

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

Present: Cllr P Higgs – Mayor, Cllr M Taubenheim, 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, Cllr N Field-Johnson, Maggie Andrews – Clerk, John Yeatman – RFO. Mr & Mrs G & N Smith.

Mr & Mrs Smith raised the matter of their planning application 22/01709/FUL. Initially BTC objected to the application on several counts. (see minute reference 6 July 2022.) The application will now be re-submitted with amendments. They were advised to speak with Cllr Ashton on the matter.

1. MINUTES. Resolved: that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 August 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

Cotswold Arms. The Manager had phoned the Council office about the matter of the untidy state of bins etc in Priory Lane outside the Cotswold Arms. She was advised to write to us so that we can deal properly with the matter.

Street Furniture. No further development but Cllr Higgs is following up Street License applications.

It was noted that the trapdoor on the High Street at the Burford House Hotel site is exposed and therefore a possible danger to the public.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were noted from Cllr Ashton.

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 Taubenheim – Pavilion.

Cllr Higgs declared an interest regarding reimbursement payment for a Carterton Town Council event in the sum of £20.00.

5. CLLR FIELD-JOHNSON REPORT.

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

The Conservative Opposition remains concerned that the Lib/Dem/Green/Labour Coalition running the County Council continued to pursue ideological objectives way beyond the remit of the Council, the core functions of which are: adult & children's social care, education & learning and highways. Other matters covered a new website promoted by Oxfordshire Councils called Climate Action Oxfordshire; the cost of Gender-Neutral toilets of which OCC have 905 sites which would have to be assessed and could cost in excess of £90,000. OCC have launched a consultation on its draft Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan. Residents and Parish Councils can respond to the survey on Let's Talk Oxfordshire.

Cllr Field-Johnson will continue to pursue the HGV matter.

There is no further information on a survey of the damaged Bridge

6. CLLR ASHTON REPORT.

The report was circulated to all Councillors; the full report is available upon request.

Land East of Barns Lane Appeal – dismissed. Cllr Ashton raised issues on access and the impact on the local community. We were saved by having AONB and Conservation Area status. Outside these protections, appeals for development on land outside the Local Plan will have a much better chance of being upheld.

Local Plan update. Cllr Ashton said it would be helpful to have a view from BTC as to what issues we would like him to raise. Matters highlighted include HGV management, car parking & electric car parking spaces, protecting an alignment for a future Carterton-Oxford railway, strengthening sustainability requirements and keeping the pressure on Thames Water to clean up its act.

7. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Social Media. No further progress to date.

Bench on The Hill. After discussion it was decided to contact TVP for an update on the case and also to determine costs should we seek legal advice.

8. DECLARING & REGISTERING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) have urged us to tackle the crisis and protect the environment. After discussion it was agreed that this item should be included with Environmental on our agenda for future meetings. Many issues have already been addressed as noted in recent minutes including our declaration supporting the CEE Bill. We will align ourselves with WODC's policies.

9. TRAVELLERS.

Councillors proposed we exercise a zero tolerance policy – all agreed.

Security measures will be taken on the A40 gate through which the Travellers came, creating damage in the process. A quotation has been sought for work to be carried which will include new meshed and galvanized posts on Tanners Lane gateway, telescopic security posts x 3, rehangng the A40 gate. This was approved by Council.

Cllr Ashton will be asked to pursue the matter of a height barrier on Guildenford car park as recently noted in Council minutes.

10. MAYORS REPORT

Cllr Higgs attended a Fulbrook Parish Council meeting as an observer. He is attending future functions including An evening at Dorchester Abbey held by the Lord Lieutenant, a function held by the Mayor of Carterton and a visit, with other Councillors to our twinned town, Potenze Picena, Italy.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

The cost of evicting Travellers from the Recreation Ground and subsequent repairs was detailed. The new electricity contract commences 1 September. A proposal put forward was to move funds from reserves to the Recreation Ground in the sum of £6.600 and electricity £500. This was approved by Council.

The RFO has prepared an Insurance claim for the break in of Travellers as follows:

Property damage: Replace the damaged gate posts and rehang gate. Resilience repairs - installing telescopic security posts on each of the 3 field gates and replace gate and posts on Tanners Lane entrance. Fly tipping/decontamination and clean up & labour costs. Legal expenses – cost of Baliffs who served notice and carried out lawful eviction of Travellers.

The submission of the claim was approved.

The RFO reminded Councillors to submit items for consideration for the budget meeting in November with regard to setting our next precept.

Payments.

OALC (Councillors courses)	264. 00
Netwise – website	552. 00
Phoenix Fireworks Ltd	3498. 83
OXPEST	510. 00
WODC business rates – Tolsey	207. 00
WODC business rates – Cemetery	125. 00
Mrs M Andrews	1080. 80
Mr D Buckland	1321. 10
J Yeatman	387. 50
HMRC PAYE	553. 77
Nest Pension	69. 78
Anna Grotex cleaning services	100. 00
Systems & Solutions (Bytesafe)	20. 00
BT business bill	68. 89
McCracken & Son	1087. 20
Margaret Johnson	94. 92
Hickman Bros	227. 00
Ricoh UK	44. 56
Petty Cash	30. 00
Castle Water Rec	40. 61
P Higgs reimbursement	20. 00

The above were approved and passed for payment.

12. SHILTON ROAD

There have been no further developments – we are still awaiting completion of the new play area.

13. CORRESPONDENCE. Covered under other agenda items.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

22/02052/ADV. 22/02054 LBC. 80 High Street. No objection.

22/01957/FUL. 22/01958/LBC. 5A Priory Lane. Withdrawn.

Recreation Ground.

Cllr Rushton circulated minutes of the recent Recreation Ground committee meeting and a current report. Items covered were the rabbit problem, FC lease, Scout garden now being used by the Pre-school play group as well as the Scouts, Play area progress.

A consultation will commence which full Council approved. A questionnaire will be distributed to online parents via primary school, pre-school, church, scouts, football club, plus face book details to go into The Bridge magazine. Grants will be sought Football club lease. The club is investigating, and we wait for an update on their requirements.

Issues continue to arise with FC parking on Westfield. The gate is often left open. Further investigation required for some alternative parking areas – action Cllr Taubenheim.

BBQ's have been removed from the ground. Trees at the allotment perimeter will be trimmed back and hedges and foliage from around Tanners Lane gate. Two replacement signs are needed for the entrance gate by the Scout hut.

Thanks were mooted to David & Jack Buckland who joined with other Councillors clearing the field of rubbish after Travellers were evicted.

Working parties continue the next being 29 September at 5.30pm & October 26 weather permitting. TBC

Pavilion. The Toilets continue to be left unlocked and lights left on. We will install new locks with new keys.

Environment. Working parties continue to work around the town under the direction of Cllr Westmacott. It is noted that several bins are overflowing. These can be reported on WODC's website. McCrackens quotation in the sum of £570 for tree trimming at the allotments and cutting back hedges by Tanners Lane gate, was approved.

Cemetery. The Cemetery continues to be a place of tranquility with general maintenance being carried out on a regular basis.

Traffic. Church Lane one way. OCC asked that we carried out an informal consultation. Some responses have been received and these will be sent to James Wright. If the scheme is approved, it will have to be the subject of a formal public consultation and as such a consultation will also be required for 7.5 tonne limit on Barns Lane & Tanners Lane and for changed speed limits on Witney Street. It was suggested that we have just one all-embracing consultation. There has been no substantive reaction to our proposed scheme.

HGV update. Cllrs Higgs & White & Ken Gray had a virtual meeting with Jacqui Cox and some of her team, in particular Joe Kay who is leading OCC's work on a regional solution. They have not yet appointed consultants but hope to soon with the aim of getting something out of them by Christmas. Otherwise, they were not forthcoming, but they did agree that we should have regular two monthly meetings.

Bridge. There is no news on repair of the parapet. Ken Gray has prepared a model and a video demonstrating how dangerous it is for pedestrians on the bridge and has also persuaded Cllr White to supply examples of separators and route distinguishers which might alleviate the problem.

BEAP. (Burford Emergency Action Plan) Still being updated.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It has been noted that OCC have placed speed cables across the road as traffic enters Witney Street from Whitehill as we requested.

Cllrs Craven & Cotterill attended a meeting on 'Shaping the Future of West Oxfordshire Summit' the purpose of which was to bring out ideas going forward for the Local & Council Plans. There is opportunity for all residents to provide their input via on-line survey entitled 'Your Voice Matters', which is on WODC's website.

The Clerk will again report the epicormic growth to Witney Street trees.

The white lines at the junction of Barns Lane & Swan Lane denoting right of way was briefly discussed. It was decided to ask the Fire Service for their comments.

14. CHARITY MATTERS

The RBL will be selling poppies under the Tolsey on Saturday 29 October, Sunday 6 October (as a special concession) and Saturday 12 November.

The RFO has spoken to an unauthorised trader using the Tolsey and advised him of the procedure to apply to trade.

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