

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held in the Council
Chamber Wednesday 4 December 2019 at 7.00 p m**

Present: 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.

1. MINUTES. Resolved: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 November be approved as a correct record, and signed by the Deputy Mayor. Cllr Ian Brown then spoke to the meeting regarding his forthcoming charity work abroad. Since he will be away for several months a year he felt he should stand down as Councillor & Chairman of the Burford Emergency Plan committee as from March 2020. He was congratulated on his new appointment and for all his hard work for the town and Council including the playing of the bugle each year for our Remembrance services at the War Memorial which he hopes to do again next year.

2. MATTERS ARISING. None.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr J White – Mayor.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott – Cemetery & Environment.

Cllr I Brown – BEAP (Burford Emergency Action Plan)

Cllr F Triggs – Recreation Ground

Cllr M Taubenheim – Pavilion & Planning

5. HGV FUNDING.

Donations to date stand at £118163.89. Pledges are £48000.00 making the total to date £166163.89.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the 202/21 Budget and Precept calculation has been circulated for approval. One change, following the sad news of Mrs Dadge's death we will be using a self employed cleaner.

The Council Priority Fund application for £2500 towards the 20mph scheme has been submitted to OCC, endorsed by Cllr N Field-Johnson.

Burford's TSB branch is not closing. However, planning for the future, we require two extra online banking signatories. Cllrs Higgs & Cohen have been appointed to carry out online approvals for transfers and payments, when necessary. This arrangement satisfies the requirements of our fidelity insurance and Council were in agreement.

Clanfield Football Club have set up a monthly standing order of £100 for match fees and use of the pavilion facilities.

Council proposed that the budget and precept be accepted - all were in favour.

Payments as listed:-

Council account.

Mrs Andrews	989.30
J Yeatman	460.80
Nest Pension	66.08
David Buckland	1247.20
Petty Cash	75.00
HMRC	554.27
British Telecom business	36.00
Castle Water	3.47
Volunteer Link-Up donation	50.00
Bruern Farm Town Christmas tree	210.00
Hickman Bros	115.20
Print Design Civic carol service	199.00
SSE D/D Tolsey building/office & Museum	740.37
SSE D/D Pavilion	51.25
Ricoh UK photocopier	88.39
Flying Press – Invitations	37.12
A K Timms	73.92
Phil Adams, Christmas lights	100.00
Jack Swallow – ditto -	100.00

The above were passed for payment.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT. None.

9. WODC REPORT . CLLR COTTERILL

Work proceeds to submit another planning application for the permanent extension of the car park. Currently the flood risk assessments and topographical survey are showing there are no showstoppers. They also show that Historic England's idea to extend the car park eastwards is the least favourite option in terms of flood risk and is the wettest part of the field under 1:20 and 1:1,000 year flood protections.

Documents are being redrafted for a planning submission in late January 2020.

The possibility to install 'ram raid' preventative bollards on the kerb outside Elm is still being investigated. Buried plant, both BT and 11kv power might make this project impossible.

WODC continue to compile a budget for the next financial year but much other business is on hold pending the outcome of the general election..

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

Graphene road trial – fewer potholes. The County Council is testing a new substance that could help keep more roads pothole free. Graphene is a specially developed ingredient which has the potential to extend the life of roads.

Gritters gear up for winter. OCC are on standby throughout the winter to make sure that priority roads around Oxfordshire are salted and kept as safe as possible during freezing conditions. There has been no change to the winter maintenance budget in recent years, last year we spent more than £1.8m gritting Oxfordshire's roads.

Winter Plan for vulnerable residents. OCC and the NHS are encouraging local residents to have a personal winter plan. Advice includes:

Having free NHS flu vaccinations.

Getting repeat prescriptions in plenty of time.

Seeking advice from your local Pharmacy. Stocking up on winter food supplies.

Getting boilers serviced and having a list of emergency numbers by a telephone.

County Councillors back action plan to join the 'green revolution' in Oxfordshire

'Climate Action for a Thriving Oxfordshire' explains how the council will reduce its own carbon emissions and supporting the environmental ambitions of others. The council has started planning for major changes to improve efficiency and reduce travel-related carbon emissions. The county has already reduced its carbon emissions by nearly 50% since 2008.

Oxfordshire reaches top ten in most productive council survey.

Oxfordshire has been recognized by the annual IMPOWER Index survey as being a top ten council for 2019. The Council also achieved a higher position on scores on children's social care, all age disability, health and social care interface, housing and homelessness, waste and recycling and - new for 2019, children with high needs.

This report was circulated to Councillors and a copy of the full report is available on request.

11. CORRESPONDENCE. A visitor to Burford has written regarding the dangerous area of Church Lane for both drivers and pedestrians. Whilst Council agreed in part with these concerns, when pedestrians do not use the footpath where it is available, traffic does slow down. It is unlikely OCC would see this area as a priority for any change.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

Burford Town council studied the following planning applications and sent their comments to WODC for their consideration.

19/02997/HHD

19/02998/LBC. Greenbank Cottage, 41 Sheep Street.

Single storey extension, replacement chimneys. Removal of existing and erection of new larger single storey rear extensions, changes to internal layout on ground and 1st floors, replacement chimneys.

No objection.

19/03021/FUL. Stonefield Lodge 210A The Hill.

Replacement of two storey detached dwelling.

No objection.

Cllr Higgs had attended a recent meeting on Planning at WODC which he found extremely useful.

Recreation Ground. It is proposed and agreed to plant several more trees on the Rec in conjunction with the Wychwood Project. Various sites have been identified and planting will take place in the near future. Discussion took place regarding the perimeter of the field and whether this should be trimmed back or allowed to grow to encourage wild life. There were two schools of thought. If the area is allowed to grow, brambles take over, litter and rabbits increase. Council agreed for Cllr Triggs to seek advice and carry out whichever is the best option.

Pavilion. Cllr P Higgs has joined this committee.

Environment. It has been reported that a drain by 190 – 192 The Hill is overflowing on to the pavement.

The central island on The Hill is unrecognizable because of grime and dirt and not easily seen at night.

Our thanks were mooted to Phil Adams and Jack Swallow for once again assisting with the erection of the Christmas lights around the town.

Cemetery. All tidy.

Traffic. None.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

It was noted that the kerb area of pavement outside Huffkins is very uneven and pitted.

This will be reported on Fix my Street.

The recent work carried out to the A40 by pass central reservation between Burford and

Witney was to remove Ragwort and prevent it from spreading elsewhere.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 January 2020.

14. CHARITY MATTERS.

None.