

CBP Forum Minutes

06/01/2026: 7:30pm

Objectives:

- To deliver on the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Pollution Action Plans as agreed by Burwell Parish Council and to facilitate networking between relevant groups and stakeholders around the village to achieve this.
- Prevent or minimise pollution to air, water and land
- Protect and enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Burwell's 'green infrastructure' (open spaces, trees, waterways and natural environment) for people and biodiversity.

Vision

- For Burwell Parish Council to become carbon neutral by 2030
- To have a plan to manage climate emergencies
- To support the reduction of Burwell's carbon footprint, increase biodiversity and access to green spaces.

Present: Geraldine Tate, Liz Swift, Paul Webb, John Hughes (Wicken Fen), Nicola Hallows (Wild Burwell), Martin O'Leary (Spring Close), Katherine Hyett (Clerk)

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chair: Liz Swift proposed Geraldine Tate, Paul Webb seconded the proposal: Geraldine Tate was duly elected as Chair.

Vice-Chair: Geraldine Tate nominated Liz Swift as Vice-Chair, Paul Webb seconded the proposal and Liz Swift as duly elected as Vice-Chair.

2. Apologies for absence: Jim Perry, Lea Dodds, Ian Woodroffe

3. Approval of the minutes of 4th November 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Liz Swift, seconded by Geraldine Tate and agreed by all.

4. Change proposed to Terms of Reference

It was agreed to:

- **make a recommendation to council to remove the quorum number of 8.**

As the forum is now operating as a working group it can only make recommendations to council not decisions, so a quorum isn't required.

The group discussed inviting BEAT (Burwell Energy Awareness Team)– it was decided to defer the decision until after their presentation to Council at the end of January. Liz Swift provided an overview of the BEAT meeting held the previous night.

5. Projects Update

a) Spring Close chalk stream

This hasn't progressed trying to determine responsibility for outflow pipe. Nicola Hallows asked if we could we purchase a tile from Digdat – about £60, Paul

Webb said ECAN may be able to purchase – they were looking into this. KH to chase up the Historic England visit to Spring Close.

Peter Bates (ECAN) has pulled together various local organisations to create a chalk stream network to apply for more serious funding and purchase shared equipment. Paul is a director of ECAN. Steve Boreham has set out what can be done and that the group can be ambitious in applying for funding – grants of up to £50k are available. John Hughes may also be able to help with this as National Trust will be applying for funding. KH to chase exact testing sites of Anglian water.

- b) Renewable energy - Lea and Liz attended a teams meeting set up by the planners about the Sunnica application.
KH to email National Grid to ask if they have any updates on Burwell renewable energy applications following release of information from NESO.
- c) Programme of educational activities
The aim is to initially organise something at least once a quarter. Ideas discussed:
 - o Waste prevention workshop – KH to organise between dates of repair and swish cafes preferably.
 - o Exploring biodiversity – bioblitz/Pauline's swamp (Wild Burwell to organise - Wicken Fen possibly help)
 - o Chalk streams/Ecology talk (Steve Boreham) – Nicola Hallows to get in touch with Steve.
 - o Earth café - last quarter of the year – Paul Webb to organise.

6. Forum Community Updates:

- a) **Burwell Environmental Group** - been dormant for 24 months. Paul Webb to update at the next meeting
- b) **Wild Burwell** – placed most of the new tree guards on Spring Close field. Members of Wild Burwell went to 'from the Ground up' initial meeting. Held the Wassail
Asked about their request for changes in verge cutting. KH will update Nicky Hallows and Martin O'Leary separately and update re. trees.
- c) **Spring Close/Priory Meadow Management Group**
Martin O'Leary asked about trees for the Orchard, KH confirmed we had been successful in our application but didn't know when we would be receiving them yet. Pruning of apple trees is progressing.
- d) **Pauline's Swamp**
A site meeting is being arranged with some of the volunteers about ivy cut on trees. John Hughes said we can borrow tools from Wicken Fen
- e) **Farmer's representative** – KH to put message out to try and find representatives
- f) **Local Businesses** – see above
- g) **National Trust/Wicken Fen** – diggers starting to work on Hurdle Hall to raise the water table and create a bund. They still need to sort abstraction from the river. Aim is to keep the Peat wet and stop carbon release, create a small wildlife reserve. Cycle bridge: planning should be submitted but not all funding in place. County Council are building the bridge, should be built later this year. Looking at funding from Anglian Water at other National Trust places (not Wicken Fen) however they would hopefully provide us with letters of support for

applications we would make. National Trust are limited on applications they can make.

Out for tender for a spatial framework to manage access to their land.

Wicken Fen has now joined up with Anglesey Abbey.

Feeding back into Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local plan – incorporates housing and connections with nature. John Hughes to circulate link to the group.

- h) **Repair/Swish café:** Repair Cafe 1st February, Swish 8th March. Please advertise it.

7. Review of CBP Biodiversity and Climate Change Plans

This was discussed briefly – we talked about creating a traffic light system. The group wanted to ask Lea Dodds (absent) if he would consider looking at that.

8. Other relevant programmes (any updates):

The group discussed how many different local plans/groups there are and that it can be a bit confusing. This agenda item is to try and feedback any relevant things from those groups that may support our initiatives

- a) The Great Collaboration – Katherine Hyett asked all to look at the documents provided and let her know if they are happy to submit their contact information as requested or let her know if they are aware of any relevant groups as per the list.
- b) Local Nature Recovery Strategy – John Hughes explained a bit more about this. There are likely to be future iterations.
- c) Cambridgeshire County Council's *Nature Recovery FROM THE GROUND UP* - There are 2 officers with 3 years of funding. Officers were seeking information about what should happen and what we could offer. Wild Burwell have been active with this group – essentially, they asked for a wish list. There is a follow up meeting happening soon. Wild Burwell to act as the lead on this.

9. Any other business: None

10. Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2026

Meeting closed 9pm

Signed

Dated