ansell seconded by Cllr C Greaves, resolved by a majority vote with one objection.

19.0421 To receive brief verbal reports from Parish Council Representatives attending meetings of Outside Bodies to which they have been appointed

No reports were presented.

20.0421 Financial Matters:

i. Accounts Reconciliation as at 30th April 2021

The accounts reconciliation statements for the month ending 30th April 2021 were received and noted and are appended to the minutes.

ii. Accounts for Payment.

Resolved that the items for payment shown on the list attached to the minutes be authorised for payment, such sums to be debited to the account of the Parish Council.

iii. Village Hall Accounts Reconciliation as at 30th April 2021

The accounts reconciliation statements for the month ending 30th April 2021 were received and noted and are appended to the minutes.

iv. Accounts for Payment.

Resolved that the items for payment shown on the list attached to the minutes be authorised for payment, such sums to be debited to the account of the Village Hall.

v. To confirm the resolution to borrow via a PWL and confirm the annual loan repayments accordingly

Resolved: At the Burghfield Parish Council meeting of 5th November 2020, and 6th May 2021, it was RESOLVED to seek approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £100,000 over the borrowing term of 20 years for the Refurbishment of Burghfield Village Hall. The annual loan repayments will come to around £6,497. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 2.3%, which is the equivalent of an additional £6,497 a year. This will, and has been subject to a precept increase consultation, which has been completed in accordance with the requirements set by the MHCLG.

Proposed by Cllr I Macfarlane, seconded by Cllr J Ansell and resolved unanimously.

21.0421 To confirm Delegated Authority and define timescale further to the High Court ruling on Remote meetings

Resolved: To confirm that further to the High Court Judgment regarding Remote Meetings, that the Chairman of the Parish Council, Committee Chair, Committee Vice Chair and the

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

parish Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council for period 7th May to Wednesday 30th June 2021 inclusive as resolved at the parish council meeting on the 8th April 2021.

Proposed by Cllr P Lawrence, seconded by Cllr L Sharp and resolved by a majority vote with 1 objection.

22.0421 To request items from the Committee Chairman requiring any action by the Communications Committee

Committee chairman are to forward their annual reports for inclusion within the next newsletter.

23.0421 Matters for Future Discussion

Improvement between WBC and the revival of the Greening Campaign
Skateboard park update.
Burghfield St. Mary's liaison for improved recycling within the local area.

24.0421 Items for information

No further items

25.0421 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

To resolve, pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of the following:
Exclusion was not required.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.56pm.