

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Burwell Parish Council will be held at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, High Street, Burwell, CB25 0HD.

Present: Liz Swift (Chair), Lea Dodds, Michael Geary, Gus Jones, Clive Leach, Chris O'Neill, Jim Perry, Michael Swift, Geraldine Tate, Paul Webb, Brenda Wilson, and Ian Woodroffe.

Also present: 12 Members of the public.

FC/27022024/01 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Helen McMenamin-Smith, Linda Kitching, Charlie Milner, and Jenny Moss.

FC/27022024/02 Declarations of any interests known to Councillors

There were no declarations of known interests.

FC/27022024/03 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of 13th February 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2024 were approved and signed as a true record. Proposed by Clive Leach and seconded by Michael Swift.

FC/27022024/04 Public Forum

Liz Swift informed the members of the public that the Public Forum will last up to 15 minutes and that a maximum of three minutes is allowed for each individual to speak. She explained that in order to allow all parishioners present the opportunity to speak, the Council would not answer questions raised during the Public Forum, but hopefully many questions will be answered within the discussions that will take place later in the meeting.

Stephanie Webb spoke of how the Council has a duty of care for its residents. She reported that she had seen the outcome of many road accidents in her role working for the NHS, as well as injuries incurred by a member of her own family. She felt that reducing the speed to 20-mph gives you a greater chance to perceive what is going on around you and a moment to act. She also gave details of pedestrian accident data and how the Council should not wait to take action to reduce the speed limit.

Lincoln Swann questioned if the speed limit is 20-mph, emergency vehicles will take longer to get to the emergency and would the parish council be looking to provide more equipment such as defibrillators to help those requiring help whilst waiting for the emergency vehicles to arrive.

Robin Dyos raised concerns about the survey being void and that the process for the 20-mph scheme has not been carried out properly. He asked what the next state is and if the 20-mph speed restriction would be village wide or not?

Edmund Potter informed those present that he is in favour of the introduction of the 20-mph restriction. He believes that the views and complaints from the elderly population are underrepresented. He continued to add that over the last 10 years he has become much more reluctant to use his cycle as a means of transport and often he would use the car as walking to his destination takes too long. Being overtaken on the High Street when cycling makes you very vulnerable, particularly when you are passed by large vehicles such as buses and lorries. The condition of the roads and paths do not help either. Should we really be encouraging people to use their cars in preference to active forms of transport? It will not take much longer to get through the length of the village at 20-mph than 30 mph.

Anne Perkins explained that she did not see the need for the entire village to have a 20-mph restriction, however there are some roads which do cause a problem such as Ness Road (Fordham direction), Isaacson Road, The Causeway and Swaffham Road. Are there any other measures that could be introduced on these roads to slow traffic speed effectively?

Hazel Barber said that she was in favour of the 20-mph restriction, especially with regards to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrian users, but had concerns about the amount of traffic coming through the village if the A14 is closed.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for attending.

Chris O'Neill proposed, seconded by Michael Geary that item FC/27022024/08.2 Consideration to ask Highways to move forward to the next stage for the implementation of the 20-mph speed restriction in Burwell, should be moved forward to become the next agenda item. With 4 in favour and 5 against, the meeting continued following the original agenda.

FC/27022024/05 Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered: -

24/00152/TPO The Beeches Tan House Lane

- T1 Beech tree - Remove as dead
- T2- Beech tree - Reduce crown by 2m, crown raise over Tan House Lane to 4.5m from ground level
- T3- Beech tree - Raise crown overhanging Tan House Lane to 4.5m from ground level
- T4- Beech tree - Raise crown overhanging Tan House Lane to 4.5m from ground level
- T5 Beech tree - Raise crown overhanging Tan House Lane to 4.5m from ground level
- T6 Beech tree - Remove dead top and reshape crown to match. Crown raise over Tan House Lane to 4.5m from ground level
- T7 Beech tree - Raise crown to 2-2.5m from ground level garden side and 4.5m from ground level over Tan House Lane
- T8 Yew tree overhanging from 1 High Street - Raise crown to 4.5m from ground level over drive
- T9 Yew tree overhanging from 1 High Street - Raise crown to 4.5m from ground level over drive
- T10 Yew tree overhanging from 1 High Street - Raise crown to 4.5m from ground level over Drive
- T11 Maple Crown overhanging from 1 High Street - Raise crown to 4.5m from ground level over garden

Council has no objections and agrees that the Tree Officer Kevin Drane should determine the application.

FC/27022024/06 Planning decisions from District Council

The following planning decisions were noted:

23/00357/FUL 58 Swaffham Road – Approval

Proposed walls

23/01347/FUL 5 Westhorpe – Approval

Single storey extension

23/01390/FUL Woodrobin 2a Mandeville - Approval

Demolition of conservatory and construction of a garden room extension

FC/27022024/07 Notifications from ECDC of approved work to trees

The following approved tree work was noted.

24/00031/TRE 10 Hatley Drive

T1 Sycamore – Re-pollard to previous points as part of its 3 yearly cyclical management cycle.

FC/27022024/08 Urgent Matters for Consideration

1.Approval of Payments to the following:

The following payments were approved. Proposed by Paul Webb and seconded by Michael Swift.

Payee	Description	Amount inc Vat	Credit inc. VAT
Martyn Wright	Mileage	£29.70	
Landmark Toilet Solutions	Toilet Hire Margaret Field	£100.00	
Corona Energy	Mandeville Hall Electric	£149.93	
S R Landscapes	Felling of Tree Pauline's Swamp	£110.00	
Mr Groundsman	Recreation Ground Grass Cutting	£630.00	
Lawn Tennis Association	LTA Venue Registration	£136.00	
Hallmaster	Multiple Venue Licence	£492.00	
Prestige	Fire Alarm Maintenance Annual	£90.00	
Lloyds Bank	Maintenance Supplies	£138.26	
Engie	Gas JRR	£486.13	

Engie	Gas MH	£695.03	
Engie	Allotment Shed (Currently with the Onbudsman)	£504.16	
Engie	GMH	£1,611.83	
Engie	Public Toilet	£459.15	
Engie	JRR Electric	£111.82	
Engie	Cemetery	£16.28	
Engie	Pavilion	£601.73	
Engie	Public Toilet	£28.81	
Engie	Public Toilet	£27.65	
Engie	Public Toilet	£27.05	
Engie	Public Toilet	£25.60	
Engie	Public Toilet	£23.26	
Engie	Public Toilet	£24.13	
Engie	Public Toilet	£23.69	
Engie	Public Toilet	£22.98	
Engie	Public Toilet	£24.22	
Engie	Public Toilet	£24.46	
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£329.71
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£312.34
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£459.15
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£309.02
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£326.76
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£454.88
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£302.61
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£382.39
Engie	Public Toilet Credit Note		£356.44
K Watson	Return of Deposit	£50.00	
S Cullam	Return of Deposit	£50.00	
V Stokes	Return of Deposit	£50.00	
D Sullivan	Return of Deposit	£50.00	
V L Beeton	Tennis Court Refund	£6.00	
		£6,819.87	£3,233.30

2. Consideration of asking Highways to move forward to the next stage for the implementation of the 20-mph speed restriction in Burwell.

Liz Swift began the discussion by explaining that should Council agree to move forward to the next stage, at the time Highways carries out the Statutory Consultation, the Parish Council will hold a two-day open meeting event for residents to see details of the scheme. If they wish to make comments, they can be made directly via the Statutory Consultation procedure or can be made to the parish council to be forwarded to Highways. She reminded the Council that there is no cost for Burwell Parish Council for the implementation of the scheme. She continued by addressing Council and reminding the members that the expectation of elected representatives of the village is to evaluate the information available and the safety of residents when deciding which way to vote.

Brenda Wilson asked if when the public consultation was carried out there was a clear indication that the village was opposed to the restricted speed limit could we still withdraw. Paul Webb explained that Highways do have the final say on the implementation of the scheme but will consider the views of the village.

Michael Geary expressed that the survey had run from July to October 47% voted no, 34% were in favour for part of the village to have a 20-mph restriction and 19% would like to see the limit implanted fully. He continued that discussions should have ended once this information had become available and no further money wasted.

Lea Dodds felt that the survey outcome was regrettable, and that unfortunately not all the population is online. He reported that he had spoken to three wheelchair users from the village who were not aware of the survey. When asked they all said that they are not happy using the footpaths as they feel unsafe.

Gus Jones added comments relating to traffic speed, the need for a bypass and the amount of traffic travelling through the village from Soham and Fordham.

Paul Webb reported that once Highways have drawn up the plans, all emergency services will be consulted through the Statutory Consultation. A Traffic Regulation Order will be applied for and the 20-mph limit will become enforceable. Paul Webb continued to report that 18 residents had written to the Council over the weekend in favour of the 20-mph limit either in part of or for the whole village and 14 had written in opposition. The survey saw 53% of respondents

were either in favour of some of the village or all the village having a speed restriction of 20 miles per hour. The Traffic Survey carried out in 2018 had a result of 60% of respondents saying that speed in the village was a problem. Clive Leach thanked the members of the public for their comments. He stated that the robustness of the survey had been discussed within Council and that he had noted on Facebook that a suggested cut and paste template email had been shared within the community. He expressed that he feels it is important that the Council has been totally transparent with regards to the 20 mile per hour speed restriction and would not wish the Parish Council to make a decision that in the future could be criticized for. The Council must publicise more and be seen to be transparent. Brenda Wilson agreed with Clive Leach.

Chris O'Neill asked for assurance that the Highways decision would be based on village opinion and suggested that the event carried out by the parish council at the same time as the Statutory Consultation should be for a week not just two days. Liz Swift responded that until a vote was taken to ascertain whether the scheme would move forward or not, plans for the event could not be discussed. Paul Webb highlighted that the Statutory Consultation would last for a period of 21 days and that Highways have already said that if the village objects, then they will not go ahead. Lea Dodds informed the Council that we have the benefit of not being early adopters of the 20-mph scheme and that we do have some comfort of knowledge of the results from other areas where the speed restriction has been implemented for a few years. Initially results indicate that in the first year it is 50/50 but a year or two later 70% back the scheme, with many not wishing to return to the 30 mile per hour limit. It is often difficult to envisage the speed reduction on quieter roads.

There is no date set for the Statutory Consultation and more work will need to be undertaken before any date can be set.

Jim Perry asked about concerns raised about Reach Road. Paul Webb reported that these had been covered in an email from Highways which had arrived too late to circulate today but would be circulated to all councillors in the morning.

Liz Swift proposed that Highways is asked to move forward to the next stage for the implementation of the 20-mph speed restriction in Burwell.

A vote was taken with a result of ten in favour, one against, and one abstention,

It was therefore resolved that Highways are asked to move forward to the next stage for the implementation of the 20-mph speed restrictions in Burwell.

Liz Swift thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.14 pm.

Signed

Dated

Addendum – 28.2.2024

Due to the Parish Council's Standing Orders not being adhered to when the motion for the 20 mile per hour restriction was proposed, being that no seconder for the motion was requested and noted, and even though the majority of Councillors were in favour of moving forward the motion, the outcome of the vote could be deemed as unlawful. The motion will therefore be voted on again by the Parish Council on 12th March 2024.

Signed

Dated