

**Minutes of Burford Annual Town Meeting
held in the Warwick Hall 24 May 2023
at 7.00pm**

Present:

Cllr P Higgs Mayor, Cllr M Taubenheim Deputy Mayor. Cllr J White, Cllr D Cohen, Cllr S Lofthouse, Cllr J Tunnell-Westmacott, Cllr J Rushton, Cllr J Craven, Cllr P Bruce, Cllr H Ashton (WODC) Maggie Andrews – Town Clerk. John Yeatman – RFO.
11 members of the public.

1. WELCOME.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced two new Councillors; Perryn Bruce & Jennie Craven. He also welcomed the new District Councillor, Hugo Ashton.

2. APOLOGIES.

Cllr Cotterill, Cllr N Field-Johnson (OCC). Mrs & Mrs Elliot, Mr & Mrs Barraclough, Mrs S Ashton.

3. MINUTES.

It was approved from the floor that the minutes of the last meeting held in 2022 were passed as a true record. The Mayor then signed the minutes which were previously circulated. All reports for 2022/23 were circulated at the meeting and posted on the Councils website.

4. QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME.

Romy Ashmore asked when the damaged bridge would be repaired. Cllr Ashton responded by saying that although this was expected in the Spring, we have not yet been given a date for the works. Three months' notice will be required for the necessary night time road closures.

Rory Darling asked about the grass cutting schedule in and around the town airing his concerns about preserving wildflowers and whether areas could be left so that approximately a meter of grass could be undisturbed especially along the A40 and Shilton Road. He felt it would be difficult for the mowing contractor to mow around the Community Orchard along the A40. However, Cottesway had previously given BTC permission for the orchard and to sow a wildflower meadow in this area; the contractor is aware of this and sees no difficulty. Cllr Westmacott responded by saying that she did not think that to leave areas undisturbed would easily work although she acknowledged the point being made. The Council will discuss this further at their next meeting. Cllr White added that Oxfordshire County Council are responsible for grass cutting and Burford Town Council are only their agents, cutting on their behalf. If major changes were to be made, then the matter would be referred to OCC.

Romy Ashmore & Ruth Reavley felt that advertising events in Burford should be better publicised since communication generally seems lacking. It was noted that the Chamber of Trade had not submitted a report.

Page 2

Cllr Taubenheim said he would take these comments back to them for consideration adding that a new committee had been formed and hopefully changes would soon be evident.

Rory Darling made a comment that there is a rumour going around that BTC may take back the lease of the Warwick Hall. BTC have no knowledge of this.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending, thanking the Council for their time and expertise in serving the community.

A short presentation was then given about the New Playground Project showing the proposed design and crowd funding appeal. A video was also shown of the appeal. Romy Ashmore suggested a summer party charging an entrance fee to contribute to the project adding she was willing to become involved on fund raising events. Rory Darling asked 'why get rid of what we already have or build the new one by the teen shelter'. Cllr Rushton said there were major health and safety issues on the old equipment which is well past its sell by date. We have a Rospa report every year which throws up faults and repair issues; some parts are now difficult to replace. It is more cost effective to demolish the old play area and construct a new one. WODC have withdrawn their grant and so Cllr Ashton will try and find out why, suggesting it might be to do with budget!

Veral Marshall then gave grateful thanks to the BTC adding how well everything was run across the town. She said some people complain but don't do anything.

