

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber
2 December 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom**

Present: Cllr J White, Mayor. Cllr J Tunnell-Westmacott. Deputy Mayor. Cllr D Cohen. Cllr P Bush. Cllr M Taubenheim. Cllr D Cotterill. Cllr Cllr S Lofthouse. Cllr S Palmer. Cllr P Higgs, Cllr F Triggs. Cllr N Field-Johnson. Maggie Andrews Town Clerk. John Yeatman RFO. Simon Chandler. Steve Coulter.

Post Office. Steve Coulter gave a report on the latest developments. An application process has been completed which is in the hands of the Post Office. Costs are escalating but funding through WODC and local banks are being looked into. Council felt we should approach the Post Office directly so that they are made aware of our commitment for a much needed Post Office. This was agreed.

MINUTES. Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of and with the authority of the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING .

VIC Centre. The review is going forward. The Mayor will approach Robert Courts MP and Toby Morris Cabinet Member at WODC with our concerns about the possible closure. Cllr Cotterill has written to WODC but to date there has been no acknowledgment.

A40 crossing. A licence has been sent to OCC regarding the storage of installation construction materials on the Recreation Ground while this work is carried out. This has yet to be signed and returned.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE . None

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.

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

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott – Environmental & Cemetery. Also receiving a cheque for Zoom telephone coverage.

Cllr M Taubenheim - Chairman of Planning & Pavilion.

Cllr F Triggs – Chairman Recreation Ground.

Cllr J White – Chairman Traffic.

5. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCILLOR.

A proposal was made to adopt Simon Chandler as a Councillor. This was unanimously agreed by Councillors.

6. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION. None.

7. SHILTON ROAD REPORT. Cllr Bush met with Lion Court, M J Evans Road Works, Andy Hicks from OCC and members of the SRRA. (Shilton Road Residents

Association).

Page 841

The residents have suggested white gates be installed at the 30 mph sign just before the development and also an illuminated sign which the Residents will fund. Council initially had no objection to this. It was generally felt that the speed bumps were ineffectual however they were at least a deterrent. Four more are scheduled to be added. Sign off date is expected in March with snagging details completed to everyone's satisfaction. The development is waiting for landowners to agree to an electricity supply across their land. Apart from the show homes, there is none on site. The turn onto the A40 is under construction and a traffic crossing will be installed by Star Bucks/A361. Cllr Bush was thanked for his report and for liaising with all parties.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

The RFO reported that the 202/21 Budget and precept calculation were circulated for discussion and approval.

The External Audit is complete, the auditor's report was circulated and the audited accounts are now on the BTC website.

In response to the Report the RFO suggested that the Council diarises an annual review of Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations at their March meeting. It was noted that timing of the period of public rights was set following CV19 advice from the Local Government Association, and that the level of general reserve is always considered as part of the budgetary process.

Councillor Priority Fund payment of £2500 towards the 20 mph Scheme and the OCC Lengthman Grant of £1250 has been paid to us by BACS.

An Email has been received from Keith Gowing of Villager Community Bus, thanking the Council for our donation.

Goodman Nash is submitting a 'skeleton case' to the Valuation Officer to appeal the Business Rates amounts. This gives them 16 months to build the case further.

It was resolved that the Budget as presented was approved by Council.

A special vote of thanks was recorded for the RFO's work on this year's budget.

Payments.

BT Business bill	183. 56
Castle Eater – Tolsey	30. 46
Southern Electric – Tolsey	873. 78
Southern Electric – Pavilion	125. 34
WODC Cemetery Tax	95. 00
Mrs M Andrews	945. 20
Mr D Buckland (S/O)	1256.28
J Yeatman	475. 20
Mr P Denning (HGV)	562. 50
HMRC PAYE	533. 29
Nest Pension	65. 52
A Grotex Cleaner	100. 00

Systems & Solutions (Bytesafe)	20. 00
Margaret Johnson Stationers	47. 72
A K Timms	49. 71
Ricoh UK – photocopier	69. 03
Page 842	

BT Business Bill new account credit	51. 61
Petty Cash	25. 00
M Andrews (Home telephone costs)	14. 59
Jane Tunnell zoom home telephone costs	55. 65
Jack Buckland	100. 00
Peter Denning expenses HGV	19. 99
Castle Water Rec	22. 70

The above were passed for payment.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

New Play Park. The Mayor and Cllr Triggs met with James Rae and Wicksteed Leisure. Main report under Recreation Ground.

The Mayor met with OCC and Gloucester CC regarding GCC's concerns on the HGV routes. Some towns and villages are unhappy at the increase of traffic through their areas. Surveys will be carried out and BTC will receive information.

10. HIGHWAYS . WODC REPORT

Apart from WODC being engaged in delivering food parcels to the vulnerable there was little else to report.

11. OCC REPORT.

Cllr Field-Johnson aired his feelings with OCC regarding the Bridge over the A40, stating that he still felt the better option was to repair the bridge instead of erecting a Puffin crossing. However OCC's decision was made on cost and not safety.

£6,500 has been raised for the Windrush river testing equipment which will be installed between Widford & Burford. This will enable us to know exactly where and when Thames Water are releasing raw sewage into the river.

12. CORRESPONDENCE.

Emails have been received from Mr G Elliot & Mr Alford regarding a substantial dip in water pressure at their properties. Cllr White has contacted Richard Aylard with these concerns and reported back to Mr Elliot & Mr Alford.

It was noted that Thames Water have advised they will be flushing out pipes on the High Street on 15 December – this is routine work.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

20/02785/HHD. Maple Barn, Barns Lane. Rear single storey extension. No objection.

20/02800/HHD. Swan Lane House, Swan Lane. Erection of rear 2 storey extension, along with the insertion of new roof lights to the front elevation and a new side window.

Council were in agreement provided the two small dormer windows on the North side roof were replaced by a single dormer, which is in keeping with the local area, and the other dormer on the North side.

20/03072/HHD. The Threshing Barn 6 Signet Hill. Alterations & erection of single storey front and rear extension. Erection of detached double car port and log store (part retrospective). No objection.

20/02176/LBC & 20/02717/LBC. The Bay Tree Hotel, Sheep Street. Internal alterations to refurbish existing bar servery. No objection.

Page 843

Recreation Ground.

Play Park. A meeting was held with James Rae & Wicksteed Leisure confirming drawings and detailing. A fence will be fitted around all the equipment which will be sited westward of the existing play area.

Access details were discussed and some concern was shown regarding the possibility of bad weather where equipment could erode the entrance to the Rec, however the Contractors wanted to go ahead regardless, with a March/Easter open date.

Wicksteed have reduced their quote for clearance of the existing site. Cllr White asked whether it would be possible for them to contract for the whole project, including the cost of demolishing the old site and BTC would make a contribution of £6k toward the total cost without allocation to any particular aspect. All agreed. Cllr White will contact James Rae.

The developer will pay for three years maintenance.

The public will need to be advised when the old play area is removed.

The Trim Trail is for now off the agenda, but we have £2000 in the budget for future plans..

Clanfield FC. A five-a-side fund raising venture is proposed in January 2021 with a request to install a pitch on Westfield. More information to come – Councillors were in favour. Signs advising the public and dog walkers will need to be installed in good time.

Pavilion

Cllrs Taubenheim & Bush carried out a recce of the Pavilion which appears to be in good order, thanks to John McLaughlin for helping to maintain it. Roof leaks are minor and so it was decided that any improvements, especially to the roof, were not necessary at this stage.

Cllr Bush will source a new water heater and any other electrical improvements will be carried out in due course.

Environment & Cemetery.

It was noted that areas around the Bridge Lower High Street and the Vicarage need weeding.

It was also noted that a waste bin is required near the Co-op. Lots of rubbish including used face masks are being left on the ground at this site.

The Council was asked if bins outside Barclays Bank could be removed. However these will remain especially since they are well used and there is no longer any recycling facility at the Car Park.

Cemetery. Four quotations have been received regarding the extension of the Cemetery. It was decided that a new and comprehensive specification of works is required. Cllr

Tunnell-Westmacott will prepare this for approval by Council. It will then go out to the Contractors asking if they would quote again.

Traffic. No report.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thanks were minuted to Cllr Triggs and John Yeatman for erecting the 20mph signs.

It was noted that a few more shops are being established in Burford which is good news for the town.

OALC have several training sessions running next year.

Page 844

Councillors were advised to look at details in case there are any sessions they felt would be useful to attend.

Rory Darling is hoping to organize carol singing around the Town and under the Tolsey.

Councillors had no objection as long as social distancing and Covid guidelines were adhered to.

15. CHARITY MATTERS.

The Charity Women2women will be trading under the Tolsey on 12 & 19 of December.

