

Burwell Parish Council Annual Report 2025-2026



Chair's Introduction and Council Team



Leadership and Community Focus

The Chair reflects on the year highlighting progress, challenges, and the dedication of voluntary councillors and staff support.

Continuity and Change

This year saw the departure of long-serving councillors, loss of a key member, and the addition of new perspectives.

Strong Governance

Regular Council meetings and working groups ensure effective management of complex workloads and community needs.

Sustainable Ambition

The Council is committed to achieving net zero operations by 2030, leading local climate responsibility efforts.

Meetings, Strategy and Working Groups



Council Meetings

The Council meets twice monthly for Full Council meetings, allowing public participation and transparency of decision-making. These meetings cover planning, finances and recommendations from working groups and any other issues.

Role of Working Groups

Working Groups meet frequently to handle detailed tasks and bring recommendations to the Full Council.

Annual Strategy Day

Annual Strategy Day reviews priorities across short, medium, and long-term plans within the Council's five-year framework.

Reshaped Working Groups

Working Groups were reshaped to improve clarity, governance and collaboration.

Finance and General Purposes



Financial Resilience and Governance

The working group ensures financial resilience despite leadership challenges, supporting budgeting, governance, policies, staffing, and safety.

Managing Financial Pressures

Careful budgeting and forward planning protect services amid rising energy and maintenance costs impacting parish councils.

Earmarked Reserves and Funding

Healthy reserves support projects like the Newmarket Road Sports Hub funded by Community Infrastructure Levy contributions.

Parish Precept and Financial Planning

The parish precept supports staff, facilities, green spaces, and climate commitments, backed by a five-year financial plan.

Land, Buildings and Facilities



Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Mandeville Hall's solar panels, battery storage, insulation, and LED lighting reduce emissions and costs.

Building Restoration and Upgrades

Heating improvements at Gardiner Memorial Hall and restoration of cemetery chapel show ongoing investments.

Environmental Stewardship

Biodiversity-friendly grass cutting and tree management balance ecology with community safety.

Digital Asset Management

New digital system enhances facility compliance, safety, and long-term planning for parish assets.

Climate Change, Biodiversity and Pollution



Community-led Sustainable Initiatives

Repair Cafés and Swish clothing events to reduce waste.

Environmental Monitoring and Protection

Monitoring of local chalk streams shows dedication to protecting natural assets with expert guidance.

Review of renewable energy developments such as Kingsway and Anchor Lane Farm

Community Engagement and Education

Engagement events educate residents on reuse, recycling, and biodiversity to foster environmental awareness.

Net Zero Infrastructure Upgrades

Net zero upgrades at Mandeville Hall link environmental goals with actionable and financial benefits.

Community, Safety, Health and Sport



Community Support and Collaboration

The Parish Council donates to local organisations including foodbanks, the library, twinning and the day centre to strengthen community ties.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

The recreation ground hosts football, tennis, skateboarding and more, with ongoing possible development of Newmarket Road Sports Hub

Transport and Road Safety Improvements

New bus routes improve access to key locations, while road safety initiatives like Speedwatch remain a community priority.

Youth Engagement and Community Events

Youth activities are supported by the Connections Youth Bus and the Council organizes events like Remembrance Sunday and Christmas carols.



Appreciation and Commitment to the Future

Acknowledgement of Contributions

Thanks to councillors, staff, volunteers, and partners who support community services and life.

Collaborative Progress

Progress is achieved through collaboration, respect, and a shared purpose among all community members and leaders.

Future Commitment and Engagement

Commitment to listen, learn, and address challenges while encouraging resident engagement.



QUESTIONS?