

BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

During the year 2017/18 the Parish Council has:

- Thanked Cllr Tricia Newby for all her hard work for the Council, particularly on Rights of Way matters, and advertised the resulting vacancy
- Organised further fund-raising events (including car boot sales and a 'Fun on the Farm' day) to successfully complete fund-raising for new playground facilities: raising a total of £20,000 from public donations / events and a grant of £18,900 from EHDC towards total costs of £70,200
- Organised community consultation about equipment and design of the new playground and commissioned contractors to commence work in March 2018
- Continued the process, including the selection of a preferred design and organisation of a community ballot (with consultation packs delivered to every household), for a commemorative bench to be sited in relation to the War Memorial to help mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War
- Organised a wide-ranging programme of maintenance and testing of equipment and facilities in the village hall, some of which had not been done for a number of years
- Adjusted hiring rates for the village hall (drawing upon a review of rates for similar halls in the local area and the fees actually paid by users in Buriton) resulting in revised charges and a new weekend rate whilst retaining preferential rates for local users
- Commenced an active marketing strategy for the village hall to increase usage and income whilst continuing to monitor costs and keep expenditure down by curbing non-essential expenditure
- Successfully obtained insurance funding and supervised repairs and refurbishment of the changing rooms
- Implemented changes to the village pond car park, drawing upon advice and support from HCC and EHDC
- Undertaken repairs to the village hall car park drawing upon the services of the parish lengthsmen
- Continued to employ the services of the parish lengthsmen (in conjunction with other Parish Councils), carrying out a programme of minor works on highways and footpaths
- Worked with Hampshire County Highways Department and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park to try to resolve parking outside the Halls Hill car park, including the installation of dragon's teeth to protect the green triangle and other trial initiatives
- Continued to try to protect the parish's Dark Night Skies by reducing light spillage from external lights on the village hall and requesting similar actions from Buriton School and Ditcham Park School
- Worked with the South Downs National Park Authority to confirm that light readings on the Recreation Ground are of a sufficient level for a Dark Skies Discovery Site and preparing / submitting the appropriate application
- Continued to try to protect the Dark Night Skies through representations on planning applications
- Studied all planning applications in the parish and submitted comments to the planning authorities, drawing upon the Buriton Village Design Statement and Local Landscape Character Assessment which continue to help to deter out-of-character development proposals

- Drawn parishioners' attention to significant planning applications at Buriton Manor to help identify issues to be included in Parish Council responses
- Presented evidence to meetings of the National Park Authority's Planning Committee
- Assisted the District Council with information about planning enforcement investigations in parts of the parish
- Welcomed the adoption of the revised Buriton Village Design Statement by the South Downs National Park Authority in August 2017 following the statutory period of public consultation
- Responded to the latest consultation on the contents of the South Downs Local Plan, Pre-Submission version including comments upon the prospective designations of Local Green Spaces and housing allocations as well as broader policy matters
- Encouraged EHDC to arrange a training session on Planning Matters for Parish Councillors which was held in August 2017
- Successfully applied for the Village Inn to be registered as an Asset of Community Value, being added to the list held by EHDC
- Considered and submitted details of potential infrastructure projects to the National Park Authority as part of its Community Infrastructure planning procedures
- Welcomed Joe Williams as the QECP Ranger responsible for the Chalk Pits Local Nature Reserve and supported his proposed actions and events
- Commissioned a tree survey to ascertain the safety of trees on Parish Council land
- Continued to pursue the alteration of the status of BOATs 19 and 47 to bridleways by making a formal representation to the Secretary of State (under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) so as to expedite HCC's consideration of the matter
- Commented upon an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order to record a public footpath between Greenway Lane and Hundry Copse
- Thanked the Petersfield Ramblers Group for their assistance in replacing a broken stile on the Hangers Way with a kissing gate
- Obtained funding and landowner permission to replace a stile on Footpath 34 in Weston with a kissing gate, following requests from parishioners
- Arranged for the installation of handrails on the steps at both ends of Footpath 17 (Lawn Field) having successfully obtained a grant of 50% towards the cost
- Reported problems on Rights of Way via the County Council's online reporting system, resolved minor issues with landowners and submitted cutting priorities to HCC
- Worked closely with the Weston Residents Association – particularly on a number of Highways and Rights of Way matters
- Discussed with the Highways Authority a number of measures to improve pedestrian safety along Kiln Lane which await implementation
- Attempted to discourage parishioners from using Petersfield Road and Bolinge Hill Lane as a through route between the village and the Causeway
- Explored, with Hampshire County Council, the procedures to assess the future of the Buriton bus service beyond the expiry of the current four-year contract in January 2019
- Drawn attention to dog-fouling on the Recreation Ground and in other public spaces and places

- Written to Network Rail following reports of people accessing the railway track from the Recreation Ground, to point out the risks and remind them of their responsibilities
- Responded to a number of consultations, including proposals from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England about warding arrangements in East Hampshire
- Reported a leak of waste water / sewage to the relevant authorities and property owners so as to minimise risks to human health or to contamination of watercourses
- Completed the enhancement of the Community Website (including mobile phone and tablet responsiveness), incorporating the village hall website and retaining the ability for village groups to be able to add their own content
- Ensured that Parish Council information, over and above that required by the new Transparency Code for Smaller Councils, is displayed on the revised website
- Completed the sale of a small parcel of land to provide a garden for Manor Lodge with a number of caveats written as covenants into the documentation
- Agreed renewals of leases with HCC for the school playing field and for parking spaces in the village hall car park
- Published a plea about some “intemperate correspondence” received from a small number of parishioners, emphasising that there are many people in the parish who give their time and expertise without expectation of reward and parishioners should not disrespect them or attack them with thoughtless words
- Continued to provide small grants towards the costs of the Parish Magazine and St Mary’s Church; and awarded £500 towards the repair of the churchyard wall in 2017
- Approved a 3% increase in the Parish Precept (from April 2018) after retaining the level of charges for many years.