

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held on
Wednesday 3 August 2022 at 7pm**

Present: Cllr P Higgs – Mayor, Cllr J Tunnell Westmacott, Cllr D Cotterill, Cllr S Lofthouse, Cllr D Cohen, Cllr S Palmer, Cllr J Rushton, Cllr P Bruce, Cllr J Craven, Cllr J White, Maggie Andrews – Clerk, John Yeatman – RFO.
Mr & Mrs S Colter.

1. MINUTES. Resolved: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 July 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

Cotswold Arms. Cllr Taubenheim visited the premises requesting that the area in Priory Lane be cleared and not used for any storage in future. If this does not improve WODC Street Scene will be alerted.

Street Furniture. The Business & Planning Act 2020 legislation relating to Pavement Licences has been extended to 30 September 2023. We will investigate who in Burford hold licences and encourage any businesses who need one to apply to WODC.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Taubenheim, Ashton & Field-Johnson.

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 Rushton - Recreation Ground

Cllr Cohen – BEAP.

Cllr Higgs declared an interest regarding reimbursement payments for Lengthman sundries (£69.99) & Cemetery signs (£49.67).

Cllr Cotterill declared an interest on the application for a Premises Licence since he is a Trustee of the Foundation who own the building in question.

5. CLLR FIELD-JOHNSON REPORT.

The full report was circulated to all Councillors and is available on request.

It included the cost to OCC involved in ending the partnership with Cherwell District Council, which is £800,000.

Oxford Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) where plant pots and bollards have partially closed off side roads allegedly claiming the LTNs could result in ambulances being unable to reach patients in time.

20 mph speed limits. Data has shown that the introduction of the 20 mph limited has resulted in a very small average speed reduction issued a statement on 20 July “ TNP fully support the Department of Transport for guidance, which as you will be aware, clearly states that such limits should be self-enforcing as there is clear evidence to show that sign only schemes do not result in effective speed reduction.”

Fixmystreet. Residents are no longer able to report fly-tipping via Fixmystreet but being redirected to the District website.

Drag queen story time. Story time classes for primary school children in libraries have sparked fury from parents over the appearance of men dressed as women. OCC which was forced to withdraw its 'trans toolkit' for schools after a legal challenge, has defended the upcoming drag sessions in its libraries as "appropriate and well-suited for the advertised age groups".

6. CLLR ASHTON REPORT.

No report.

7. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Social Media. After discussion several suggestions were put forward. Cllrs Bruce & Craven will continue to implement channel recommendation, content, create a calendar, Facebook posting guidelines, monitoring, and feedback, reporting back to the next Council meeting.

Post Office. Mr & Mrs Colter showed concerns over the premises license for the property at Amanda Hanley which aims to sell delicatessen items which are also sold at Bumbles. If competition results and Bumbles loses business this could in turn affect the Post Office which is run by Mr & Mrs Colter. After discussion Cllrs Cotterill & Higgs will visit Mrs Hanley to determine the facts.

Council has no objection to the Premises Licence.

Bench on The Hill. A resident has again re-sited a bench on The Hill without permission.

This matter was previously covered in the March & May 2022 minutes.

Thames Valley Police have been alerted and will take the necessary action.

8. MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor, together with Cllr Cotterill met Mandy Feathers & Maria Wheatley of WODC to request WODC look to improve parking in Burford. After discussion, they agreed to meet with Phil Shaw in planning to see if a solution could be found to extend Guildenford Car Park which would be acceptable to the planners.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

Moore have completed the external audit – no problems were identified.

The completion of the audit notice and the audited accounts have been published on our website.

August payments:

Askew Nelson (Landcape Architceure)	1113.77
Cotswold Connect HGVs	57.60
P.Higgs reimbursement (Lengthman sundries)	69.99
P.Higgs reimbursement (Cemetery signage)	49.67
SSE Pavilion	124.02
SSE Tolsey	332.12
W R Hall (play area gate repairs)	60.00
Systems & Solutions (PC repairs)	276.40
WODC Tolsey business rates	207.00
WODC Cemetery business rates	125.00
Mrs M Andrews	953.75
Mr D Buckland	1321.10
J Yeatman	334.40
HMRC PAYE	515.25
Nest Pension	69.78
Anna Grotex cleaning services	100.00

Systems & Solutions (Bytesafe)	20. 00
BT business bill	66. 26
McCracken & Son	TBC
Margaret Johnson	96. 05
A K Timms	TBC
Hickman Bros	30. 75
Playsafety Rospa report	96. 60
Moore audit fee	480. 00
Petty Cash	30. 00
Castle Water Rec	40. 61
D Buckland reimbursement petrol costs	30. 00

The above were approved and passed for payment.

10. SHILTON ROAD

Lioncourt have agreed to pay McCrackens to repair the verges on Shilton Road. This should close the problem. However, Lioncourt did not agree to pay McCrackens to put right the Oxford Road and Lechlade Road verges. Their contractors will carry out this work.

Dropped kerb in Barns Lane. No action to date.

Play area Cotswold Gate. We are still waiting for Lioncourt to confirm that the play area has been completed and ready to hand over to BTC. Council felt that a separate committee would be required for the management of this.

Grassed areas – Cotswold Gate. It appears this will be under the control of the Management Company – this is not our responsibility.

11. CORRESPONDENCE. Covered under other agenda items.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

22/01833/LBC. 2/01832/HHD. 158 The Hill. No objection.

22/01780/LBC. 22/017099/HHD. Chevrons, Swan. No objection.

22/01551/HHD. 22/01553/LBC. 93 Witney Street. No objection.

Recreation Ground.

A request has been received from TC Garden Services to have regular access to the Recreation Ground to tend a garden which backs on to the Rec. Councillors refused permission suggesting they park in the Rec car park and take equipment to the property either by hand or in a wheelbarrow.

The Recreation Ground Committee & users had met and the following items were noted:-
Vegetation around the perimeter of the Rec has now been cut back which has uncovered a large amount of rabbit warrens and damage to the grounds, especially the football pitches. The Scouts garden area has been strimmed and will be managed by the lengthman and working parties. A suggestion was made to offer the area to the Pre-school.

Working parties (Green Gym) are planned for the last Wednesday in the month of August, September and October at 5.30pm, weather permitting. This will be publicised in the Bridge magazine.

Three quotations will be sought regarding the play area development. As plans develop it is proposed to hold consultations with the town, schools etc.

BBQs are proving a problem with disposable ones being thrown into hedges on the Rec and paper and grass being burned in the permanent BBQs. In light of the current climate and dry weather and for health and safety reasons Councillors all agreed they should be removed.

Overhanging trees and shrubs at the allotments will be cut back. McCrackens to quote.

Football club. The club is concerned about the state of one of the pitches due to rabbit infestation. The club may struggle to have pitches in an acceptable condition for fixtures. It was agreed that as a temporary measure a pitch would be available on Westfield until half-term.. Council re-iterated that this field would not be for their permanent use. The gate onto Westfield from Tanners Lane needs clearing of saplings and growth. McCracken's will be asked to quote for this work. It was noted that the boundary wall at Stonesfield Lodge and the Rec will need to be reinstated to its original height.

Pavilion. No report.

Environment. Working parties continue to work around the town under the direction of Cllr Westmacott.

Cemetery. The Cemetery committee has reviewed and increased all costs concerning interments and purchase of plots. The increases were passed and agreed by Council. Undertakers will be advised of the changes.

Traffic. We are waiting from a response from OCC regarding the proposed one way system for Church Lane.

Cllr Bruce circulated his report on Pothole spotting and repair. Various white lining will be carried out in due course; yellow lining would need a TRO.

BEAP. (Burford Emergency Action Plan) Cllr Cohen will update as necessary; the recent water shortage has flagged up a few vulnerable residents.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Blocked drains have been reported emanating from builders' debris from work at the Bull. Cllr Bruce to investigate and report as necessary.

Several enquiries have been made as to the ownership and future of Hackett's. Cllr Cotterill has responded.

Cllrs Bruce, Rushton & Craven had attended a training course on Roles & Responsibilities. They felt it was an excellent presentation.

14. CHARITY MATTERS

Monday & Tuesday has now become available under the Tolsey for traders. The Clerk will approach those on the waiting list.

