

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held on
Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 6.30pm**

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 White, Cllr J Craven, WODC Cllr H Ashton.
John Yeatman RFO.

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

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

Cotswold Arms. The Mayor & Deputy Mayor will visit the landlord to discuss further.

Coach park. The Mayor to draw up proposed plan and put this to OCC for their input and comment.

Church Lane pedestrian management. Cllr Ashton to follow up in early 2023

Shilton Road Play Park. Jack Buckland has been contacted to ask if he will undertake to carry out the regular safety checks.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were noted from OCC Cllr Nicholas Field Johnson and Mrs. M Andrews Clerk.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

Cllr Higgs – Finance. Also to receive a payment for reimbursement of Malwarebytes £29.99, Civic Service & Christmas Party refreshments £57, electricity for Christmas lights £21.53 & map of Burford Bridge for listed building application £16.20.

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott – Cemetery & Environment. Also to receive payment of £640 for Civic Service & Christmas Party catering.

Cllr Rushton - Recreation Ground.

Cllr Cohen – BEAP.

Cllr Taubenheim – Pavilion.

Cllr White – Traffic. Also to receive payment of £289. for Civic Service & Christmas Party refreshments.

5. CLLR FIELD-JOHNSON REPORT.

No report.

6. CLLR ASHTON REPORT.

No formal report. Cllr Ashton reported that the tarmac on Burford Bridge pedestrian area is very uneven and will contact OCC to see if it can be addressed when bridge repairs are undertaken. He had received a suggestion for the bridge stonework to be cleaned at the same time and will pass this on to OCC.

7. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Guildenford Car Park flooding. Cllr Cotterill reported that flooding is imminent and has heard nothing from WODC Estates office regarding his proposal to fix raising boards above the gabion bales.

Salt storage Salt is presently stored at the cemetery and is barrowed to the town. Cllr Higgs will seek permission from OCC to site a 5 Tonne storage bin on the A40/Barns Lane triangle.

8. MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor attended the Burford Civic Carol service on the 4th December and hosted the Christmas Party on the 8th, both events were well attended.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

The RFO had circulated reports prior to the meeting for 3rd quarter spend vs budget and all account balances and reconciliation of funds. Both reports approved by the council.

The 2023/24 precept request has been submitted to WODC

The OCC Councillor priority grant of £1500 from Cllr Field-Johnson has been received and put toward the Burford Bridge pedestrian improvement scheme.

BTC Payments.

OCC (7.5T weight limit consultation)	3320. 00
P Higgs (Reimburse Malwarebytes)	29. 99
Furnitubes International Ltd (Memorial bench)	757. 92
J White (Reimburse Civic Service & other expenses)	289. 50
P Higgs (Reimburse Civic Service & other expenses)	57. 00
Petty Cash	50. 00
P Adams	100. 00
J Swallow	100.00
WODC Tolley business rates	207. 00
WODC Cemetery business rates	125. 00
Mrs M Andrews	995. 55
Mr D Buckland	1326. 76
J Yeatman	410. 40
HMRC PAYE	534. 09
Nest Pension	69. 78
Anna Grotex cleaning services	100. 00
Systems & Solutions (Bytesafe)	20. 00
BT business bill	73. 26
Hickman Bros	286. 40
J Tunnell (Event catering)	640. 00
J Buckland	30. 00
That Event Company Ltd (Xmas lights)	1980. 00
Petty Cash	25. 00
P Higgs (Reimburse Xmas lights electricity)	21. 53
P Higgs (Reimburse map for planning enquiry)	16. 20
Castle Water Cemetery	11. 91
Castle Water Rec	40. 61

The above were passed for payment.

10. SHILTON ROAD REPORT

Lioncourt have proposed opening up the playpark prior to it being handed over to BTC.

Approved by the council

11. CORRESPONDENCE. A letter has been received from Bakery Horsebox asking if there was a location for them to trade within the town. As there is no street trading within the main parts of the town there is nothing to offer.

A letter has been received asking if there is a suitable site or outlet for the community allotment to distribute excess produce. It was suggested that residents in prominent locations could have 'help yourself' boxes outside their properties..

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

22/00135/HHD FUL. Vicks Byway Garage Objection has been submitted.

22/03179/OUT Land East of Barns Lane 150 objections had been submitted to date including WODC Strategic Planning, Cllr White will submit a supplementary submission prior to the WODC planning meeting, and he will speak on behalf of BTC at the meeting,

The Judicial Review of the planning permission appeal decision is set for 7th March 2023 in the Royal Courts of Justice (opposite the Wig and Pen)

Bull Hotel Variation premises licence application. Objection prepared at planning meeting, it was clarified that objection will include, not to remove no music outside, kitchen extractor to be switched off at 10pm, garden to be vacated by 11pm.

Highway Inn Variation premises licence application. Objection prepared at planning meeting, it was clarified that the objection will include kitchen extractor fan to be switched off at 10pm.

22/03210/HHD Hilltop House 208 The Hill. Strong objection on the grounds of over development and damage to the iconic view looking north down the High Street in a Conservation Area.

22/03530/FUL Burford Cottage Hospital, Conversion of existing premises to create one dwelling with annexe. After extensive discussion, it was decided no grounds for objection

Recreation Ground.

Cllr Rushton circulated a comprehensive report.

Rabbits

OxPest have quoted £340 for gassing of rabbits in the copse, along Tanners Lane, and in the hedge around the bowls club. They have also quoted for trapping under the pre-school building, £60 for putting the traps in place plus £35 per rabbit. This does not include the warren under the A40 wall near the allotments and this needs to be ferreted but OxPest no longer have any contacts to do this. Approved by the council

ACD pest control are a cotswolds based company who offer ferreting. They have quoted £36 to do a site visit with a view to ferreting. I have also contacted other companies / ferret owners but no success so far. Approved by the council

Rabbits are living within the rabbit proof fencing around the bowls club as the fencing has not been maintained. The bowls club have been told about this.

Football

Football club have not signed the new licence. They are currently concerned about grass cutting as they had matches in November and the grass was still growing but not being cut. They have also requested confirmation of cutting days so that pitches are not cut after they are marked. BTC no longer pays for extra cuts because we purchased the container.

FC have also complained that their mower has seized up due to being left outside because the container is too small. BTC is not responsible if they leave their mower outside.

Football have complained that their nets are damaged by rabbits and will cost over £200 for replacement. I have advised them of that rabbit control is ongoing but that we'll never get rid of them. BTC is not responsible for damage to their nets. I suggested removing the nets or rolling them up so the rabbits can't reach.

A letter has been written to the FC regarding all of the above points.

Existing Playground

Maintenance is a little behind schedule with David having been so unwell. Nothing urgent.

New playground project

Kompan and All Out Play have visited the site and we are awaiting their plans / suggestions.

Wicksteed visiting on January 10th.

Next committee meeting January 23rd.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion Committees meeting

Meeting postponed from 9th Jan to February 20th at 5pm at The Tolsey
The bowls club committee have kindly offered to engineer a soakaway in the rec car park to aid drainage of the standing water if the council will pay for materials and hire of a mini digger. The council accepted the offer. Cllr Rushton to ask if the work could be delayed until April.

Pavilion. Nothing to report.

Environment. Apart from the ongoing weeding the town looks tidy and well kept. Cllr Tunnell reported vans parking on the grass verges on the hill.

McCrackens have done the work on the yew trees in the churchyard. Cllr Tunnell will contact them as the work was not as agreed.

The Lengthman has advised there is a dead tree on the verge in Tanners Lane in the vicinity of the salt bin. Cllr Bruce will report on Fix my Street and the Clerk is asked to advise the OCC tree team.

Cemetery. All in order, comments had been received regarding the signage in the entrances not being in keeping with setting, it was agreed the committee would look into this at their next meeting.

Traffic. Already covered

BEAP. (Burford Emergency Action Plan) Nothing to report.

OTHER REPORTS. None

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Taubenheim has received a bench donated by a resident. He will attend a Chamber of Trade Zoom meeting this week to choose a new committee.

Cllr Palmer reported the Burford Lodge seems to have stopped being used.

Cllr Cohen reported on a resident being bitten by a loose dog on the Recreation Ground who required plastic surgery as a result, the Mayor has prepared an item for the Bridge magazine.

Cllr Cotterill reported a hole in the car park bridge roadway, Cllr Bruce to report. The car park centre drain is full of leaves, Cllr Ashton to request WODC clear it out.

Cllr Ashton advised that Thames Water live data is not correct and will take up with TW.

Cllr Higgs had received a complaint from a resident that the light on Stone Gallery had been changed to a LED by SSE, which did not fit in with the High St scheme. He will check it out.

15. CHARITY MATTERS. None