

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held in the Council  
Chamber Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 7.00 p m**

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**Present:** Cllr J White – Mayor. Cllr J Tunnell-Westmacott – Deputy Mayor.  
Cllr P Bush, Cllr P Higgs, Cllr D Cotterill. Cllr I Brown, Cllr D Cohen, Cllr S Palmer,  
Cllr F Triggs, Cllr S Lofthouse, Cllr N Field-Johnson. Maggie Andrews Town Clerk.  
John Yeatman – RFO.

Mr & Mrs K Gray.

**1. MINUTES. Resolved:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 October be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

**2. MATTERS ARISING.** There has been no response with regard to widening the crossing at the top of The Hill. The Clerk will chase this up with O.C.C.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr M Taubenheim.

**4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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

Cllr White – Chairman of Traffic.

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott – Cemetery & Environment.

Cllr I Brown – Chairman BEAT

Cllr F Triggs – Chairman Recreation Ground

**5. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Lower High Street benches. Mr Gray raised the subject of replacing the concrete and wooden benches outside the Cook Shop, Lower High Street. After discussion it was agreed that these would be replaced with one seat, disposing of the current ones and making good the area. All were in favour of the replacement. Mr & Mrs Gray have kindly offered to pay the cost of carrying this out for which we are very grateful.

2020 Tree Challenge. Local Community Groups are being challenged to plant at least 2020 trees or hedgerows in the Burford area by the end of 2020 taking advice from the Wychwood Project, a West Oxfordshire based environmental charity. Pledge forms will be available for groups and individuals.

After discussion Council identified several areas mainly on the Recreation Ground and agreed to plant ten trees. Position & type to be decided at a later date.

Ssafa. The armed forces charity has sent details on events for VE day 2020 – 8-10 May. The VE day website is [www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org).

**6. HGV FUNDING.** It was agreed a fund needs to be established for the running costs to BTC. The Mayor will make contact with James Wright at OCC on this matter. Funds continue to come in – Donations are £86353.64, Pledges & BDS £55400.00 – total to date £141,753.64.

**7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer reported thanks from Keith Gowing for our contribution to the Villager Community Bus.

A BACS payment was received from Ubico in the sum of £365 being BTC's share of the WODC clean-up fund.

Items for budget preparations are being prepared, capital items are:

Guilford car park £2500. Church Yard trees £1500. Pavilion roof £11000 in hand, discuss an increase.

Mayor's community event. The Bridge Magazine contribution.

Christmas lights £1500, November 5<sup>th</sup> £500, Christmas tree £250.

Payments as listed:-

**Council account.**

Mrs Andrews	1057. 60
J Yeatman	396. 00
Nest Pension	66. 08
Mr & Mrs Dadge	106. 73
David Buckland	1247. 20
Petty Cash	100. 00
HMRC	566. 87
British Telecom business	36. 00
British Telecom main bill	75. 41
Castle Water	11. 61
JFK Witney Rec car park works	2700. 00
RBL Poppy wreaths	150. 00
Villager Community Bus contribution	300. 00
A K Timms	124. 20
McCrackens	930. 00

The above were passed for payment.

**8. MAYOR'S REPORT.**

Cllrs Cotterill, Lofthouse & the Mayor together with his wife attended Harry Eaglestone's feast at the Blanket Hall.

The Mayor met with Richard Aylard, WASP & Thames Water. Thames Water acknowledged they were at fault concerning various spillages.

The Mayor is drawing up an agreement with the Council & the Clanfield 85 Football teams for their use of the pitches.

**9. WODC REPORT . CLLR COTTERILL**

CPRE are objecting to the expansion of the Guilford Car Park (in Bury Orchard) as reported in The Bridge, November 2019 edition. No alternative has been proposed, just an outright objection. In the August and October Bridge editions I explained why we were trying to expand the car park and asked for alternative ideas. Nothing has been proposed except one to use the Rec and have electronic counting/ indicator boards to direct traffic. In my opinion anything remote from Guilford will not work due to wedding guest requirements and traffic congestion in Burford.

CPRE have also got their facts wrong. The original car park was built in 1987 and extended to its present size in 1997. It has always had a double level drainage system with built in oil and pollutant filters which are serviced by WODC. This water drainage system discharges into the southern spillway behind the toilet block.

The current plans for an extension also incorporate pollutant protection as covered by the flood risk assessments and controlled water risk assessments which will accompany the planning application. The base of the car park will also be permeable hardcore and flint or grass so that floodwater is not displaced downstream. Its level will not be increased, as CPRE suggest, because that would contravene EA requirements.

The Bury Orchard field is entirely in flood plain category 3(b) so no development which displaces water downstream will be permitted. Also, Burford Town Council works closely with WASP, the EA and Thames Water. Studies are underway to use part of Bury Orchard as a wetlands environmental area by pumping treated sewage from the Fulbrook STW into the field so that land treatment can assist reduce the high phosphate level in the river Windrush. The phosphates probably come from farming activity upstream and along the 69 km length of the Windrush. A wetland environment might also increase carbon sinking ability in the area and attract a wider variety of bird life. Wetlands specialists associated with Slimbridge have been consulted.

CPRE are a bit late to the table if, as in The Bridge, they are intending to work with WASP.

The Oxfordshire Growth Board is not understood and its business is not easily traceable at present. The entire project and its formation, with its concomitant Scrutiny methods, are under review with questionnaires and workshops occurring everywhere.

#### **10. O.C.C. REPORT CLLR N FIELD JOHNSON.**

County council - Proposals Health & Social care system. Proposals for an 'integrated care system' for Oxfordshire designed to improve health and special care services were welcomed by the county council's Cabinet. A draft of the 5 year plan has been published and due to be submitted to NHS England in November. In the draft plan the NHS and local authorities have committed to planning health and care services round individual needs.

A40 HID Bid. OCC has been unsuccessful with its Housing Infrastructure Fund bid of £102 million which is in addition to the current £38 million A40 bus lane schemes.

This means OCC can deliver: Extension of the A40 dual carriageway from Witney to the proposed Eynsham park and ride; Extension of A40 westbound bus lane from west of Duke's Cut Canal and railway bridges close to Oxford near the proposed Eynsham park & ride; A40 capacity and connectivity improvements to widen access at Duke's Cut Canal extending the east and west bound bus priority lane.

North Cotswold Line Taskforce. OCC along with Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Warwickshire & Worcestershire Council Councils are working with Network Rail and First Great Western on developing the North Cotswold line. This would include partial doubling of the line, station and signal improvements – the cost would be in the region of £200 million. The outcome would be four trains and hour from Hanborough transforming connectivity to Oxford & London.

Local Cycling Routes. Discussion took place regarding local cycling routes which would improve routes in and around Woodstock. Two key routes were discussed one from Old Woodstock into the centre of the town and to the school. Then other route was to Hanborough station making it as easy as possible for people to cycle to the station.

Oxfordshire communities bid for £1m fund – youth services.

Community organisations are invited to bid for a share of OCC's new £1m Youth Opportunity Fund. This is aimed at groups who can provide activities and opportunities for young people between 11-18 and 11-25 with special needs. Grants of up to £70,000 are available.

Cllr Field-Johnson's full report is available upon request and was circulated to all Councilors.

Cllr Cohen asked a question of Cllr Field-Johnson regarding the cost of weeding the central reservation on the A40 by pass to Witney. Cllr Field-Johnson will investigate.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE.** None.

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning.**

Burford Town council commented on the following planning applications to WODC for their consideration.

**19/02816/FUL**

**19/02817/LBC** 29 Lower High Street. Conversion of first & second floor.

No objection.

**19/02794/LBC.** 45 High Street. Inspection of timber, treat, relay, or replace – remove all non-historic timber.

No objection.

**1902843/FUL.**

**19/02844/LBC.** Burford House Hotel 99 High Street. Reinstate garage on Witney Street install two awnings on High Street elevation.

The awnings will encourage seating on a very narrow pavement. No product protection needed as per examples given.

Garage reinstatement. We have the following concerns:-

When the garage doors are opened they will be over then pavement and so on arrival there will be obstruction of the road when opening doors.

We have concerns over ingress and egress & pedestrian safety.

We suggest a site visit to fully appreciate all the safety concerns and problems.

**19/02707/FUL.** 95 High Street. Conversion of existing 1<sup>st</sup> floor and loft space, to include insertion of front & rear dormer windows and formation of independent access from the High Street.

We have no objection providing hard wood is used throughout.

**19/02918/HHD**

**19/02919/LBC.** Willow Cottage. 41 Witney Street. Erection of conservatory with single storey link extension to dwelling.

No objection.

Concern was shown at the Shilton Road development where there has been some modification concerning a slip road. Cllr Cotterill to investigate.

**Pavilion.** Cllr Triggs will obtain quotes for reroofing the Pavilion.

The football teams are considering putting Astroturf at the entrance inside the building to help keep mud to a minimum. This will also make for easier cleaning.

**Recreation Ground.** Plans for bon fire night are all in hand.

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A meeting will be convened between Council & McCracken's the grass contractor to identify the boundaries on the Rec that only need cutting by them. The football teams will cut their own.

**Environment.** Debris is accumulating outside the Tolsey area comprising mainly cigarette butts. The culprits need identifying.

**Cemetery.** All tidy.

**Traffic.** A temporary crossing is being installed by OCC at the Burford School/A40 because of damage to the bridge over the road. Neither the School or the Council were approached or consulted beforehand which is disappointing.

The 20mph scheme is progressing well.

OCC are proposing a scheme for various parking changes. The Council is particularly concerned about the changes to the coach park. We will respond to the consultation advising them strongly of our views in that we do not want to lose any car parking spaces in this area.

### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

The Italian Council Potenza Picena have produced a book on Burford with some wonderful memories of various occasions. Council agreed to take ten copies which may also be available at the Book shop. More information to follow.

It was with great sadness we record the death of Mrs Josie Dadge who served the Council for over twenty years as our cleaner.

### **14. CHARITY MATTERS.**

Council agreed that the Tolsey rent for January – March 2020 be reduced because of inevitable bad weather which may mean they cannot trade.



