

THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AND AGREED AT NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WHEN THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGES



## Buriton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Buriton Parish Council held on 22 May 2017 at 6.30pm in Buriton Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr K White (chair), Cllr A Bray, Cllr T Concannon, Cllr T Crew (from 6.45pm), Cllr D Gardner, Cllr AD Jones and Cllr S O'Donoghue (from 7.00pm).

**In attendance:** County and District Cllr R Mocatta, K Crookshank (clerk) and 22 members of public.

**1 Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 May 2016** – agreed and approved as accurate record.

**2 To receive councillor's apologies for absence and declaration of interests** - apologies received from Cllr M Johnston and Cllr T Newby. Declarations of interest from Cllr Jones and Cllr Mocatta – as Members of the South Downs National Park Planning Committee we wish to make it clear that any views which we express today are based on the information before us at this meeting, and might change in the light of further information and/or debate at the National Park's Committee meetings. This is to make it clear that we are keeping an open mind on the issues and cannot therefore be found to have predetermined any matter when it comes before the National Park's Planning Committee for decision. Cllr Mocatta made a similar declaration in his role as County and District Councillor.

**3 Chairman's Annual Report –**

"During the year 2016/17 the Parish Council has been busy I will read out a few of them now but the full list will be available on the website, I must thank Doug for compiling it.

- We have taken over the management of the Village Hall after the Charity, which had run the hall for almost twenty years, wound itself up following the resignation of committee members and failure to attract any replacement Trustees. This was a major exercise for the Parish Council during 2016/17 and thanks need to go everyone who has helped to run the village hall in the past and present.
- Appointed a new Parish Clerk, Karen Crookshank, to replace Wendy Shone who stood down after many years of fantastic service.
- Coordinated a substantial response to District Council proposals to sell the areas of open space that it owns at each end of Glebe Road to a developer. The District Council had invited nearby residents to comment directly to them but the Parish Council took steps to ensure that there was wider awareness and greater opportunity for public comment. The Parish Council's submission to the District Council was instrumental in EHDC deciding not to continue with these proposals.
- Provided detailed information to the South East Water company about water pressure problems in the parish with a request for improvements.
- Identified a significant water leak under the railway embankment which was damaging the recreation ground. After months of correspondence with Network Rail and the water companies Network Rail found the source of the leak and arranged for South East Water to cap it Thanks to Tim Crew.

- Welcomed the successful designation of the South Downs National Park as an International Dark Skies Reserve (one of only twelve in the world), recognising that this might help to retain the beauty and tranquillity of our dark skies (with amongst the lowest light pollution in the South East of England).
- Continued to organise a series of events to raise funds for a new playground; Through the fundraising and donations we have over £16,000 at end of the financial year.
- A big thank you to the planning committee who have spent many hours and a lot of effort in considering and responding to planning applications at Buriton Manor: since 2014 to January 2017 there have been over 30 applications (excluding licensing matters) and this is in addition to the run of the mill applications in the parish.
- Thanks to the 'Plan B' group of volunteers who are working towards up-dating the community's Village Design Statement and submitted the document to the Planning Authority for further public consultation and amendment prior to adoption.
- Contributed to a Public Inquiry to examine Network Rail's proposed extinguishment of part of Footpath 3 and welcomed the outcome, hoping that the decision will bring an end to a long-running issue which had, at times, split parts of the community.
- Supported the provision of more kissing gates along the Hangers Way between Buriton and Petersfield so as to replace the last four remaining stiles on that route, taking the number of stiles removed in the parish to about 25 in recent years.
- Supported the clearance of vegetation from The Links in December 2016 with more initiatives planned for the future.
- Begun to explore problems of parking outside the Halls Hill car park in Kiln Lane with QECP and Highways officials.
- Continued to provide small grants towards the costs of the Parish Magazine and St Mary's Church.
- Agreed an unchanged precept charge to parishioners.

Lastly I'm sure you've heard that I'm stepping down as Chairman and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the councillors and our clerk past and present for all their hard work and support while I've been in this position on the council."

**4 Presentation on new village website** – The chairman introduced web site designer, Ali Martin, who with the aid of a projector demonstrated the new village web site. He explained that the 2010 version of the site and its software had reached the end of its life. The site address remains the same, [www.buriton.info](http://www.buriton.info), but the new site is mobile phone and tablet responsive. Mr Martin demonstrated that the address does well in search engines. He also demonstrated the pages and new information available on the site. The old Village Hall web site is included. There are pages for village groups who can add their own content. The Parish Council is in the process of populating their pages to include meeting agendas and minutes, and financial information. Parishioners asked questions –

- How can content be added to village groups pages? – a password can be issued upon request.
- Is the site secure? – Very secure.
- The Village Design Statement could not be found on the old web site – it will be added to the new one.

The chairman thanked Mr Martin for attending and demonstrating the web site.

**5 Update on War Memorial competition** – The chairman explained the aims of the competition and the process so far. She thanked the Working Group for their work, and the residents who

had entered the competition. The proposed design as voted for by Parishioners was presented and sketches were shown. As the results of the competition had two front runners from the adult entrants, the committee asked the winning designers to create one design from their two inputs. An aspect from the winning junior entry has also been incorporated into the final version. If agreed by the Parish Council at the later meeting this evening, the proposal is to deliver a voting pack to each of the Parish households. This will include the design, its location and a voting slip giving options of 'yes' or 'no' to this project to continue. It is also proposed to include 2 short papers explaining the 'yes' and the 'no' positions. It is hoped to have an answer by the end of the summer so that, should the parish wish to continue, there will be time to get any permissions that may be required and to fund raise in order to contract the memorial by November 11th 2018. The proposed site for this memorial is still to be determined, but it will be made clear in the voting pack. The design is a seat crafted from stone, with a metal etched or carved design and a stone poppy with inscription "We will always remember, we will never forget". Parishioners and councillors asked questions and made statements. Amongst these were -

- The War Memorial Trust has been consulted and will be sent a voting pack.
- Has funding been identified yet? No. Approximate cost £20000.
- Question over ownership of land.
- Questions regarding siting. Still to be determined.
- It should be remembered that the purpose of War memorials are to remember those who paid ultimate sacrifice.
- Yew Tree hedge, ownership and part removal?
- The Parish Council received a letter containing the names of 40 residents which was read at March 2017 meeting.
- Any design should not detract from the existing War Memorial.
- The Parish Council was urged to take heed of national views and site the new memorial away from the existing memorial, perhaps outside the churchyard.
- The Parish Council was urged to ensure the ballot paper is accompanied by balanced views of reasons for design and situation.
- There will be one vote per household.

## **6 Parishioner's question time –**

- The existing playground swings are in a poor state and need replacing - A quote has been obtained and the clerk has sent an application for funding to EHDC. This has been followed up several times without success. The clerk asked District Councillor Mocatta if he could take this forward.
- The bus service might be lost because there are insufficient passengers from Buriton. Inspectors have been on the bus – The Parish Council was not aware of this suggestion/proposal, but two councillors are attending the East Hampshire Passenger Transport Forum on 28 June 2017.

Meeting closed 7.20pm

THESE ARE AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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