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THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AND AGREED AT THE NEXT MEETING  
**Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council held at Buriton Village Hall,  
at 7:00pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**

**Present:** Cllr T Wheeler (Chair), Cllr A Bray, Cllr H Hill, Cllr H Myers, Cllr M Wright and Mrs P Norris, Clerk.

**In attendance:** There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr D Lloyd and District and County Cllr R Mocatta.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. To approve minutes from BPC meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 were approved as a correct record and the Chair will sign a copy for the Council's Minutes Book. **Action: Cllr Wheeler.**

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.**

- Monks Walk driveway: waiting for the building works to be completed.
- Dog Fouling – it is thought that the stickers are now on the bin.
- Village Pond – Lisa Clements, Community Development Officer at East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) provided an update on the village pond project. She stated that:
  - EHDC are looking at their assets as a whole
  - £35,000 worth of funding has been secured from the UK Share & Prosperity Fund, they are waiting for this funding to arrive, it has to be spent by March 2026. She will also apply for funding from SDNPA's Pounds for Ponds Project which will open up later in the year. There is also a possibility to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding.
  - A working group has been formed from officers at EHDC, Cllr Myers, members of BEA and the adjacent landowner.
  - An action plan has been drafted and Lisa is awaiting comments from the working group.
  - It is hoped that TJ Waste will be able to assist with the silt removal as they have a Community Commitment clause in their planning permission for the quarry.
  - Lisa hopes to get the school involved in the project, possibly asking them to design posters to go up to educate people on what to feed the wildfowl.
  - It is hoped to provide some information boards about the pond through SDNPA or local Cllr funding.
  - It was suggested that a box could be installed to ask visitors to write down their post codes down so that information can be provided on where visitors are coming from, this would help with funding.
  - It is hoped to hold a public meeting when works begin to happen.
- Village Hall Improvements – car charging points being set up, waiting for lines to be repainted, issues with people parking in the spaces. It will be using the Monta Network.
- On-line banking: Cllr Myers all set up, Cllr Wright to set up his access. **Action: Cllr Wright.**
- Nursery Garden – the shed may have been broken into. Cllrs agreed to allow a budget of up to £100 to reroof the shed.
- Wi-Fi password – still not displayed. Cllr Wheeler to look at purchasing signs. **Action: Cllr Wheeler.**
- Mobile phone – still needs to be sorted out. **Action: Clerk**
- Memorial Tree – now planted and the family are watering.



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### 5. Chair's Update

The Chair stated that all updates were included in the agenda and at the annual meeting.

### 6. County and District Councillor's Reports

County and District Cllr Mocatta sent his apologies for the meeting.

### 7. Finance and Accounts

- a) **Summary of Reserves** – Cllrs noted the summary of reserves.
- b) **Approval of receipts and payments from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 for the Parish Council** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 1 totalling £240.00 in the current account and 1 totalling £396.27 in the reserve account. Cllrs approved the following payments: 10 totalling £7,7073.85 from the current account. Details of payments over £500 are attached to these minutes.
- c) **Approval of receipts and payments from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 for the Village Hall** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 16 totalling £2,044.30. Cllrs approved the following payments: 13 totalling £1,397.23 Details of payments over £500 are attached to these minutes.
- d) **Budget against Performance up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025** – Cllrs noted the budget.
- e) **Laptop for Village Hall Manager** – Cllr discussed providing a laptop for the Village Hall Manager, they agreed that the clerk would send the manager the financial reports. **Action: Cllr Wheeler to contact VH Manager.**
- f) Approval of the Annual Internal Audit Report – Cllrs noted and approved the Internal Audit Report.
- g) Approval of the Governance Statement – Cllrs approved the Governance Statement
- h) Approval of the Accounting Statement – Cllrs approved the Accounting Statement
- i) Agreement of the Exercise of Public Rights dates – Cllrs agreed that the date Exercise of Public Rights be from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- j) Conflict of Interests – Cllrs confirmed that there was no conflict of interests with BDO LLP.
- k) One of Events – Cllrs agreed that there were no one off events to report.

Cllrs agreed for the Clerk to submit the external audit. **Action: Clerk**

### Open Forum

A parishioner informed the Cllrs that much higher readings of phosphates than expected were seen in the water samples that she had collected for the River Agency. This was reported to the Environmental Agency who classed it as a critical incident. Southern Water, who had not reported the incident, found that there was an issue with a blockage in a pipe at the water works.

A parishioner, who had already sent in correspondence, asked permission to erect a scaffolding tower in the entrance to the village hall car park, to carry out works to the chimney. It would not be erected until 9.30am and removed before the school finishes. He said that he would inform the local residents and Andrews Newby who use the car park. It was agreed that this would not be a problem as long as the contractor provided his public liability insurance and that there were not major events in the village hall. It was agreed that the parishioner would liaise with the clerk on the day. The clerk agreed to inform the school. **Action: Clerk**

A parishioner queried if there had been a decision on the Greenway Hotel appeal. The meeting was informed that the outline permission had been granted by the Inspectorate.

### 8. Village Hall and Recreation Report

It was reported that:

- There are no bad debtors.
- All maintenance has been completed.



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- The Risk Assessment requires updating – **Action: Clerk**
- Village Hall Car Park – a quote has been received from Alex Munday to scrap off the top of the surface, put down 16 tonnes of scalplings and then roll, Cllrs agreed to accept the quote of £1,526 plus VAT. Cllrs also decided that a barrier needs to be put into the gap in the bung at the top of the car park to allow access to emergency vehicles if the Kiln Lane entrance is blocked. It was agreed that the funds would come from the car park reserves, which currently stand at £4,100.
- Cllr Myers queried if the changing room “appearance” could match the village hall. Cllr Wheeler stated that as the changing rooms do not bring into any income that it had been decided previously that it would not be cost affective to carry out the works.
- Cllr Myers informed the meeting that the beech and linden tree at the top of the recreation ground were being smothered in brambles. It was agreed to ask the Lengthsman to clear the brambles. **Action: Cllr Myers to take a photo**
- It was noted that children have removed the logs put down to encourage wildlife and made a den, some the logs are now charred.

### 9. Planning

Cllrs discussed the following planning applications:

- **Greenway Lane Hotel** – following the appeal the Planning Inspectorate has allowed outline planning permission of the hotel.
- **SDNP/25/00978/HOUS: 29 North Lane, Buriton: Replacement roof structure and covering of kitchen roof, various works to external fabric, replacement doors, reconstruction of external cupboard and installation of new window opening in kitchen** – following discussion Cllrs agreed to raise no objections and as it is a Listed Building that the experts will be commented. **Action: Clerk**

### 10. Work for Lengthsman & Highway Issues

It was agreed to ask the Lengthsman to clear the brambles around the trees on the recreation ground, around the old village hall and benches. **Action: Clerk**

### 11. Rights of Way

The Rights of Way Working Group provided a report which is attached to these minutes. It was agreed that the Lengthsman could replace the signs around the village. **Action: Clerk**

A query was raised about the condition of the gates on The Links, Cllr Myers agreed to check. **Action: Cllr Myers**

It was also raised about the Hangars Way on The Links where the path is moving further down the hill and becoming dangerous because of the amount of brambles and undergrowth. Cllr Wheeler said that he had report to the working group who suggest that Hampshire County Council are emailed raising our concerns. **Action: Clerk**

### 12. Update on Trees, Pollinators, Biodiversity and Climate Change Initiatives

A report provided by BEA is attached to these minutes.

### 13. Correspondence

A list of all correspondence is attached to the minutes, which has been covered in the minutes.

**Date of next meeting:** The next meeting of Buriton Parish Council is on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

At the conclusion of business, the meeting ended 9pm.



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### Payments over £500

#### Parish Council

12.3.25	Idverde	£660.00	Grounds maintenance
26.3.25	HMRC	£532.00	PAYE & NI Quarter 4
28.3.25	Executive Windows	£2,199.43	Painting & parking bay
28.3.25	Executive Windows	£2,199.43	Balance upon completion

#### Village Hall

11.3.25	Cleaning	£582.83	
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### Rights of Way report for PC Meeting: June 2025

Updates since the last PC meeting include:

#### Parish Council disc markers

A supply of these markers (about 70) has been found. Some could possibly be used by the Lengthman to replace those around the parish that are now rather faded?



#### Gate in The Links

HCC's Rights of Way Officer Sam Baker asked whether a gate with a carved topper installed on the Hangers Way in The Links was previously purchased and maintained by the Parish Council. Apparently the hanging post for the gate has come loose making it difficult to access. It was pointed out that the gate is probably no longer needed at all. Its purpose had been to contain livestock (but the landowner no longer ever has livestock in the Links) and there's already a comparable situation at the next gate (northwards) along the Links, nearly opposite the sewage works. HCC decided to contact the landowner to discuss removing or repairing it.

#### SDNPA's LCWIP

A response was submitted to SDNPA's request for input ideas for its forthcoming LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan). Comments were made about each of the following:

- Missing RoW links in the Nursted area: significant dangers in the vicinity of the B2146 (Nursted-Sussex County Boundary area) where at least 4 Public Rights of Way and Bridleways feed out onto the road within 870 metres with not even a grass verge for people to walk along
- Missing link path near Greenway Lane: the current Local Plan had aimed to improve this area by providing a new 'missing link' footpath but this has not been done. The new path would provide new links and circular routes: linking Footpath 12 westwards to Footpath 11 (and, thereby, creating an attractive circular walk west of the village) and also linking the site to Footpath 12 and thence, eastwards, to the Shipwrights Way back to the village (creating a short circular walk north of the village). Instead, all the walkers and cyclists have to use the busy road, including round a number of sharp blind bends: particularly dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists



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- Missing Cycle Route connections between Buriton's Bolinge Hill Lane route and Petersfield: a safe cycling and walking route between Buriton and Petersfield was created in 2009 as part of the Parish Council's innovative environmental traffic calming scheme: Bolinge Hill Lane was closed to all motorised through traffic (except for access) and provides a safe and tranquil route for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. BUT the cycle lanes along the Causeway (B2070) have gradually been eroded and safety conditions on that road (into and out of Petersfield) have deteriorated. The painted cycle lanes along the B2070 Causeway have never been re-painted since the road was re-surfaced some time ago. This is part of a busy route for cyclists into and out of Petersfield from the south and this sudden lack of cycle lanes discourages users.
- Problems on the South Downs Way near Buriton: motorised vehicles (particularly off-road motorbikes and 4x4s) are able to drive along this section of the National Trail, bringing danger to more vulnerable path users (walkers, cyclists and horse-riders; young families etc) and damaging the surface of the path making it awkward for others to avoid ruts and large puddles.
- Problems on Mead Lane: the use of this byway by motorised vehicles brings problems on this route (and onto others nearby): safety on this path (which has blind sections in places) is severely compromised, not only by meeting motorbikes or 4x4s speeding towards you (with fences and steep rocky boundaries on both sides throughout) but also by ankle-twisting ruts and bad surfaces; the path is unsafe and impassable in many months with damage also being done to trees and farmland. The fear of meeting vehicles now discourages people from using this Rights of Way (and the nearby network), including young families and the less agile who SDNPA should want to be helping.
- Problems on the Milky Way, Buriton: The use of this byway by motorised vehicles brings problems on this route (and onto others nearby): safety on this path (which is a narrow sunken lane with high banks on both sides and a steep gradient) is severely compromised because walkers and horse-riders have nowhere to go when they meet motorbikes or 4x4s slithering down the steep slope towards them; there are also dangerous ankle-twisting ruts which deter horse-riders and walkers; and the route can become impassable in many months due to damage to the surface which also affects trees and farmland. There is also damage to heritage assets and to important habitats, including designated nature sites such as SSSIs and SINCs. This particular route runs through the middle of a SINC for well over half a kilometre which should surely not be permitted
- An enhancement near the TJ Butser Hill Quarry site: the route of the relatively new shared walking and cycle route between Petersfield and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park runs alongside the current Butser Hill Quarry site. Extraction and infill is due to be completed within the next few years and the SDNPA has approved a scheme to restore the landscape setting. Recent meetings between the Parish Council and the company have, however, highlighted problems that will need to be addressed once all the work is completed. The SDNPA's LCWIP could usefully include this matter: the issue of pedestrian safety along the route of the old A3 passing/beyond the entrance to the Quarry site. Pedestrians (including families and the elderly) have reported safety concerns as they walk northwards downhill when cyclists speed past them without any



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audible warning (completely drowned by the traffic noise from the A3 alongside). They say that even just demarcating the length of the descent with a white line (cyclists on one side, pedestrians on the other) would be better than nothing but they feel that signs alone are unlikely to help.

- Lack of crossing points across the A3: there are 6 places between the Buriton and Petersfield A3 turn-offs where public footpaths cross this main road. These RoWs across the A3 are effectively unusable as there is no provision for walkers to cross other than staggered breaks in the central crash barrier. There is not even any signage for motorists to indicate that pedestrians may be crossing (whereas there are signs further south in the Clanfield - Horndean area). People who try to make any of these hazardous trips across the A3 are often hooted at by drivers who seem think that they are on a motorway where there should be no walkers. Recently a large group of youngsters on an orienteering/camping trip started along one of these footpaths, guided by their OS maps and Apps. Fortunately one of their teachers came back to stop the children once he realised that they had to cross the bypass on the level (no footbridge or underpass).
- Odway Lane: there are several footpaths shown on old OS maps that do not appear on the definitive map. One in particular is Odway Lane, which runs from a point on the South Downs Way about half way between Dean Barn and Coulters Dean, down through Buriton Hanger and across the Clays to the village pond. Whilst it is appreciated that it would be difficult to re-claim this route now, if the relevant rules are ever relaxed there could be local interest in re-introducing the route.



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### **Nature, Biodiversity and Climate Change initiatives:**

Report to Parish Council meeting (June 2025)

The BEA group of volunteers has continued to arrange a series of events/activities to gradually engage more and more residents. And results from the short questionnaire survey distributed with the spring edition of the Parish Magazine have been analysed and are reported here.

### **Findings from the recent Nature & Environmental Survey**

The survey was distributed with the spring edition of the Parish Magazine with respondents able to return it to the village hall, the church or the Nest.

There was a good spread of locations of respondents, including from every road in the village and also elsewhere in the parish. The age profile of the sample leaned towards older age groups: 50% of respondents were over 65, 30% were between 50-65 and 20% were less than 50.

The survey was quite broad brush and focused on individual actions. It asked people which of a number of actions they had already done and which they planned to do in 2025–26.

The results were encouraging, demonstrating the widespread adoption of many actions. Whilst the sample group who filled in the survey can't be taken as representative of the whole community, they provided a revealing snapshot of things that people are doing.

Unsurprisingly, simple actions are the most widely adopted – like changing some consumer habits or making gardens more wildlife friendly. But there have also been more ambitious steps like buying an electric vehicle or installing solar panels or a heat pump.

Looking ahead over the next couple of years there are plenty more changes that people are thinking about. On average, people said they are planning to take three additional steps over the next couple of years – with some aiming to do many more.

### Helping wildlife in gardens

Virtually all respondents have:

- pollinator-friendly flowers from spring to autumn
- climbing plants on trellis, walls or fences
- leave seed heads and berries through winter.

Most people appreciate the importance of:

- native trees and flowers which our wildlife can use
- providing a bird bath and bird boxes
- not removing hedges or replacing them with fences
- not using pesticides or weedkillers
- only using peat-free compost
- having an untidy area or dead wood pile in the garden.

The survey also showed that many households don't yet:

- provide ways for hedgehogs to move in and out of their gardens
- clean bird feeders regularly
- have a pond or sunken container, however small.



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There is still some reluctance to allow even a small amount of grass to grow long for a few months to help wildflowers and pollinators, with only 6 out of 10 people doing this. But a number have said that they will start to do so.

And there were also pledges to start using water butts; to reduce pesticides and weedkillers; and to provide bird feeders and bat boxes.

### Climate-friendly actions at home

Over 90% of respondents said that they were already taking simple energy-saving steps at home with others aiming to do more of these things in the near future.

Most people are also:

- doing more repairing, re-using and recycling
- reducing food waste
- improving insulation and draught-proofing
- switching things off at the plug.

Other popular actions included:

- shopping more sustainably
- buying local seasonal produce
- reducing car-use by sharing, walking or cycling more
- changing to green energy providers.

About a third of respondents had already had one of Buriton's Thermal Camera Surveys at home, with another 15% saying that they would do this in 2025-26.

People are also thinking about plane flights, too. Almost a third are flying less than pre-pandemic and another 15% are aiming to take fewer flights in the future.

About a quarter of respondents have already installed solar panels and some have got battery storage systems and/or heat pumps.

The survey encouraged more people to join the BEA group and it also identified some barriers to action that being faced in some households. The BEA group is likely to continue to try to help find solutions and share good ideas.

### **Other events, activities and updates**

Buriton's BEA group continues to try to arrange an event almost every month of the year: to attract, engage and inform residents.

Recent events have included the start of a Repair café for the village. The BEA group arranged for volunteers from Harting's successful initiative to attend the April coffee morning in the village hall and their presence has helped to inspire the possibility of beginning something similar in Buriton.

A number of villagers have already offered to help but more volunteers will be needed and Parish Councillors may be able help find some: anyone who is good with people or has a way with repairing any kind of things (be it gardening tools, electrical, wooden, metal, jewellery, ceramics, clothing etc) or is simply passionate about stopping things going to landfill would be welcomed. There'd be no expectation for anybody to turn up to every Repair Café – unless, of course, they want to! Anyone interested should contact Liz Cox via 01730 261842 or [lizmansell@btinternet.com](mailto:lizmansell@btinternet.com)



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It's planned that the Repair Café will have a table at the forthcoming monthly coffee mornings in the village hall (first Saturday of every month) with the aim of being up and running (side by side with the coffee mornings) from September.

More progress has been made with the installation of barn owl boxes and kestrel boxes in the parish and members of the group continue (along with Cllr Myers) to help the District Council develop proposals to improve the biodiversity at the village pond. And Hampshire County Council has provided small attractive signs for each of the community's Pollinator Places.

As well as including the results from the recent Nature & Environmental Survey, the summer edition of the Parish Magazine will describe more help for hedgehogs at this time of year and ideas to reduce food waste.

Forthcoming events include a visit to the Coulters Dean Nature Reserve on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June where experts will be on hand to identify the orchids and other rare plants which can be found there (visit any time from 10am to 12.30pm), a nature-based farm walk on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (book via the Community Website) and the annual open gardens re-naturing trail on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July (2-5pm with Cream Teas and Cakes at St Mary's church).



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### Correspondence

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Sender</b>
8.4.25	Thanking the PC for the grant	Helen Drake, EH CAB
15.4.25	Thanking us for the grants for St Mary's Church	Ian Johnston
15.4.25	Thanking us for the donation to Homestart Butser	Lisa Walsh
17.4.25	Survey for SDNPA Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	Ben Marsh, Rights of Way & Access Officer, SDNPA
25.4.25	Asking for a timescale for the pot holes in VH car park to be filled in	Catherine Murphy, Buriton Tennis Club
27.4.25	Informing the PC of Pollinator signs to be placed in wildflower areas	Doug Jones, BEA
1.5.25	Request to reduce the annual licence fee due to the condition of the VH car park	Catherine Murphy, Buriton Tennis Club
7.5.25	Proposed speed limit on B2146 West Sussex	Alison Lawor, HCC
12.5.25	Closure of BOAT 19 & footpath 27	Kim Dawkins, HCC
27.5.25	Requesting permission to place scaffolding on Chapel Lane	Tony Carter