

BURFORD TOWN COUNCIL 2020 ANNUAL REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL

Over the last year we have experienced the ongoing problem with potholes, however we continue to report these to Fix My Street and eventually they do get repaired.

Refuse bins are often left outside properties, sometimes for a considerable time after they have been emptied. It is an offence to do so and the offenders reported to WODC.

Two new benches have been installed, one by the Tolsey and one at the Priory Lane/Tanners Lane junction. They are well used and we are grateful to the donors for their generosity.

Most streets in Burford are tidy due to lock down. This has meant our lengthman David Buckland is able to get to kerbs and other areas where there are no parked cars.

Council members continue to arrange working parties, sweeping areas and litter picking.

CEMETERY

Space is getting short but the Committee have identified a few areas where plots can be situated. In time we will have to extend up into the next field.

Visitors continue to drive to the top of the Cemetery and on occasions have damaged grave stones. A bollard will be placed at the entrance of the second driveway to deter motorists unless authorised or have disabled passengers.

Walls continue to be maintained or rebuilt.

Councillor J Tunnell-Westmacott - Chairman

PLANNING

The applications for the last year have been mainly for home extensions, improvement and upgrades.

The Planning Committee have dealt with each application on its individual merit bearing in mind that Burford in general is in a conservation area with many listed buildings.

The new development on Shilton Road is under construction. The Council feel this development will benefit the town commercially and offer many affordable homes to local families who are either expanding or wish to remain in the Burford Parish.

PAVILION

The Pavilion remains water tight, functional and from time to time let out for children's party's.

The regular event user is Clanfield FC. They use the Pavilion and the football pitches during the football season with junior teams participating. It is good to see many supporters when the teams are playing.

Councillor M Taubenheim - Chairman

WODC Councillor Annual Report – May 2020.

The first nine months of the municipal year have paled into insignificance compared with the period from March to May 2020. However, they were significant and need to be noted. The Oxfordshire Growth Board secured £215m from central government and a significant amount has been spent in West Oxfordshire providing affordable housing. Oxfordshire is a net contributor to the UK Treasury and growth is being focussed here, especially for spin off companies from Oxford University.

The Shilton Road development started and proceeds rapidly. This will provide affordable housing, 50% for local people at the first letting, as well as residential and extra care housing for those more mature and less agile members of society. Eventually, a care home will be added to the site. Some landscape planting has taken place but the current dry weather is against it although a long-term replacement condition requires the replacement of any dead trees.

In October 2019, the rains came, water in abundance such that the car park flooded three times and had to be closed. More importantly buildings and houses in the bridge area were in grave danger of flooding and the northern spillway in Bury Orchard was widened to provide protection. Now that it has not rained for weeks the reservoirs filled in October are emptying fast and a hosepipe ban looms. Water consumption has increased due to lockdown.

In March 2020 Covid-19 became a pandemic and lockdown started. The local councils restructured into their Gold, Silver and Bronze emergency centres to provide support to the community, ensure that government guidelines and rules were obeyed and that everyone stayed as safe as possible. Ubico continued waste collection and other officers continued Revenue and Benefits, emergency funding to businesses and other such tasks. The offices were closed and everyone worked from home. At the beginning of the year Zoom was probably only known to teenagers, now everyone is familiar with Zoom, Cisco Webex and MS Teams. We all have meetings from homes with Hawaiian backgrounds, well it is 25 degC or more at the moment.

The town is virtually empty and we have only 10 or 15 cars a day using our 166 space car park. The District Council intends taking 4 of those spaces as electric car charging points. Does it matter? The planning application to extend the car park by a further 165 spaces is still under consideration... do we need those spaces? We are likely to lose 10 shops on the High Street so maybe we don't. Will life return to that we knew a year ago?

This year is shaping up to be something of a write off and everything is on hold till May 2021 in terms of District Elections and assignments to committees etc. Then I have just 1 year to go before the next District Council election in Burford for a new councillor, that is in May 2022. Planning continues and I have just finished a three and a half hour Webex meeting of the Uplands Planning Committee, the first since the March physical meeting. All Council Meetings are now Webex Meetings, maybe that is the shape of the future. The restructuring for Covid -19 means that planning is about the only progressive function at present. The catch-up nature of today's meeting meant that 201 applications were dealt with as Committee debated decisions or delegated sanctioned decisions.

Derek Cotterill

1 June 2020

The Falkland Hall Charity (Reg. No. 213532)

Report for the year January to December 2019

The Falkland Hall was built as a large merchant house in 1558 by Edmund Sylvester. It was purchased by the Town Institute in 1920, the ground floor was used for meetings and entertainment and the top floor was a Men's Institute. In the 1960s the Hall was neglected and in a state of disrepair, it was then the Trustees let the building on a commercial basis.

A new trust scheme came into being in 1974 and ran until the present scheme was sealed on the 11th January 1985 as The Falkland Hall Charity. The title to the land is vested in the Official Custodian for Charities in trust for The Falkland Hall Charity. The Trustees must apply the charity's income in meeting the proper costs of administering the charity and of managing the property, including the repair and insurance of the property. After payment of these costs the Trustees shall apply the remaining income, as they think fit, for any charitable purposes that benefit the inhabitants of Burford and neighbourhood thereof.

A bank account is held with TSB in Sheep Street Burford. Investments are held in funds with M & G investments, and CCLA COIF Charity funds. The extraordinary repair fund is held within these investments. The commercial let is managed by Marriott's Property LLP. During the period of this report the Trustees fulfilled the requirements of the charity scheme.

The Trustees are:- David Cohen (chairman), John Yeatman (treasurer), Phillip Adams, Keith Davies, Rev. Raymond Moody, Rev. Cedric Reavley, Rev. Thomas Putt (ex officio)

Burford Community Archive

The Trustees have purchased The Old Barn in Swan Lane for the purpose of providing a Community Archive for the Town. A studio is provided within the barn providing income which will make the Archive self sustainable. We have received financial support from WODC, Burford Festival, Burford and District Society, private trust funds, individual donors and fundraising events. We have engaged the services of a professional fund raising firm (Ingham Pinnock Assoc. in Cambridge) to help us complete our task. The project has a web site:

burfordcommunityarchive.org

Steering Committee:- David Cohen (chairman), John Yeatman (treasurer), Brig. Clendon Daukes, Rev. Cedric Reavley, Christopher Walker (chairman Tolsey Museum).

David Cohen 2020.