

Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly of Burton Dassett Parish Council

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Monday 20th May 2019, Northend Village Hall.

APA 2019/Page 1

The meeting commenced at 7.38pm

- 1 To Accept Apologies for Absence: Bill Pearson (Personal Commitment): Accepted by the meeting. Hugh Edwards (Work Commitment): Accepted by the meeting. Sondra Smethurst (Work commitment): Accepted by the meeting.

Present: James Gordon-Cumming, Cynthia Bettany, Laura Marshall, Fiona Larner, Hannah Dale, Clerk (Helen Hide-Wright), Councillors: CC: Chris Williams, DC: Chris Kettle. 2 members of the public.

- 2 Approval of Minutes of the 21st May 2018. Proposed: Seconded: Signed and Dated by James Gordon-Cumming.

- 3 Parish\Town Council Chairman's Report – Councillor James Gordon-Cumming.

In amongst the usual elements of Parish Council activities this year, normal, low impact planning applications, contracting various aspect of work and keeping to our budget, this year has seen new projects begin, other come to fruition and one come back from the dead.

The Prebend allotment incident last summer and a query from a resident regarding a plan by Orbit Housing for new charges for tenants and some homeowners, precipitated some on-going work to consolidate the management of the public green spaces in Northend under the Parish Council, to ensure they are all looked after to the same standard, at an optimised cost that is met communally. Orbit have agreed in principal to transfer ownership of the communal areas they maintain, and we are currently awaiting a response from SDC regarding the areas they have just taken responsibility for from Highways. This will, hopefully, be resolved in the coming year.

The development at The Willows has taken shape this year, crystallising all the issues of dominance over the street scene and neighbouring properties on Top Street that we had objected to, but were overruled on by Stratford Planning. Lessons have been learned by us from that experience, and I trust some have also been learned by the planning team in Stratford.

Then, in November, the development beside Temple Herdewyke suddenly burst back into life, much to everyone's surprise, with Mulberry Homes as developer. After several heated meetings, I think we are in a good place, with both sides committed to making this happen in a way that will really create a new spirit of community in Temple Herdewyke. Thanks must go to Dale Baker and Rob Weeks of SDC Planning, and Neil Pearce at Avon Planning for their help and advice.

The Parish Plan saga continues to edge forward, with a new Housing Needs Survey now completed, which will, this time, form the basis for the development of a draft Parish Plan. There is a recorded need for six new dwellings, so we shall bear those needs in mind as planning applications come in. Volunteers to take this Parish Plan idea on to the next stage are more than welcome, since my good intentions so far haven't amounted to much with life in general always seeming to get in the way.

As new projects begin, this year saw the end of the long process to replace all our street lighting with new LED lights, fit for the 21st century, with the heritage ones by the Chapel of Ease and at Leys Close Northend. Thank you to Cynthia for keeping on top of that project throughout and never losing heart.

On the Parish Council itself, thanks must go to Helen, her first full year as both Clerk and RFO – it has been very nice to have everything in one person's head, especially one as organised and persistent as Helen's. Thank you to Sam Dickens, who was with us for a short period, before life commitments meant she could no longer continue.

Finally, a big thank you to Sue for her contributions to the Parish Council as she steps down, and welcome to Hugh and Fiona who step up – I'm sure your first year with us will be as eventful as the year we have seen the back of.

4 Annual Accounts of Burton Dassett Parish Council for 2018/19: The accounts were circulated in advance of the meeting. Proposed: Seconded: Appendix 1.

6 County Councillor Chris Williams

April is the last month of the council year and is traditionally very quiet. Steps are being taken to implement new procedures and obviously all Council Members are getting to know the new Officers that have recently been appointed. Add to this the uncertainties of Brexit and the political purdah we were caused by the recent District Council elections in four of the five District/Borough Councils within the county of Warwickshire, I am pleased to report that no decisions have been taken that would impact upon Burton Dassett Parish Council.

One important issue that we, at the County, would like resolved is the long-awaited Green Paper by parliament on the importance of social care which should give guidance as to the financing of this vital ingredient in all aspects of community welfare. The issue of this guidance has been delayed for two years during the domination of parliamentary time due to Brexit.

I have little to add at this time of year but am sure that my next report after our Annual Meeting in mid-May will contain a comprehensive review as to how the council will proceed for the next twelve months.

I must end my report on a good news story in as much as Warwickshire County Council has been named the Country's Joint Top Performing County Council for Highway Maintenance. Warwickshire was among 113 highway authorities, including 28 County Councils, which took part in a national independent survey which looks at satisfaction with Highways and Transport Services.

Warwickshire came out joint top for public satisfaction amongst County Councils for Highway Maintenance, condition of road surfaces and the quality of repair to damaged roads. The Council also ranked amongst the best in other areas, including condition of road markings, speed of repair to damaged roads, keeping drains clear and dealing with potholes.

This is an excellent result and reflects the continued hard work and commitment of Warwickshire County Council's Highways Staff.

A gentle reminder that if the Parish Council is applying for any Community Grant funds in the present allocation the closing date for receiving applications is 7th June 2019 and application forms are available on line.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division
20.05.2019

7 District Councillor Chris Kettle

HS2: The Road has now been closed between Bishops and Depper's Bridge. The intention is that HS2 will be commencing their work at the same time as the housing developers bring services into the development. There was an issue with planning permission for the HS2 works.

JLR Gaydon found out about the road closures, 2 weeks prior and no publicised diversion routes appeared until 24 hours prior to the closures. This matter came up at a public meeting where the HS2 representative explained that local businesses had been notified. In a straw poll of local businesses, Councillor Chris Kettle found that none of those businesses polled had received any details about the HS2 road closures, financial compensation etc.

At a meeting with Jeremy Wright, MP, the difficulties caused by road closures was highlighted. After that meeting, the duration of planned road closures increased significantly and without notice, by HS2.

Chris Kettle is meeting with the Council Director and a senior manager at HS2 to discuss these issues and compensation.

Chris Kettle and Chris Williams asked for people to report any road closures to them, that had not been subject to prior notification.

Chris Kettle confirmed that there is a new council at Stratford. The administration will stay the same but with a reduced majority for the Conservatives.

The priorities for the next 4 years are:

- The economy – focusing on housing and introducing businesses to the area.
- Environment – SDC is looking at its impact upon the environment
- Tourism – continuing to focus on Stratford
- Finance – Central government funding has reduced and the aim is to fill that gap

Chris Kettle has ongoing discussions about affordable housing with Orbit.

8 Issues of Particular Local Importance: No matters were raised by members of the public.

9 Other Matters Raised by an Elector of the Parish: No matters were raised by members of the public.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

BDFC Accounts Summary

BURTON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL 2018 - 2019 FINANCIAL YEAR
31 March 2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Receipts		
Precept	£17,656.00	£18,255.00
Bank Interest	£2.13	£10.00
SDC Council Tax Support Grant	£600.00	£360.00
Other Income	£0.00	£0.00
VAT Reimbursement	£1,031.29	£500.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£19,289.42	£19,125.00
Administration		
Staff costs:		
Clerk's Pay	(£6,218.16)	£6,323.00
BDFC Pension Contribution	(£1,901.64)	£1,441.00
Administration Expenses	(£297.16)	£500.00
Audit Fees	(£330.00)	£350.00
Data Protection	£0.00	£35.00
Election Fees	£0.00	£0.00
Councillors' expenses	£0.00	£0.00
Subscriptions	(£408.00)	£440.00
Insurance	(£1,077.70)	£1,500.00
Total Administration	(£10,232.66)	£10,589.00
Village Maintenance		
Street Lights	(£664.05)	£1,000.00
Village Maintenance & Mowing	(£4,106.80)	£3,500.00
Total Village Maintenance	(£4,770.85)	£4,500.00
Hall Hire & Playground		
Hall Hire	(£257.00)	£200.00
Playground General Maintenance	(£218.26)	£220.00
Total Hall Hire & Playground	(£475.26)	£420.00
Communications & IT Expenditure		
Website	£0.00	£100.00
Newsletter / Information Sheet	£0.00	£500.00
Total Communications & IT Expenditure	£0.00	£600.00
Miscellaneous		
Grants	(£2,532.00)	£7,076.00
Other - Section 137	(£30.00)	£0.00
VAT Payments		£500.00
Community Projects	£0.00	£2,500.00
Total Miscellaneous	(£2,562.00)	£10,076.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	(£18,040.77)	£26,185.00
Closing Period Bank Balances As At:		
	31 March 2019	
Current Account	£6,787.79	
Deposit Account	£5,226.11	
Total Bank Balances	£12,013.90	