



Buriton Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council held at Buriton Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 30 July 2018.

Present: Cllr T Concannon (chair), Cllr L Ashcroft, Cllr A Bray, Cllr M Johnston, Cllr AD Jones and Cllr K White.

In attendance: County and District Cllr R Mocatta and 4 members of public.

1 To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

- a) Apologies from Cllr T Crew, Cllr D Gardner and Cllr S O'Donoghue.
- b) Declaration of interest from Cllr Jones – as a Member of the South Downs National Park Planning Committee I wish to make it clear that any views which I express today are based on the information before me 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 I am 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 an identical declaration in relation to his role as a Hampshire County Councillor and East Hants District Councillor and as a member of SDNPA. Cllr Jones also declared his position on the South Downs Local Access Forum: a body which advises Hampshire County Council, SDNPA and others about their decisions in relation to Rights of Way and about making improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel. It is purely advisory and has no decision-making powers.
- c) Clerk vacancy update – Mrs Crookshank had tendered her resignation on 10th May 2018 with her last day in post as 30th June. The vacancy had been advertised on 22nd May with a closing date for applicants of 22nd June. Two applications had been received but the Chairman had not yet been able to arrange interview dates. Cllr Johnston suggested that dates be identified at this meeting and reiterated her willingness to take part as she felt that it was important to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Cllrs Ashcroft and Bray also volunteered. The evenings of 2nd and 9th August were **AGREED**. Chairman to contact both applicants, select the preferred date, book venue and confirm to all.

2 Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 May 2018 – were **AGREED and approved as an accurate record.**

3 Matters arising from those minutes

- a) Unauthorised use of Petersfield Road: article written and published in Parish Magazine
- b) Manhole at pond: Chairman had emailed South East Water and sent a letter last week but no reply had been received. Now unclear whether manholes are on Parish Council land
- c) Litter pick: Chairman was to follow this up but this had not yet been actioned. Cllr Mocatta advised of availability of litter-picking equipment and high-vis clothing.
- d) Pedestrians using Greenway Lane to access bus stop: article written and published in Parish Magazine
- e) Overgrown hedge footpath 17: Chairman to write to Mr Roberts to say that there is nothing that the Parish Council can do and that no-one has a right to a view
- f) Halls Hill Car Parking: Cllr Bray remains willing to help move logs but has not heard from Tim Speller (QECP). Chairman to chase up. Cllr Mocatta reported that some residents near Halls Hill had lobbied him to get HCC to close the car park. It was noted that there had not been any complaints during the last two months of sunny weather, neither to the Parish

Council nor to Cllr Mocatta, in spite of the fact that HCC's new number-plate recognition charging system had been introduced at the Park Centre ensuring that everyone there has to pay. Suggested that perhaps there is now less of a problem at Halls Hill.

- g) Tree Survey: not yet done.
- h) Contractors at Old Rectory: parishioners report continuing problems – now predominantly from sub-contractors rather than Richardson's. There had been instances of teachers having to drive round and round looking for parking spaces which could have affected school start times. With work likely to continue into 2019 residents still felt that the Parish Council should contact Mr Goswell to ask that vehicles be parked in the Old Rectory's meadow area, via South Lane. Chairman to write to Mr Goswell to make this request.
- i) Planning decision at Ditcham School: Planning Committee had followed up with Cllr Mocatta who had replied
- j) Planning issues at Buriton Manor: letter sent to Chief Executive of SDNPA regarding ongoing concerns around Monks Walk and the Cart-shed garages. Reply received from Tim Slaney.

4 Dark Night Skies

Dan Oakley, Dark Night Skies Officer from South Downs National Park Authority, had been invited to update the Parish Council on the idea of becoming a Dark Skies Community. Having become an International Dark Skies Reserve, the National Park Authority was now keen to engage with more parishes and help communities take ownership of their own skies. He explained that Buriton was a leading example having obtained adjustments to street lighting, by producing leaflets and holding events, and by including policies in the new Village Design Statement. He would like to tell other parishes about these achievements as a way of encouraging others. The IDA / Dark Skies Association had, very recently, changed its rules for Dark Skies Communities and Buriton may wish to consider whether or not to continue to aim for this status: potentially the first in the country. He had brought copies of the new guidance which he could leave with the Parish Council. The guidance seeks improvements to public buildings (schools, pubs etc), community events, and a lighting audit of as many lights as possible so as to produce a footprint of the village and identifying threats and potential enhancements. The guidance also contained a new specification for street lighting which, unfortunately, is not what Hampshire County Council have implemented. He was aware, however, of the opportunity to reduce lighting hours via the current HCC Street Lighting Consultation exercise. Communities may wish to identify a dedicated Dark Skies Champion, someone who could produce a very brief Annual Report of activities and achievements. Mr Oakley referred to the Article 4 process, something which could, potentially, be used for roof lights, helping to ensure that suitable glass is used, blinds fitted etc. He explained that the new Head Teacher at Ditcham Park School was keen on astronomy and offered to accompany members of the Parish Council's Planning Committee on a visit there – as well as helping with other next steps in the community such as the lighting audit. Cllr Johnston referred to a new planning application with extensive glazing close to Buriton Manor House and Mr Oakley said that he would normally be asked by his Planning colleagues to look at significant applications. The Chairman thanked Mr Oakley and also thanked Cllr Jones and his team for work done to date. In turn, Cllr Jones thanked not only Buriton's Plan B and VDS teams but also other dedicated members of the community, and staff at the Five Bells for hosting events etc.

OPEN FORUM 7:45pm

- A new resident introduced herself and explained that she was very willing to help with litter-picking, that she liked the wonderful dark night skies in the parish and that she had read many good things about the community before coming to live here. She had been an active member of a Conservation Group in Bourne, south of Farnham. She wondered whether some of the sad-looking footpath fingerposts could be renewed and whether the County Council may be able to help with small grants. Cllr Jones explained the community's recent focus on removing about 30 stiles (replacing many with kissing gates) but said that fingerposts could potentially be a focus for the future

- The Council was reminded of the loss of a silver birch tree in Petersfield Road, the gap that it had left and that the Council had said that it would consider a replacement. The Chairman said that this would be picked up in the tree survey.
- A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for its recent attempts to reduce dog fouling but said that the issue of littering (and leaving rubbish over-flowing in litter bins) was now very bad. People should be encouraged to take their litter home. She cited all the plastic drinks bottles that had been left behind after the Tennis Club's recent Davis Cup weekend. She also felt that any proposals to reduce the Buriton bus service would be outrageous, affecting lots of ordinary people and businesses.

MEETING RECONVENED 8.05 pm

5. County councillor's report and District Councillor's report

Cllr Mocatta drew attention to HCC's consultation on bus services and street lighting and said that the East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership was also worried about adverse effects of public transport services. He felt that if schoolchildren used the bus service it might be more difficult to cut it. He also drew attention to a call for evidence for Hampshire's cross-party Commission looking ahead to 2050, in particular the theme of Rural Hampshire upon which there were due to be hearings on 21st December. He also provided information about anew HCC fly-tipping initiative and the fact that a number of covert CCTV cameras are now available. He asked for details of any suitable locations and the Chairman agreed to send him some details. A decision was to be taken very soon about future arrangements for refuse collection and it was possible that a different contractor would be chosen which would mean that the out-going contractor may not have the spur to undertake their work so well for the remaining year of their contract.

6 Finance & General Purposes

- The Chairman reported that it had not been possible to produce any financial reports (comparisons of expenditure against budget etc) in the absence of a Parish Clerk. Nor had it proved possible to obtain up-to-date bank statements because the bank was not prepared to redirect to the Chairman without at least two signatories. It was **AGREED** that the bank form be signed so that statements could be received but it was felt that the address should be that of the village hall rather than the Chairman's home address.
- It was noted that expenditure, by cheques written since 21st May (including a cheque to Leydene fencing for £648 for the new kissing gate in Weston), was £7,376 (cheques 1743-1759 inclusive) with cheque 1754 being for copying of Bus Service Questionnaires (as well as a small number of dog poo posters).
- Two payments had been received (both for the Playground: £6,612.69 from EHDC S.106 and £107.60 from the village Camp-out). Playground funding from SDNPA was still awaited
- The ring-fenced Reserves should still be the same as at 1st April 2018 (Car Parks £6,856; Village Hall £10,000) when the remainder of bank balance was £19,191
- The Council had received a message about its Annual Governance & Accountability Return stating that it had not been accurately completed:
 - "The figures in Section 2, Boxes 2 and 3 of the prior year comparative column do not agree to the prior year final signed Annual Return.
 - Section 2, Box 2, the annual precept, does not agree to the figure published by the precepting authority. The figures in Boxes 2 and 3 should read £16,784 and £57,106 respectively. All grants, including Council Tax Support Grant, should be shown in Box 3, as per the guidance notes on the AGAR. Please ensure that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year's AGAR. In addition, the Council has not restated the prior year figures in Boxes 2 and 3, as reported in the prior year External Auditor Report, these figures should read £16,784 and £24,929 respectively."
- In the light of the above, the Auditors have issued a "Qualified Audit" saying that no further action needs be taken this year but the Parish Council should ensure these amendments are made on next year's return.

7 Planning

Cllr Johnston reported that the planning committee had met on 25th June and 30th July: **SDNP/18/02397/OUT** (Cobwebs, 43A North Lane) has now been approved; **SDNP/18/01060/FUL** (Ditcham Lane) is in progress; **SDNP/18/01827/FUL** (Queen Elizabeth Country Park) is in progress; **SDNP/18/02985/HOUS** (The Old Rectory) has been approved; **SDNP/18/02757/FUL** (Dovetail Workers in Wood, Mapledurham Lane) has been approved; **SDNP/18/02975/NMA** (new solar panels in Bones Lane) had been approved; **SDNP/18/02469/LDE** (Tithe House, Greenway Lane) had been approved and **SDNP/18/02459/CND** (Tithe House, Greenway Lane) is still in progress. The Parish Council was objecting to new applications at Monks Walk, Buriton Manor (**SDNP/18/02405/FUL & SDNP/18/02709/LIS**) and to changes conditions at Butser Hill Lime Works (**SDNP/18/03168/CNDC**). The Chairman recorded his thanks to the hard-working members of the Planning Committee.

8 Village Hall

Report from Cllr Gardner, attached to these minutes, was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr Jones summarised the report for the public present. It was noted that: the refund of VAT from the Parish Council to the Village Hall bank account would be an annual reconciled occurrence; that the Nursery School was in the process of removing their goods; that bookings for new regular users were required; that an energy audit had taken place with report awaited; and that, as part of a marketing drive, a re-vamped website was being considered. A discussion about the merits of a separate website ensued with Cllr Mocatta advising that more traffic would be generated (and hence higher positioning in search engines) if the hall remained part of the community website. This should not prevent new, attractive pages with good quality photographs being produced. It was **AGREED** that funding of up to £1,000 be agreed for enhancement of the existing website, to be taken from the initial £3,000 loan to the village hall account. The village hall committee may wish to consider improved ways of indicating booking availability on-line as well as commissioning professional photography.

9 Parish Administration

It was **AGREED** to defer most of the matters raised by the Chairman (parish office, parish IT, PO Box Address, consideration of .gov.uk address) until after the appointment of a Parish Clerk. It was noted that the parish mobile phone had now been found in the material handed over by the Clerk. It was also noted that one of the small storerooms in the village hall currently being vacated by the Nursery School may offer a location to store a locked filing cabinet for parish paperwork. Caution was expressed about throwing any old papers away without thorough consideration about any potential future needs to revisit them and the Chairman agreed to explore opportunities to deposit material elsewhere, including county archives etc.

10 General Data Protection Regulations

A draft Data Protection Policy had been prepared by the Chairman and circulated to all Councillors. It was suggested that one small amendment be made to the draft policy: to exclude contact details for the Chairman in addition to those of the Clerk. It was felt that all contact should be via the Parish Clerk. Subject to that one amendment, in the opening paragraph of the Policy, the Parish Council's Data Protection Policy was **AGREED**.

11 Recreation ground and assets of community value

Cllr Johnston reported that, in the dry weather, some deep cracks had developed on the Recreation Ground along the lines that had been marked out with creosote for sports purposes. The creosote had killed the grass and hence there were no roots to bind the soil together. It was not known whether the school had used the creosote to mark the lines. It was **AGREED** to ask Cllr Crew to follow up the matter and, if appropriate, to seek a refund from the school.

A report from Cllr Jones about a Local Heritage List, attached to these minutes, was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr Jones summarised the report for the public present. Parish Councillors supported the concept and it was **AGREED** that the detailed points in the report should be submitted to the South Downs National Park Authority in response to their consultation exercise (Cllr Jones).

12 Rights of Way

A report from Cllr Jones, attached to these minutes, was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Jones summarised the report for the public present.

- a) The new kissing gate in Weston had been successfully installed on 25th June and the Parish Council had received a number of expressions of thanks. It may be possible to replace another nearby stile with another kissing gate in 2019.
- b) It was noted that over the last few years 27 stiles have been removed from public footpaths in the parish – being replaced by 20 kissing gates
- c) Update regarding the appeal against non-determination of the application to record BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic) 19 (Milky Way) & 47 as bridleways. It was noted that it was now 4 months since the Parish Council had heard anything from the Planning Inspectorate and it was **AGREED** that the Council should write to enquire about progress (Cllr Jones).
- d) Update about dog fouling. The actions taken since the last meeting were noted and the Council had received a number of complimentary and supportive comments. One parishioner had emphasised that the hazard is a very real one with a friend losing 90% of his sight in one eye. It was **AGREED** to ask EHDC wardens to visit more often (Cllr White) and to pursue the purchase of a bag dispenser similar to that used in Harting.

13 Playground

No further information was yet available but it was noted that the playground was being very well used. Cllr Mocatta asked if would be possible to produce statistics about usage which could be helpful to the District Council.

14 Commemorative bench

Cllr White explained that the working group is still fundraising. Two further donations from parishioners were received at the meeting.

15 Lengthsman

A request had been received for more jobs over the summer. The Chairman suggested re-varnishing the Parish Noticeboard and he would reply to the coordinator, Jenny Hollington

16 HCC Consultation about Bus Services

A report from Cllr Jones, attached to these minutes, was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and Cllr Jones summarised the report for the public present and suggested some additional points in the light of contributions made during the public forum. This was felt to be a particularly important issue for the community and the Parish Council's response was strong and comprehensive, covering the fact that the bus service did not run at weekends and was not really suitable for use to get to Petersfield for work. Cllr Mocatta was sure that it would be studied but he was intrigued as to why school children going to TPS did not appear to use the bus. In other places, the fact that the bus was important for school journeys could be influential in the retention of those services. It was explained that, in Buriton, there is a separate bus for school children. It was **AGREED** that the points in Cllr Jones' report should be submitted to HCC in response to the consultation exercise. Given the context provided by Mr Oakley it was also **AGREED** to complete the part of the questionnaire survey which related to Street Lighting: strongly agreeing to HCC proposals to turn off street lights for a period of four hours every night from midnight in residential streets (Cllr Jones).

17 Into the 21st Century

The Chairman explained that this item was largely a duplication of Item 9 which could, therefore, also be deferred.

Cllr Jones raised the matter of crime in the parish which was due to be considered as part of this item because of recent incidents and correspondence from parishioners. Although crime rates may be lower than urban areas they are perceived to be rising and are very real to the victims. A number of recent thefts were cited (thefts from cars in the pond car park and at Halls Hill as well as burglaries from houses in Kiln Lane and North Lane) which felt like an increase to parishioners. Cllr Jones suggested that a Police representative be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council and this was **AGREED**.

18 Armistice Day

With Armistice Day 2018 falling on the exact 100th anniversary of the WW1 Armistice the Parish Council was keen to ensure there was appropriate recognition in the community. Details of three proposals were explained: a trail for people to follow around the parish, a Remembrance Day Lunch in the Manor Barn and the refurbishment of the grave of Frederick Shepherd in the churchyard

- Details of a 'silent soldier' trail around the parish had been circulated by Elaine Bray, to include one (with camouflage netting and poppies) at the War Memorial, and it was hoped that the school would be involved. The trail would aim to include a silent soldier figure as close to where each of the 39 soldiers who had died during WW1 had lived and would involve a competition to identify a missing name. Donations from entrants would be sought
- The concept of the Remembrance Day lunch was being developed by Mr & Mrs Figgis of Buriton Manor and they were generously offering the use of the Barn and to provide food and a small brass band. The lunch would be for anybody who wants to come, probably starting at 12.30 and there could be opportunities to display findings from the WW1 research being conducted for each edition of the Parish Magazine. Given that this is a community event, help such as tables and chairs from the village hall and church may be required
- The gravestone of Driver Shepherd, who had died in 1924 as a result of injuries received in the war but who was not entitled to a CWG headstone, was in need of some attention and Elaine Bray had obtained an estimate of £450.

The Parish Council was being asked to note these proposals, to give permission to place a silent soldier at the War Memorial, to give permission to place silent soldier figures at varying points around the parish, to make a financial contribution towards the cleaning of Frederick Shepherd's grave if there was a shortfall from donations from the Silent Soldier Trail and to make tables and chairs available for the Remembrance Day lunch on 11th November if not already pre-booked.

These requests were **AGREED** with the following qualifications: the Parish Council was not in a position to give permission to place silent soldier figures around the parish on land not owned by it and an upper limit of £200 would be placed on the Council's contribution towards the cleaning of Frederick Shepherd's grave.

19 Dates of other meetings

In the absence of a Clerk, there were none to be noted

20 Correspondence –

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting had been compiled by the Chairman and circulated: all relevant communications had been forwarded to councillors and it was felt that this process should continue in the future.

Email from a parishioner in Weston about painting the telephone: Chairman to reply suggesting that Weston draws upon the £600 held by the Parish Council and arrange this.

21 Date of next meeting – 24 September 2018.

Meeting ended 9.42pm

THESE ARE AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Signed..... Dated

DRAFT

**Cheques written
since May 21st**

Cheque number	Date	Amount	Payee	Reference
1743	23.5.18	£30.00	Petersfield Museum	Donation to buy a brick
1747	25.5.18	£643.09	McVeigh Parker	Playground Fencing
1746	25.5.18	£3240.00	Butser Farms	Grass cutting (first instalment)
1745	25.5.18	£131.50	Came and Company	Playground insurance
1744	25.5.18	£412.23	Karen Crookshank	Wages
1748	13.6.18	£743.03	Buriton Village Hall	VAT reclaim
1749	20.6.18	£600.00	Sutcliffe Play	Playground additional works
1753	29.6.18	£287.55	Karen Crookshank	Wages and postage
1752	29.6.18	£7.50	Doug Jones	Dog Poo posters
1751	29.6.18	£79.80	ROSPA	Annual Inspection fee

**Cheques for issue at
July 30 meeting**

1754	28.7.18	£44.50	Doug Jones	Dog Poo Posters
1755	28.7.18	£111.38	Idverde Limited	Bin emptying April-June
1756	28.7.18	£250.00	Chris Styles	Strimming playground
1757	28.7.18	£45.50	Karen White	Playground sundries

BURITON VILLAGE HALL FINANCES

REPORT TO BURITON PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2018

1. I regret I am unable to give an update on the current finances and running balance as, due to the clerk vacancy, the bank statement has not yet been received. The chairman of the Parish council is in the process of resolving this situation. To the best of our knowledge, however, the finances are on track. I am pleased to report that we have received a VAT refund of £743 for the financial year 2017/18. Bookings remain buoyant and we have received our first bookings for 2019.

THE NURSERY

2. The nursery has now, sadly closed its doors and at the time of writing this report was in the process of removing their goods. As agreed at the last Parish Council meeting, I wrote to the nursery to express the PC's regrets at their closure. The Nursery has asked permission to have a small skip outside the village hall for, probably, Mon-Weds (30/7-1/8) to dispose of remaining items, and I have given this authority. The Nursery has also offered us the small kiddies chairs (about 18) and I have provisionally said yes we would like them as they could be useful for children's parties. The landline and broadband have been disconnected but the landline still exists so we can now investigate taking this over.

3. We are actively engaged in finding replacement bookings for the hall - see the item on Marketing below.

MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING

4. Our maintenance and servicing is currently up to date. A fan needs to be repaired but this should be a very small task. Over the coming months the fire alarm, burglar alarm, and fire extinguishers will be serviced in accordance with our servicing schedule. These items are all budgeted for and will cost under £500.

5. The hall manager is working on a list of future maintenance and refurbishment requirements for consideration by the Parish Council at budget time in the autumn. As agreed at the last meeting, we have put the purchase of new chairs 'on hold' but will include these in our list.

6. The energy audit is currently being undertaken and should be completed by the time of the PC meeting. We expect to receive the report and recommendations arising from this audit within the next few weeks.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

7. Further to the update at the last PC meeting, promotional fliers have now been circulated to school children in the book bags. We hope to circulate fliers with the next parish magazine and will take the opportunity to promote the hall at events such as the village show.

8. We are trying to actively trying to find regular users through various contacts etc.

9. We are also asking users to supply us with positive comments on their experience of the hall so we can include these on our website.

10. We have had a very useful discussion with Ali Martin about the hall website - currently as councillors know, this is part of the community website and it can be a little difficult to find information about the hall and it can feel a little 'lost'.

11. Ali Martin strongly recommends a bespoke website for the hall with appropriate quality photographs and targeted information which captures the hall's unique selling points (views, parking, outside space etc) and its possible use for different functions and purposes, as well as basic information about what is available etc. There could be a customised page for different

uses/users of the hall. The website could also include comments of users and a news blog with regular updates or new information.

12. The Village Hall committee members believe strongly that a stand-alone website would be a most effective marketing tool to help us attract new users and would help us compete more effectively with other competing facilities.

13. We may also explore Google click-through advertisements, whereby an ad pops up enabling potential clients to click through to the new web-site when they use a Google search. We understand this is an inexpensive and effective means of marketing as payment is per clickthrough.

14. Ali Martin strongly recommends the use of quality professional photographs on a new website. However we may be able to achieve this at low or no cost through the use of a photography student and Ali is going to look into one avenue for us.

15. Ali estimates that it could cost around £1000 to set up the new website (including the first year's hosting) and that annual hosting arrangement etc would be up to £100. Obviously, this cost is not budgeted for. The Village hall budget has a small amount for contingencies and still includes the £3000 loan from Parish Council funds that was made when we took over responsibility for the hall.

16. The Parish Council is asked to agree in principle to expenditure of up to £1000 on a bespoke website to enable us to pursue this option and bring a recommendation to a future meeting. The PC is also asked to consider how to fund this expenditure, in particular whether it would like to consider funding this from the £3000 loan to the village hall account.

17. The PC is asked to note progress on village hall matters and to consider the recommendation is para 16.

GDPR

18. We have not yet finalised any recommendations to the PC on this matter but will be doing so.

Daphne Gardner,
Chairman, Village Hall committee,
Buriton Parish Council.

SDNPA Consultation with Parish Councils: a Local Heritage List

Report to Buriton Parish Council: 30 July 2018

Introduction

On 15 June the Parish Council received a consultation request from the South Downs National Park Authority about its ideas to create a 'Local Heritage List' which was seeking responses by 30 July.

The Parish Clerk contacted SDNPA on 20 June to seek a short extension (unspecified) so that the Parish Council could consider this matter at its meeting on 30 July and this was agreed by National Park Officers.

Parish Councillors also agreed that it would be helpful to circulate the details of the consultation to the community's Plan B / VDS Group so as to get any initial comments for consideration at this meeting and to inform the Parish Council's response.

Background

Local listing is a concept, promoted by Historic England, that is designed to ensure that the historic and architectural interest of buildings that are of local importance but do not meet the criteria for being nationally listed is taken account of during the planning process.

Local lists can celebrate the breadth of the historic environment of local areas by encompassing the full range of heritage assets that make up the historic environment and ensure the proper validation and recording of local heritage assets.

The South Downs National Park Authority is proposing to develop a Local List to cover the entire park. The aim is to identify heritage assets that contribute to the sense of place and history of local areas, are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment but are not already protected by statutory national designations.

Preparing a local heritage list means that the significance of heritage assets on the list is given due consideration by the Local Planning Authority, when change is being proposed. Local listing provides no additional planning controls, but the National Planning Policy Framework states that, should a planning application be submitted which affects the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, that effect should be taken into account as a material consideration when determining the application.

The SDNPA Consultation

The SDNPA consultation is starting from the point that, if any Local Heritage List is to be successful, it needs to be based on a rigorous and transparent system: and the first step in achieving this is to establish the criteria against which items on the list can be assessed.

To that end, SDNPA has prepared a draft set of criteria and a guidance note which attempts to explain them (<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/supplementary-documents/>). This was circulated to all Parish Councillors (and to the Plan B / VDS group) in mid-June.

The SDNPA note seeks comments on the following range of criteria (each with a range of sub-headings):

- Buildings and sites which display architectural, design and / or artistic interest
- Good surviving examples of vernacular buildings which contribute to local distinctiveness
- Buildings and sites which have historic interest
- Buildings which have a wider group value in the townscape
- Buildings and sites which have a communal value.

The consultation is, therefore, confined to the criteria at this stage but the SDNPA documents explain that, eventually, they will invite Parish Councils to offer suggestions for the local list.

Suggestions for a Parish Council response to SDNPA

The following points have been made by members of the community's Plan B / VDS group:

- The suggested criteria look very sensible subject to a few queries (below):
- Internal changes (inside a building) should not be affected by this concept – no planning permissions would be required etc?
- If a heritage asset is already in a Conservation Area – would a Local List add any weight?
- Similarly, if a building is already 'curtilage listed', would local listing add any weight?
- It would be good to ensure that the criteria cover industrial heritage buildings
- Similarly, would places where archaeological items have been found, be eligible?
- Would modern architecture be covered?
- Would the criteria cover things like disused, traditional telephone boxes?

It is recommended that the Parish Council considers these suggested comments and agrees feedback to be made to the SDNPA consultation.

Doug Jones
July 2018

Rights of Way – Update Report to Buriton Parish Council: 30 July 2018

Kissing gates

The latest kissing gate in our programme to gradually replace stiles in the parish was successfully installed near Weston Farm on 25th June.

We have received a number of messages of thanks including the following: “The new kissing gate is much appreciated by dog walkers and families as it stops dogs and children rushing out into the road and access into the field is so much easier. Everyone I have spoken to is very pleased with it. Please thank everyone involved for making it happen.”

It is still hoped that a second stile, in the same vicinity, might be replaced in 2019 if the landowner gives approval.

I estimate that over the last few years we have now removed 27 stiles, replacing them with 20 kissing gates – creating many miles without stiles.

BOATs 19 and 47

I don't think that we have ever heard any more from the Planning Inspectorate since their email of 27 March. That message explained that our correspondence would be placed on file for the attention of the Inspector who would be looking into the non-determination of the application. The role of the Inspector is to decide whether or not Hampshire County Council should be directed to come to a decision whether or not to make a Definitive Map Modification Order.

As another four months have now passed, I wonder whether we should check the situation with the Planning Inspectorate?

Dog Poo

Following the complaints reported at our last meeting about increasing amounts of dog mess around the village I asked the school if children might produce coloured 'posters' which could be laminated and used to alert people to the problem. The school kindly agreed and I was able to collect a range of vivid posters at the end of June.

Lynne and I subsequently put these up around the village as follows:

- Recreation Ground: access from Kiln Lane
- Recreation Ground: access from car park
- Playground: alongside new gate
- High Street: alongside bus shelter
- High Street: on school railings
- High Street: next to phone box
- Pond: entrance to South Lane
- South Lane: on tree at corner of pond
- South Lane: opposite Whistlers
- South Lane (Shipwrights Way): beyond railway bridge [one in each direction]
- Bones Lane: signpost to The Links
- Heatherfield - Bones Lane: in the cut through footpath.

We have also circulated emails around the village and put associated information onto the community website.

This action has attracted a number of complimentary and supportive comments – and additional posters have also been provided (following requests) for North Lane and the junction of Bones Lane and Petersfield Road.

One parishioner also confirmed how the health hazard is a very real one: a friend has lost 90% of his eyesight in one eye due to the parasite which has burrowed into his eye.

If problems persist the Parish Council may wish to encourage further involvement from EHDC (a fine or a public warning could perhaps help to change the behaviour of others) and perhaps consider the installation of dispensers for free bags.

Parishioners have informed us that South Harting Parish Council have adopted this approach as they had a problem in the past in their South Gardens recreation area. They provided a bag dispenser and the Parish Council pays for the bags. They suspect that the bags are now used further afield, but take the pragmatic view that they don't mind paying for the bags to prevent a general problem.

South Harting use JRB Enterprises to supply the dog bags, which are available in boxes of 800 and cost £26+vat. They say that they usually order three boxes at a time (carriage cost £6.95) and use between 5 and 6 boxes a year. The contact information for JRB is 0161 4915001, email: info@jrbenterprises.com. Bag dispensers are also available from JRB with details available here: <https://www.jrbenterprises.com/dog-poop-bag-dispensers/dog-bag-dispensers-detail>

*Doug Jones
July 2018*

HCC Passenger Transport and Street Lighting consultation Report to Buriton Parish Council: 30 July 2018

Introduction

Hampshire County Council is asking for views in an eight-week consultation on options for applying budget reductions to subsidies for public transport and street lighting. The consultation started on Monday 11th June and closes at midnight on Sunday 5th August.

The County Council is seeking to make savings through changes to financial support for public transport services. They say that feedback from passengers will be carefully looked at, alongside data on passenger journeys and the cost of providing individual journeys or services.

The proposals are only looking to make savings from conventional bus services (such as Buriton's service 94). The core funding for the operation of community transport schemes, such as Dial-a-Ride, 'Call and Go' and Minibus Group Hire Schemes, is not being examined.

The consultation also includes questions on proposals to change the discretionary discount for holders of older persons' bus passes on some community transport services.

The County Council is also asking for views on proposals to switch off some street lights for two or more hours during the night.

Background

At last year's "Passenger Transport Forum" event we learnt that:

- The current 4-year contract for Service 94 expires on 5 January 2019
- There is (in theory) an option to extend that contract for up to two years without the need for all the effort of a re-tendering exercise.

Things have, however, moved on and all subsidised bus services, including the Buriton service, are "under review".

Due to financial pressures the County Council has resolved to:

- Save £1.1 million of support for passenger transport services from 1 April 2019
- Save another £1 million from its Concessionary Travel Scheme from 1 April 2019
- Consider asking Government for permission to introduce a 50p charge for each single journey made using an Older Person's bus pass (not from next year: this would need legislation)

At this year's "Passenger Transport Forum" (19th June 2018) it was explained that:

- Most bus services in Hampshire are commercial – these are not affected by this HCC review
- HCC is also protecting the funding provided to 'community transport services': dial-a-ride, 'Call and Go' and their Minibus Hire Schemes
- There are no funds to support new services, nor to reinstate previous reductions
- HCC currently supports 83 of the 245 bus routes in the County (which provide 11% of journeys). Financial savings will need to be made from these
- Service 94 (Buriton to Petersfield) is one of these
- HCC says: "our aim is that any community that currently has transport will still have a transport option" and that "residents will still be able to access key destinations"
- They may also look to make some of the £1.1 million savings from (a) reducing the amount of printed materials (timetables etc) and / or (b) reducing the amount of support given to

organisations which provide, promote or support transport services [these ideas are also part of the consultation; reactions are being sought]

To save money on existing bus services (eg. our 94) HCC could:

- Reduce the number of journeys per day
- Reduce the days per week that services operate
- Replace bus services with alternative community transport services (eg Taxishares or 'call and go') which could mean reducing frequencies or days per week that current services operate [this option would not be used if services are "well-used throughout the year"]

They say that they will base their decisions on "trip data, the cost of providing services and passenger / stakeholder feedback".

When I asked if they have any demographic information about existing passengers (eg. age profiles, socio-economic circumstances, car ownership etc) or trip purpose data (medical journeys, school, work, shopping etc) they explained that they have nothing: just numbers of passengers and where they get on and off.

HCC officers said that they hoped that Parish Councils would help to promote the consultation to those people who would have an interest in responding. The on-line questionnaire is 22 pages long and it can also be printed out and posted back by writing 'Freepost HAMPSHIRE' on the front of an envelope and 'Passenger Transport Group' on the back.

The consultation exercise also suggests ways of saving other money from street lighting to which the Parish Council may also wish to respond having regard to its policy position on Dark Night Skies etc.

Action to date

Since the "Passenger Transport Forum" meeting I have:

- Put details onto the community website
- Circulated details to contacts by email
- Put notices into the bus shelter
- Tried to contact all the regular bus users, including those at Greenway Lane, with help from Lynne Ashcroft and Gloria Bundy
- Discussed the proposals with the Chairman of Neighbourcare Buriton
- Alerted the Buriton Village Association
- Drafted some potential points for a Parish Council submission, included later in this report.

Some observations on the consultation process

- By failing to consider any commercial services (such as the nearby Service 37) HCC appear to be missing the opportunity of considering to make a subsidy payment to those operators to divert from the A3 into / out of Buriton on some journeys etc. The way that the consultation is being conducted appears to miss such potentially cost effective solutions
- We are not aware that HCC have informed bus passengers directly (eg. through information given out on the number 94 bus)
- It is a very long (22 page) questionnaire which is quite daunting, not just for the elderly ...
- At least one important question is somewhat unclear (and all the answers may have to be treated carefully): Question 9 asks "How often do you use this bus service" and "Number of times a week". Many people seem to be interpreting that as "How many days per week do you use this bus service." Answers may, therefore, need to be doubled to take account of return journeys ...

- Also, Question 10 only allows one purpose but most bus users appear to combine their trip purposes: doing their shopping at some point in their working day; doing their shopping when travelling for doctor's appointments; adding social or leisure visits (meeting with friends) when travelling for shopping etc. By limiting the answers to this question to one purpose only, there will be a very incomplete picture of the wide range of benefits that bus services provide (and of the losses that could ensue if services were reduced or removed)

Potential points for a Parish Council submission

1. the Parish Council feels that the Buriton bus (Service 94) provides a very valuable service, catering for dozens of individual users and is widely appreciated. It is a lifeline for many.
2. we are aware that Service 94 caters for the full range of demographic users: from the young, through teenagers and families to the more elderly, including those in their 70s, 80s and 90s
3. there are also a number of blind or partially sighted people in this community and younger people with special needs for whom the bus service provides a great sense of independence; and there is at least one Carer who uses the bus service regularly to travel with her clients
4. we hope that at least some of the existing users will respond to the questionnaire survey – although we understand that there has been no mention of the consultation directly to bus users on the service and we feel that a 22-page Questionnaire may have been rather daunting for many people
5. we feel that a number of the questions may prove difficult for some respondents to understand properly – and to respond to accurately: hence all the answers may have to be treated carefully. Question 9 asks “How often do you use this bus service” and “Number of times a week”. Many people seem to be interpreting that as “How many days per week do you use this bus service.” Answers may, therefore, need to be doubled to take account of return journeys; Question 10 only allows one purpose but most bus users appear to combine their trip purposes: doing their shopping at some point in their working day; doing their shopping when travelling for doctor's appointments; adding social or leisure visits (meeting with friends) when travelling for shopping etc. By limiting the answers to this question to one purpose only, there will be a very incomplete picture of the wide range of multiple benefits that bus services provide (and of the losses that could ensue if services were reduced or removed)
6. with reductions in the 94 service in previous years (including the re-timings of journeys) some villagers have already had to resort to walking all the way along Greenway Lane to use Service 37 at Buriton crossroads (a walk which is not very safe) whilst others now travel less than they would wish
7. the Parish Council is slightly surprised that the County Council has no demographic information about current passengers (eg. age profiles, socio-economic circumstances, car ownership etc) or trip purpose data (medical journeys, school, work, shopping etc) for the services for which it has been providing subsidies for many years: just numbers of passengers and where they get on / off
8. there is a relatively high proportion of Housing Association ‘affordable’ homes in the village (25% of the dwellings in the village; 18% of the parish) with associated levels of relatively low car ownership and low car availability. These are amongst the most extreme figures in the East Hampshire District. This adds weight to the need to retain a daily and frequent bus service to / from the village as there are many people here who cannot drive or who do not have cars. Without the bus they would not otherwise be able to get into Petersfield for employment, shopping, medical appointments or social events
9. more ‘affordable homes’ are due to be built in the village in the next few years in line with the South Downs Local Plan – based on the fact that there is a bus service here. To change the service at this stage in the planning process would be irresponsible
10. walking all the way to the roundabout at the end of Greenway Lane to try to catch the 37 service (and walking back with heavy shopping bags etc) is not really an option for anyone because it is a dangerous road with a number of blind bends and a blind hump bridge over the railway line. How would young mums with young children manage etc?

11. with a taxi journey to or from Petersfield already costing £8 (£16 to travel both ways) many residents cannot afford to use taxis
12. Parish Council discussions with the village Neighbourcare Buriton Chairman (part of the Good Neighbours Network) reveal that their volunteers are already stretched providing other services and that they feel that the thought of having to handle any extra journeys is completely impracticable. They feel that it is vital to keep the existing transport service between the village and Petersfield
13. there is a risk of unforeseen extra costs (in Social Services Departments) as a consequence of relatively minor savings to the public transport budget: studies show that loneliness, a sense of isolation and a loss of independence lead to ill health and mental decline. Were the County Council to cut the Buriton bus service it would run the risk of simply making savings in one Department (Transport & Environment) whilst increasing expenditure (and pressures) on another part of the public purse (Social Care) – as well as adversely affecting people's lives
14. with increasing numbers of elderly people, living to older ages, this would not be a sustainable position for the County Council to adopt: far better to enable elderly people to live independent lives by providing public transport services ...
15. parishioners have told us: "The days are long when you are on your own. You get 'down'. It is good to be able to go out when you want to – to go to lunch clubs or other groups in Petersfield and to be able to meet with others for cups of coffee and to put the world to rights ..."
16. at some point in their lives, elderly people lose their confidence to drive – but are, otherwise, still independent. The regular daily bus service is their lifeline to get out, to look after themselves and to enjoy meeting other people...
17. such people in Buriton are already 'stranded' at weekends with no bus service to help them get anywhere at all; this should not be extended to other days of the week, and the Parish Council can see at least one way of getting a service re-instated at the weekend
18. most elderly people in this parish are not internet shoppers, they are not even internet users or computer owners. Nor are many of them users of smart-phones and Apps. To expect this age group to change their ways at this stage of their life is unrealistic and could lead to more depression and isolation
19. some people fear that they have to move away from the village (and all their friends) in order to be able to access basic services such as shops, doctors, opticians and dentists etc.
20. the usage of public transport by visitors to the area does not seem to feature in the survey at all and we wonder how HCC will be assessing this. This area is part of a National Park with many visitors who arrive by train and use local buses to help with walks in the countryside, visits to local attractions, pubs etc. Petersfield is a vital hub in this regard and buses out to nearby villages should be retained to help the local economy and to minimise extra traffic along country lanes. It would not be appropriate for the County Council to simply ignore or overlook this aspect of public transport services
21. Buriton is the closest village to the South Downs Way and walkers enquire in the pubs almost every day about bus services, especially at weekends
22. both our local pubs benefit from customers who use the bus service into and / or out of the village, in combination with healthy recreational walking in the area. Reductions in bus services could adversely affect their trading positions at a time when many village pubs are closing
23. employees in our village pubs use the bus service – and prospective employees in the future may need to do so. To reduce the bus service in any way could add more problems for these local businesses and for local employment
24. the bus service also provides economic benefits to shops and facilities in Petersfield by bringing in their customers. Cuts could affect businesses adversely: on-line shopping may be possible at Waitrose or Tesco, but not for most independent shops or market traders. Cuts in bus services can have wide ramifications about which the County Council needs to think very carefully
25. links to rail stations are also important for local people – particularly if the County Council is serious about reducing car use. But, for a number of years, there has been no real attempt to time bus journeys

to connect with train times (and there is no bus back to Buriton late enough to meet any of the commuter trains). So, inevitably, very few train users see the bus as a way of avoiding using their cars to get to or from the railway station. But that could be changed

26. by failing to consider any commercial services in this consultation exercise the County Council appears to be missing any opportunities of making relatively small subsidy payments to the operators of profitable bus routes in return for short route-change diversions
27. at some time in the future, for example, diverting a selection of journeys on the no. 37 service into the village could be a cost-effective option: it could improve the range of timings (so that more people could use a bus to get to / from work or school), it would offer a range of destinations including Waterlooville, Havant etc (which could attract more passenger journeys) and it could offer a service at weekends (for the scores of people walking to / from the village on the South Downs Way, Hangers Way and Shipwrights Way as well as other footpaths)
28. the Parish Council is disappointed with the County Council's encouragement of a spiral of decline in public transport services: cutting some journeys which then make services less convenient for remaining users who therefore use buses less, so that HCC then says that usage is falling and so financial support must be cut further until it reaches the stage where the service is cut entirely
29. the County Council should do more to publicise and promote bus services, including timing journeys so that they are more suitable and asking people what might persuade them to leave their cars at home and use public transport. As a matter of public policy the County Council should be encouraging people out of their cars and on to public transport instead of over-seeing its gradual decline and removal
30. the Parish Council feels very strongly that the present Buriton bus service should be maintained and that serious attempts are made to make it more usable and convenient. The Parish appreciates that, with one bus and one driver, there will be limits to what can be done but even a few small timetable adjustments, along with a County Council mind-set which seeks to build public transport usage may offer a way forward
31. with regard to other parts of the consultation survey the Parish Council would comment as follows:
 - the Parish Council is willing to play its part in promoting public transport use, including helping parishioners with printed materials
 - the Parish Council is unsure about the wisdom of reducing the amount of support available to organisations who provide advice and training on community transport ideas and schemes – particularly at a time when the County Council may be hoping for more of these sort of schemes to commence
 - the Parish Council is unsure about the wisdom of removing the use of Older Person's Bus Passes on Taxishare, Dial-a-Ride and Call-&-Go services. This would seem to be geographically iniquitous and unfair (some communities may still have free travel opportunities whilst others nearby may have to pay a significant fare) and we understand that the introduction of this idea on the East Hampshire Tuesday and Wednesday Call-&-Go services led to a 30% decline in passenger numbers as soon as it was introduced. People did not see the 50% concession as a discount, but as a cost which they had never previously had to pay. This appears to have led to yet more elderly people feeling trapped and isolated in their homes, unable to afford to go out and feeling that a world that had promised them free travel towards the end of their lives was letting them down etc.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Parish Council considers these suggested comments and agrees feedback to be made to the HCC consultation.

*Doug Jones
July 2018*

Item 20 Correspondence

E-mails unless otherwise stated forwarded to councillors

- Community Transport at HCC Public Consultation and Parish Council Transport Representative's Meeting
- War Memorials News
- What's next Petersfield
- Farnham Charity bike ride
- Hampshire Country watch
- Homestart 20th anniversary
- HCC news for local councils
- HCC consultation on permit scheme for road works and street works
- Country Watch Action alert on fraud
- SDNPA workshops
- War memorials news
- Community Infrastructure levy, confirmation of no monies due
- Country Watch Residential burglary notification
- CPRE re Fracking proposals
- Change of communications officer at HALC
- CPRE monthly news
- ROSPA report on playpark
- Local Heritage list
- Street Lighting and supported transportation consultation
- Community first e-news
- Petersfield Museum news
- Village of the Year competition
- Hampshire Constabulary, Country Watch
- From a Parishioner drawing re the telephone box at Weston
- From a Parishioner asking about the abandoned car and the mess in the old playground