

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting on
Thursday 4 November 2021 at 7pm held in the Lady Chapel
St John the Baptist Church**

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

Members of the public: Lucy Staveley The Queen’s Green Canopy, Ali McIntosh representing the Beagles (Burford Environmental Action Group).

1. MINUTES. Resolved: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 October 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

Automatic Speed Indicator Sign. Awaiting OCC to erect post to house sign.

The Queens Green Canopy. A tree planting ceremony on Westfield is planned for 19 November at which HRH the Duke of Gloucester will plant the first tree launching this initiative.

Jubilee Street Party. It was agreed that a letter will be sent to all local clubs and societies requesting they appoint a representative to form a committee.

Windrush Valley Traffic Action Group. (WiVTAG) No update available.

Play Park. A committee needs to be formed to get this off the ground. Cllrs Palmer, Lofthouse & Tunnell-Westmacott agreed to help with this initiative together with Lynne Agg.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were noted from Cllrs White, Palmer & Chandler.

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 Taubenheim – Pavilion & Planning.

Cllr Triggs – Recreation Ground.

5. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION.

Future Council meetings. It was agreed that for the foreseeable future these will be held in the Warwick Hall, commencing 2022.

Remembrance Day. All arrangements are in hand and the road closure notices have been displayed.

6. MAYOR’S REPORT.

The Mayor visited Adam Clark the head of Burford Primary School on 12 October. A request was made to him regarding the availability of the school for the Jubilee Street

Party.

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The Mayor also attended a WODC planning meeting to decide the Car Park planning application which sadly was refused.

He attended a Teams meeting with OCC officers on 20 October to respond to the requests made by the officers for changes to the HGV permit scheme, following BTC's comments on the scheme changes and to review the next steps. Cllr White led for BTC (see HGV report).

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The VAT reclaim for the first half 2021/2022 has been received.

A draft budget has been prepared in readiness for the Finance meeting on 15 November.

BTC Payments:

Burford PCC room hire	40. 00
CPRE 90 th anniversary campaign donation	50. 00
Cotswold Connect (HGVs)	28. 80
Rotary Club Burford & Kingham (charity dinner)	50. 00
WODC Tolsey business rates	117. 00
WODC Cemetery business rates	108. 00
Mrs M Andrews	908. 20
Mr D Buckland	1258. 08
J Yeatman	439. 20
Mrs G Rolls (HGV)	675. 00
HMRC PAYE	506. 90
Nest Pension	65. 52
Mrs James (HGV)	54. 00
Anna Grotex cleaning services	100. 00
Systems & Solutions (Bytesafe)	20. 00
BT business bill	75. 60
OALC (Minutes & Planning training course)	120. 00
McCracken & Son	967. 20
Margaret Johnson	9. 72
The Flying press	34. 16
Petty Cash	50. 00
Jackie James admin HGV	133. 35
D Buckland petrol costs	22. 00
J Buckland	70. 00
Castle Water (Rec)	23. 87

Tolsey payments.

Pethers of Burford (Tolsey Clock and supports) 5012.40

The above were approved and passed for payment.

8. SHILTON ROAD.

Lioncourt have been formally notified to complete all outstanding works within 21 days.

It was noted that there are some problems with flooding and water building up before reaching drains. OCC have advised that a review would not be conducted until the post sign off of s278.

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9. O.C.C. REPORT CLLR FIELD JOHNSON.

OCC Cabinet approved a proposal that has the objective of switching 85% of the county's 30mph speed limits to 20mph.

The plan is to spend £8m changing 30mph signs to 20mph.

The new lower limit is unlikely to be enforced by the Police. In the unlikely event of a speeding fine being issued, there is a high degree of probability it could be successfully legally challenged as the usual procedure will not have been followed.

The proposal hinges on drivers obeying the new limit as a matter of conscience.

People planning to use Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres next month are being warned about a series of short closures to enable essential work to be carried out.

OCC will be shutting each of its centres for two days to allow for a deep cleaning to take place.

The way parking is controlled in parts of Oxfordshire will change next week. From 1 November OCC will take on responsibility for civil parking enforcement from TVP. The council already enforces parking in Oxford. It has also delegated the role to District Council in West Oxfordshire. OCC is now taking over in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and at Cherwell District Council.

The Government confirmed £5.4bn for adult social care over the next three years. The funding is intended to ensure the Government can reform social care, increase investment in supporting vulnerable children and enable local authorities to continue to improve the other local service people rely on. The Chancellor pledged new grant funding of £4.5bn for local councils over the next three years calling it the largest increase in core funding for over a decade.

£1.6bn new grant funding will be available in each of the next three years to implement social care reform.

10. WODC REPORT . CLLR COTTERILL

Cllr Cotterill reported he had attended WODC budget meetings.

The issue with Hacketts, 121 High Street is still causing concern with a leaking roof which is affecting neighbouring properties. It is proving difficult to get any reasonable response from WODC planning on this matter.

It was noted that WODC have not yet signed the CEE (Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill).

One of the reasons given by the Environmental Agency & Historic England regarding the car park extension application was that it would affect the view of the Church.

It was noted that Councilor Field-Johnson left the meeting at this point.

11. CORRESPONDENCE.

A request for a donation was received from Volunteer-Linkup. Council agreed the sum of

£50.

An email was received from one of the businesses in the town complaining about the lack of notice with regard to the work on the footpath in the High Street. OCC were responsible for advising all those affected, erecting the required signage on the High Street.

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Welcome Back Fund. WODC have awarded us funds towards the refurbishment of all the finger posts together with hanging flower baskets for the town.

A letter has been received from Walkers regarding the Tolsey trading, specifically regarding goods sold on Wednesday and Thursday each week. A response will be sent advising that the traders provide the only income the Council receive toward the maintenance and preservation of this Historic building.

Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill.

The Council resolved to:

Support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill

Inform the Local Media of our decision

Write an open letter to Robert Courts MP urging him to support the Bill

Write to Zero Hour, the campaign in support of the CEE Bill (joinus@ceebill.uk)

And to the Zero Hour Oxfordshire (ceebillalliance.oxford@gmail.com)

The Oxfordshire campaign in support of the CEE Bill, expressing our support.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

21/03200/LBC. The Bield 19 Witney Street. No objection.

21/03324/LBC. Butlers Cottage, 47 High Street. No objection.

MW.0128/21. Whitehill Quarry

21/031172/FUL. Burford Comprehensive School. No objection

21/03252./LBC. 21/03251. The Mill Coach House, 95 Witney Street. No objection.

21./03487/LBC. 158 The Hill. No objection.

Recreation Ground.

Cllr Triggs is investigating a method of rabbit control.

Steel Container – identify correct container for lawnmower, the matter is in hand.

Pavilion. Quotations will be sought for the repairs/refurbishment to the front of the building where wood needs replacing.

Environment. Nothing to report.

Cemetery. The Cemetery is in good order. The bollard at the top driveway needs repairing. McCrackens to repair damaged headstone. Action - Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott.

Traffic. HGVs. Cllr White reported that the Witney Gazette published a letter from a resident in Leafield and a member of the committee of WiVTAG claiming that the Burford Weight Limit was responsible for the 80% increase in HGVs going through West End, Witney. The Gazette published BTCs response pointing out that OCC had counted all the HGVs under 7.5 tonnes arriving at the 80%.

The third and final traffic survey has been completed. Automatic Traffic Counts were

installed at 18 locations. Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras were placed at 5 key locations at our request. This was done as we questioned the accuracy of the ACT checks which failed to distinguish between 2 axle vehicles over 7.5 tonnes and those under. The data will take some weeks to come through, they will be crucial in reaching a final conclusion.

Cllr Field-Johnson conducted a one man one day survey in Leaffield. It shows very little HGV impact.

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It was done on a day when the OCC survey was underway and will be valuable in checking whether what the ATC and ANPR recorded, is what Cllr Field-Johnson actually saw.

A zoom meeting was convened with Odele Parsons the lead OCC transport planner, Cllr Higgs, Cllr White and Cllr Field-Johnson.

They are still focusing on widening the exemption permit area particularly to the North, possibly extending it to all businesses in that area rather than just farmers. Cumnor Parish Council and Henley Town Council have requested our help in getting their own weight limits.

BEAP. (Burford Emergency Action Plan)

Sand bags have been ordered and salt deliveries are imminent.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Twinning initiative between Potenza Picena and the school may not advance since there are difficulties regarding covid vaccinations.

Commercial and domestic waste bins in Priory Lane by the Co-op & Bay Tree back entrances are continuing to cause some concern.

Charging points in Burford for electric cars are scheduled for Burford 2022.

The Deputy Mayor attended a training seminar on planning matters at WODC.

The Town Clerk had attended a refresher seminar for Clerks; both events were initiated by OALC (Oxford Association of Local Councils).

14. CHARITY MATTERS.

The Tolsey.

An interim payment for work to the Tolsey Clock and support mountings, wooden beam replacement and refitting the clock and bell are scheduled for November.

The fire alarm system inspection is scheduled for November.

