

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL
The Jubilee Reading Room
99, The Causeway, Burwell Cambridge. CB25 0DU
Telephone/Fax 01638 743142
E Mail burwellpc@burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Burwell Parish Council held at Mandeville Hall, Tan House Lane, Burwell, CB25 0AR at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 12th October 2021.

Present: Liz swift (Chair), Robin Dyos, Lea Dodds, Michael Geary, Joan Lonsdale, Helen McMenamin-Smith, Gill Miller, Jim Perry, Derek reader, Michael Swift, Paul Webb, Hazel Williams, and Brenda Wilson.

Also present: District Councillor Lavinia Edwards and Barry Garwood.

Catherine Judkins and Netty Flindall – Say No to Sunnica Community Group

FC/121021/1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Don Harrison, Gus Jones, Jenny Moss, Geraldine Tate, and District Councillor David Brown. Paul Webb for lateness (arrived at 7.35 pm during the item on Say No to Sunnica Community Campaign.

FC/121021/2 Declarations of any interests known to Councillors

No declarations were made.

FC/121021/3 Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th September were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Proposed by Helen McMenamin-Smith and seconded by Hazel Williams

FC/121021/4.1 Public Forum

Barry Garwood thanked the District Councillors and the Parish Council for objecting to the planning application for 14 the Avenue. He continued to comment on the planning application for 27 Carter Road and its amendment to build a single dwelling instead of the original two semi-detached dwellings. He expressed that the proposed single dwelling is still problematic and that the narrow access is still an issue. The proposal, if allowed will be more back building which will likely be used as a precedence in future years.

FC/121021/4.2 Say No to Sunnica Community Action Group

Catherine Judkins and Netty Flindall from the Say No to Sunnica Action Group introduced themselves and gave the following update on their campaign.

Over the past months the Say No to Sunnica Community group has been briefing residents of the new submission date for the solar farm to the Planning Inspectorate of 12th November 2021. They are also promoting a public meeting with local MPs Lucy Frazer and Matt Hancock to discuss the Sunnica application on Friday 15th October between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm at The Beeches, Isleham, and asked members of the Parish Council to help promote the meeting within the community. There has been a long delay in the application being submitted and part of the groups work has been to ensure that the campaign against Sunnica remains fresh in the public eye. The delay has allowed an opportunity for a lot of incorrect information about the proposal to be circulated. A survey by the group in Burwell to find out how aware the community is of the proposal and what stage it is at has been carried out. Results have come back demonstrating that some residents believe that cables have already been laid and that the proposal has already been agreed. 91% of the 109 responses believed that the public consultation carried out by Sunnica was inadequate. A leaflet drop has also been carried out within Burwell. The group has ordered more placards for residents should they wish to display in their gardens.

The group has employed a Lawyer, who is building up a case. There is a concern over the loss of agricultural land, that the project will not be carbon neutral and other greener alternatives should be considered, and the necessity for battery storage units. They are pressing for a second round of statutory consultation where face to face meetings are held. They are also preparing for the next steps. Once the proposal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, the Inspector will have an initial 28 days to register or return the application. During this time residents are being encouraged to register their interest with the Planning Inspectorate so that they can take part in the Inquiry which will commence at some point after the 28 days.

Paul Webb asked which other green alternatives should be considered. Catherine Judkins responded by giving alternatives such as solar panels on roofs, both domestic and commercial, garage roofs and at places such as Park and Rides. The Green Field land could be considered after these have been investigated and availability exhausted.

Paul Webb responded by saying that some roofs are not suitable for taking the weight of the panels.

Catherine Judkins made Council aware that there are some 20 solar farms around the area. Lea Dodds suggested that with the Climate Emergency, all options should be investigated. Catherine Judkin stated that the proposal is being portrayed as a temporary scheme, but has no end date and has no plans for the recommissioning of the land or how the panels can be recycled and appears to be a very experimental scheme. Recent months has shown the need for food to be sourced more locally and the scheme will take up good agricultural land which could be used for food production. Policies conflict each other.

Robin Dyos spoke of how there is a need for alternative energy sources for example to back up the recent dip in the power supply because of wind levels. There are concerns regarding the lithium batteries used in the battery storage facilities, but many items we use daily also rely on Lithium batteries. Catherine Judkins responded by saying that Wind Turbine Companies are paid to turn off their facilities as the National Grid Network is unable to store the energy produced. There is a need for more battery storage facilities, but they need to be regulated properly to lower fire and explosion risks.

Catherine Judkin and Netty Flindall were thanked for attending the meeting.

FC/121021/ 5 County and District Reports

Written reports had been received from District Councillor David Brown and District Councillor Lavinia Edwards. Lavinia Edwards explained that the outcome of the vote for 14 The Avenue had been a close call with 5 votes against and 4 in favour. However, those in favour had not visited the site. She continued to say that site visits by the Planning Committee are due to recommence in January. It was noted that the Planning Department is seeing a huge increase in the number of planning applications that are being submitted.

FC/121021/6.1 Planning Applications to be considered

21/00431/FUL 27 Carter Road

Proposed dwelling

Amendment involving Revisions to the number of properties and layout in the site. Proposal wording has altered to 'Proposed dwelling'.

Objection – Amendment does not resolve issues previously raised by the Parish Council

21/01380/FUL 4 Bloomsfield

Construction of single storey front and rear extensions, and replacement of existing render with render system

No objections

21/01005/FUL 14 Buntings Path

Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of two storey mono-pitched extension

Amendment involving changes to design to address concerns in regard to residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers

Objection – Neighbours kitchen window should not be obstructed or deprived of light.

FC/121021/6.2 Planning Decisions from District Council

The following decisions were noted:

21/00770/FUL 18 High Street - Approval

Proposed first floor extension to rear and single storey extension to side

21/00604/FUL 17 Ness Road – Approval

Proposed ground and first floor extension and loft conversion

FC/121021/6.3 Trees/Environment

Notification of approved tree works by East Cambs. District Council

The following approved tree works were noted:

21/01251/TRE 123 – 125 North Street

T1 Ash - Fell, due to excessive shading
T2 Ash x2 - Fell, due to previous house owner building garages and sheds around the tree; floor and roof of structures are now lifting which is unsafe
T3 Wild plumb - Reduce to 2.5 meters. Currently these are standing at approximately 5/6 meters high and we're unable to access the fruit.
T4 & T5 Apple Tree - Reduce to 2.5 m as advised by arborist
T6 Sycamore - Reduce spread only by up to 3 meters and raise crown all round to 5m from ground level; the gardens on North Street are extremely narrow meaning that the shade from this tree reaches the entire width of the garden.
T7 Apple Tree - Reduce to 2.5 m as advised by arborist

21/01139/TPO The Red House Nursery

T1 Elm – Prune to provide a clearance of 1.5m from roof removing only tertiary branches to reduce the size of any wounds and remove deadwood from entire crown

21/01241/TRE 1 Cedar Gardens

T1 Cypress at rear of house – Fell

21/01073/TPO Ramsey Manor 37 High Street

T2 Beech – Raise canopy above garden of adjacent property only by 2-3m back to suitable pruning points to approximately 4-5m above ground level on one side only.

21/01229/TRE 26 North Street

T1 Ash – Remove due to proximity to clunch wall
T2 Ash – Remove due to proximity to clunch wall
T3 Ficus (Fig) – Reduce by 2-3m to manage size

FC/121021/7 Finance

1. Consideration of payment of the following:
The Clerk confirmed that the figure for the salaries is £7786.99
The following payments were approved following a proposal from Hazel Williams, which was seconded by Paul Webb.

Payee	Description	Amount inc Vat
ESPO	Cleaning/Maintenance	£102.24
	Cleaning Materials (Loo Rolls etc)	£438.18
Burwell Cleaning	Various Properties	£981.53
Unity Trust	Bank Fees	£3.60
Varsity Consulting	GMH Fees	£1,140.00
AFP Construction Consultants	GMH Fees	£888.00
Eon	Gas Mandeville Hall	£46.34
WAVE	Water Charges GMH	£23.22
WAVE	Water Charges GMH	£47.05
Martin Wright	Mileage	£43.20
British Gas	Public Toilet Electric	£23.47
George Rowland	Mileage, Phone etc	£174.60
Debbie Cawley	Mileage	£42.30
Joanne Harrison	Return of Deposit MH	£50.00
Mark Gibson	Return of Deposit MH	£50.00
Salaries etc	All Staff	£7786.99

	Total		£11840.72
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FC/121021/8 Action Points Update

It was noted that Rebecca Saunt (Planning Manager ECDC) had attended a meeting with other authorities involved with the cycleway between Exning and Burwell. Work is progressing in the background and the planning application for the Exning development is due to be determined in the next month or two.

Michael Swift reported that there had been a site meeting with Joshua Hopkins from Hopkin Homes the previous week. Joshua Hopkins accepted the details of the area of additional land that had previously been agreed to transfer. It is Hopkins Homes intention to sell the remaining area of land to another developer and concern was expressed over who would own the original buffer zone. Joshua Hopkins had agreed to look at this on his return to the office. He also agreed to sort out the payment of £3500 and that he thought that they should be in the position to transfer the land in the following week. Stakes will be placed along the boundary of the land which is due to be sold to another developer. A virtual meeting may need to be held to finalise all details prior to the transfer going ahead.

The MVAS signs batteries have been changed today.

The gentleman repairing the village sign is hoping to finish the work either this week or next.

FC/121021/9 Group Reports

Consideration of the notes and recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 28th September

Recommendations:

- 1. The Finance and General Purposes Working Group recommends to Full Council that an email acknowledging receipt of the details of the proposal and copy quotation is sent to Smithers Purslow. That the roof space over Room 1, despite being told by Graham Cooley of Smithers Purslow that the floor will withhold the weight of lightweight items, is not utilised for storage until such time as remedial work has been carried out. That no legal action is taken. That the Council budgets for the work over the next few years and when funds are available further quotations are sought for the work to be carried out.***

The above recommendation was proposed by Robin Dyos and seconded by Liz Swift and agreed unanimously by Council

- 2. That the revised Five-Year Plan 2021 to 2026 is adopted***

Michael Swift proposed that the revised Five-Year Plan for 2021 to 2026 should be adopted. This was seconded by Paul Webb. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the plan.

- 3. Having reviewed the following documents the Group recommends that they are approved by Full Council. It was noted that the Council no longer holds any petty cash.**

Council's Risk Management Policy
Internal Controls

- 4. Having reviewed the following Direct Debits the Group recommends that they are approved by Full Council:**

Anglian Water/Wave – Various Properties
British Gas – Various Properties
British Telecom – Telephone and Internet (JRR and MH)
Corona Energy Retail – Various Properties
Eon – Various Properties
East Cambs District Council – Rates Various Properties
HMRC (VAT)
Information Commissioners Officer
JPMC Re Paypal (Tennis Courts)
Lloyds Bank – Payment cards
NEST Pension
Siemens - Photocopier

5. Having reviewed both the Council's Risk Management Policy and its Internal Controls the Group recommends to Full Council that the Parish Funds are currently safeguarded with no additional action being required.
6. The Group agreed to recommend to Full Council that Moore's should be appointed as Internal Auditor for a further year and that the scope of the audit should be the basic audit with no other specific areas covered.

Recommendations 3 to 6 were proposed by Michael Swift and seconded by Paul Webb. Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendations.

Consideration of notes and recommendations from Safety Group meeting held on 5th October 2021

1. The Group recommends to Full Council that Burwell is put forward for consideration for the rural trial of E Bikes by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Following some discussion on costs to the parish, staffing and the range of the cycles, of which the answers are not known at this stage, Council voted on the recommendation which was proposed by Michael Swift and seconded by Helen McMenamin-Smith. The outcome of the vote was 11 in favour and 2 against. Therefore, Council approved the recommendation.

FC/121021/10 Parish Reports - Weekly Property Reports

The Clerk reported that the boilers at Mandeville Hall and the Jubilee Reading Room were overdue for a service. It was agreed that she should arrange for services to be carried out. A component of one of the kitchen fire shutters had broken. It was agreed that she should go back to the original company to get this repaired and ask that they check both shutters. The handrail in the public toilet at the Jubilee Reading Room had come away from the wall. It was noted that the rail had only been fixed to the plasterboard. The bracket had bent, but the Maintenance Officer had managed to get this straightened out to some extent by Brian Marsh. He had fitted the rail back to the wall using longer screws which would allow fixing into the brick wall. The rail could benefit from replacing, possibly with a rail with a leg. The Clerk to organise this. The Clerk was also asked to inform Bob Skilton who had carried out the work to the public toilet that this has happened.

FC/121021/11 Other County & District Matters: -

Council noted the ECDC Street Numbering for Woodside Meadows. Unfortunately, the notes from the bi-monthly meeting with ECDC Officers had not been sent out to Councillors. The Clerk agreed to do this the following day.

1. ECDC Street Numbering – Woodside Meadows
2. Notes from the Bimonthly Meeting with ECDC Officers

FC/121021/12 Other Reports

Council noted the following reports:

1. Burwell Environment Group Minutes of 5th May and 11th August 2021
2. Spring Close Management Group 23rd June 2021

FC/121021/13 Correspondence

1. Letter from Zurich Insurance

A letter had been received from the Council's Insurance Company Zurich informing the Council that the case regarding the property in Park Road which had allegedly suffered subsidence had been closed with no payments having been made.

2. Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan and Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan

Council noted the above two Neighbourhood Plans.

FC/121021/14 Consideration of the following items

Climate Change

Liz Swift reported that the first Climate Change Forum meeting had been held on 4th October 2021. Jenny Moss had been elected as Chair. It had been a positive meeting with a number of Councillors attending, along with representatives from Wild Burwell, Spring Close and the

Burwell Environment Group. The next meeting is to be held on 2nd November at Mandeville Hall with all Councillors welcome to attend.

Update on the Gardiner Memorial Hall Refurbishment Project

Liz swift reported that Cadman's have started work on site this week and that the site has now been cordoned off. The Clerk informed Council that there is a delay in arranging the Work in Progress insurance and that this poses a risk for the Council. The Clerk reported that she is in regular contact with the Council's insurers Zurich. She was asked to make the Project Managers, Varsity aware of the situation. It may be necessary for the contractors to either stop work, or limit work until the insurance policy is in place.

Members of the group responsible for the hall refurbishment are still looking at options for the audio-visual equipment and the kitchen. Both need to be sorted as soon as possible to fit in with first phase wiring etc.

It was confirmed that the Community, Leisure and Sports meeting to be held on 19th October 2021 will be held online.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.

Signed

Dated: