



Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council held in the Seward Room, St Mary's Buriton, at 7pm on Monday 25th March 2019

Present: Cllr T Concannon (Chair), Cllr L Ashcroft, Cllr A Bray, Cllr T Crew, Cllr M Johnston, Cllr D Jones, Cllr K White, County and District Cllr R Mocatta and Mrs P Norris (Parish Clerk).

In attendance: 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr D Gardner and Cllr C Edgeworth

2. Declarations of Interest

Declaration of interest from Cllr Jones and County and District Cllr Mocatta – 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 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 Jones also declared that he is also a member of 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.

Cllr Jones and Cllr Johnston declared that they are members of the Buriton Tennis Club Committee.

3. To co-opt Dr Catherine Edgeworth as a Parish Councillor

Dr Edgeworth gave apologies for the meeting but was co-opted as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman reminded councillors and members of the public that elections will be held in May and would welcome nominations. Details have been included in the Parish magazine.

4. Appointment of Petra Norris as Parish Clerk

Councillors approved the appointment of Petra Norris as the Parish Clerk.

5. To approve minutes from BPC meeting held on 28th January 2019

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting and the Chairman would sign a copy for the Council's Minute Books. **Action:** Chairman to sign

6. Matters arising from minutes 28th January 2019

- *Litter picking* – this was very successful with a large turnout it is proposed to hold a further litter pick later in April.
- *Bank statements* – there is still a problem with obtaining bank statements.
- *Tree Survey* – there has been a map of the parish produced but this is with the previous Clerk. **Action:** Chairman to chase

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- CCTV – Cllr Jones has approached local landowners as the Parish Council does not have a budget for CCTV, the landowners are willing to participate to assist.
- *Playground Inspections* – Cllr White is now keeping a spreadsheet of her monthly inspections. There is a ROSPA inspection due in May.
- *Pond Green Bridge* – still outstanding. **Action:** Cllr White
- *Alpha Accounts* – Cllr White and the Parish Clerk will arrange a meeting to hand over the accounts. **Action:** Cllr White and Parish Clerk.
- *Litter Bin on the Causeway* – the issues appear to be frequency of emptying and the fact that there is only 1 bin, County and District Cllr Mocatta will follow this up.
- *The Village Inn (Asset of Community Value)* – Letter to EHDC still outstanding. **Action:** Chairman
- *Tennis Club* – the calculation of the increase of the rent which will be RPI is still outstanding as the Tennis Club AGM is on 26th March 2019, it was agreed that the Chairman would calculate the new rent today and send an email to councillors for approval. **Action:** Chairman

7. County and District Councillor's Report

County and District Cllr Mocatta informed the council that:

- The council tax bills have gone out the precept is divided on Band D equivalent.
- Rubbish collection – there may be some issues with the collection as the current contract is about to finish and a new joint contract with Havant Borough Council will be implemented.
- Grants – East Hampshire District Council is about to launch a Community grant with a pot of £1million. The criteria have not been set yet. (Post meeting- email received from EHDC giving details). Hampshire County Council have put together all there funding streams into one pot.
- Leader of Hampshire County Council – the current leader, Roy Perry is stepping down and will be replaced by one of the existing councillors.
- Cllr Mocatta has awarded grants to the Buriton Fundraising Group and Buriton School
- Community Infrastructure Money available so start looking at projects.

8. Finance and Accounts

- Three invoices were paid. There is an outstanding invoice to the Open Spaces Society, the Chairman will find out the amount and arrange for the cheque to be signed and send. **Action:** Chairman
- The Chairman thanked Cllr White for carrying out the bank reconciliation up to 31st December 2018, however there are still issues in obtaining up-to-date bank statements, Cllr Jones agreed to go into Nat West bank to get these. **Action:** Cllr Jones.
- Tennis Club Rent – covered under matters arising.
- Fun Day Grant – The Fun Day committee received a grant of £1,000 from East Hampshire District Council, the grant had to be paid immediately but due to delays in setting up a bank account for the Fun Day Committee, there was nowhere for the grant to go. The Chairman agreed that the grant could therefore be paid into the Buriton Parish Council General Fund account and held there until the Fun Day bank account is viable.

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9. Banking Proposals

There are issues in obtaining the bank statement for Buriton Parish Council and the Village Hall accounts. Following a discussion it was agreed that the on-line banking options would be considered. **Action:** Parish Clerk

OPEN FORUM

A parishioner asked about the possibility of having the modern glass telephone box outside the Rectory changed to a red telephone box. Under dark skies, the modern box was providing more light than an old red telephone box. There is still a working telephone in the box due to the poor mobile phone coverage. It was felt that if BT was approached they may consider removing the phone.

A resident from Weston asked whether the Lengthsman could paint the telephone box in Weston. It was agreed that this would be added to the list of proposed work for the Lengthsman. **Action:** Parish Clerk

A resident from Weston raised issues relating to potholes in Weston Lane. The resident was advised that these issues needed to be reported to Hampshire County Council Highways.

A parishioner asked if the dead trees on the green at the junction of Petersfield Road and Glebe Road could be replaced. The trees are on land that is owned by East Hampshire District Council. County and District Cllr Mocatta said that he will ask if this was possible.

A resident from Weston asked about the work that was being carried out at the Butser Quarry. TJ Waste has had a 40 year licence for some time but has only recently started operating there. Once the licence has expired the quarry will go back to nature.

10. Planning

- Report on recent/current planning applications - The minutes from the Planning Meeting held on 18th March 2019 have been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, attached to these minutes. The application relating to Ditcham Lane is now pending consideration. The proposed extension to 7 Heatherfield has been approved. A letter was sent to Robert Ainslie at SDNP Planning relating to Monkswalk which has had planning approved. As a result there is now a named contact, Andrew George, if there are any issues relating to the enforcement of the planning conditions.
- Asset of Community Value, The Village Inn – Outstanding action from previous minutes for the Chairman.
- Update on South Downs Local Plan – Cllr Jones has submitted a report, attached to these minutes. The Planning Inspector has recommended some small changes; the plan is currently out for consultation. As the plan is nearly adopted, submitted planning applications are subject to it. Training will be provided for Parish Councillors.

11. Village Hall Report

Cllr Gardner has circulated the Village Hall Report, attached to these minutes.

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12. Recreation Ground

- Mowing Contract – three quotes have been received. Councillors agreed to offer Idverde the contract from 1st April 2019 for a year. **Action:** Cllr Crew to inform Idverde.
- Proposal from Tennis club – Paul Evans presented a proposal for semi-permanent table tennis tables and log benches on the site of the hardstanding of the old cricket nets. It is proposed that the area will be enclosed with a fence and hedging. The proposal will be presented at the Tennis Club AGM if approved by the Parish Council. Two donations have already been given, the cost is estimated at about £3,000. County and District Cllr Mocatta suggested that this may be suitable for an application for a Community Fund Grant from East Hampshire District Council. Councillors agreed to the proposal in principle subject to receiving more information and details of the size of the area. **Action:** Parish Clerk to add to the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.

13. Report on defibrillator

Cllr Edgeworth has circulated information relating to the defibrillator. It will require a power source, somewhere to put it and a mobile phone signal. Training will also be required on CPR. Councillors agreed that this would be an ideal opportunity to train as many parishioners and users of the village hall as possible. The Wessex Trust provide free training for up to thirty people. It was agreed that Cllr White would forward details of the training to the Parish Clerk to organise. Cllr Jones will inform parishioners via social media and the Parish Magazine. **Action:** Cllr White, Parish Clerk and Cllr Jones.

14. Rights of Way Report

Cllr Jones had circulated a Rights of Way report, attached to these minutes. It was agreed that Cllr Jones would approach a landowner in Weston about the possibility of another kissing gate. **Action:** Cllr Jones

Cllrs Jones, Johnston and Ashcroft had a very positive meeting with McDonalds regarding litter. It is hoped that McDonalds will be involved in future litter picking.

Hampshire County Council has employed a new Senior Ranger at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

15. Date of other meetings

Planning Meeting 6pm Monday 20th May 2019 at the Village Hall

16. Correspondence

A letter has been received from a Traffic Consultant admiring the traffic calming measures in the High Street and a visit from Cheriton Parish Council has also been arranged; the sad death of Ben Hamilton-Baillie, who had designed the Buriton traffic calming scheme in 2007, was noted.

A copy of a letter sent to Highways England reporting the poor visibility when accessing the southbound A3 from the slip road. It was agreed that a letter of support be written.

Action: Chairman



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Petersfield Community Radio – Cllr Jones has recently given an interview, which will be available as a podcast, it is hoped that a broadcasting licence will be obtained in the summer.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Buriton Parish Council is at 7pm on Monday 20th May 2019 at the Village Hall.

At the conclusion of business the meeting ended at 8.50pm

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THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AND AGREED AT NEXT MEETING

Buriton Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council Planning Committee held in Buriton Village Hall at 6pm on Monday 18th March 2019.

Present: Cllr Johnston (Chair), Cllr Ashcroft, Cllr Gardner, Cllr Jones.
Apologies: none

1. Cllr Johnston welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of interest: Cllr Jones declared that, as a Member of the South Downs National Park Planning Committee, he wished to make it clear that any views which he expressed at this meeting are based on the information before him 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 he is 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.

• **3. Update on any key current planning matters**

SDNP/18/01060/FUL: Ditcham Lane, Buriton, GU31 5RQ (Road improvements to existing track, including resurfacing, passing places, landscaping and wildlife enhancements): still in progress.

SDNP/18/02405/FUL & SDNP/18/02709/LIS: Proposed Conversion of Monks Walk and the Garage building to form 4 dwellings; use of Tithe Barn as ancillary accommodation (to serve Buriton Manor); associated parking and private amenity / garden space, Monks Walk, The Manor House, North Lane, Buriton, GU31 5RT. Application Approved. No further work allowed until conditions required to start work are met. Agreed that a letter should be sent to SDNPA noting that the Decision Letter had now been issued, expressing some concern that some irreversible damage may have been done to important archaeology in a very sensitive part of the Conservation Area (alongside the ancient church and manor) in the meantime, offering to help SDNPA 'police' the implementation and asking if Mr Scammell could now take a thorough photographic record of the cartshed garage building before any more work takes place (so that there is a public record of the current situation). The letter would also point out that parishioners believe that conversion works inside Monks Walk may have created a total of 12 bedrooms (instead of 10 permitted) and re-iterating particular concerns about (a) the requirements for all the (already now-installed) rooflights and other large glazed areas in both Monks Walk and the Cartshed Garage building to use low transmittance glass as well as automatic blinds; (b) work to satisfy the drainage and foul water conditions – including any consents required from owners of neighbouring land (including Buriton Parish Council) and (c) works to create a driveway, changes to existing boundaries, landscaping.

SDNP/18/03797/DCND Butser Hill Lime Works Ltd, Butser Hill, Buriton, GU31 5SP. Application involves the potential demolition of lime kilns which, as previously noted, the

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Parish Council was seeking to save for potential future enjoyment when the site is restored. Parish Council representatives have met with the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust (and Buriton Village Association) and subsequently with SDNPA officers. The HBPT will be following up this meeting with information for SDNPA. Application Determined... Split Decision with mutual agreement not to demolish the Kilns. Cllr Jones to check with HBPT that they are producing evidence for SDNPA.

SDNP/18/05288/HOUS: 5 Park Barn Cottages two-storey side extension and replacement of 3 dormer windows with 2. No Longer available on the website.

SDNP/18/03611/FUL: Stanbridge Farm, GU31 5RB: Change of use from Agricultural to mixed use with Seasonal Glamping, May to September. Decision pending

SDNP/18/06112/FUL: Installation of Photovoltaic Panels to the roof of Sports Hall, Ditcham Park School. Application in progress. Parish Council comments included a request that the materials being considered should not cause glare or reflection of sunlight given the prominent position of the school on top of the downs. Application Approved

SDNP/18/05994/HOUS and SDNP/18/05995/LIS: Part demolition of front boundary wall and rebuilding to match original with addition of a new brick pier, at The Old Rectory, High Street. Applications both approved.

SDNP/18/06437/HOUS: Single storey rear 'wraparound extension' and extend to the rear of garage at 7 Heatherfield, Buriton, GU31 5RY Application in progress

4. Planning applications for consideration at this meeting:

SDNP/19/00520/MPO: Variation of Supplemental deed dated 10 April 2013 relating to application EHDC 31097/043 to discontinue the keeping of a log of HGV movements at Jacobs Yard, North Lane, GU31 5RR. Agreed to object to this application and agree with the Highways Authority that access to the site is along a small country lane or alternatively through the village of Buriton. Neither route is really suitable for use by HGV vehicles and the light industrial use given to this site was only given on appeal when the requirement to log the movement of HGVs was put in place to ensure that, should there be a dispute over the number of vehicle movements, there would be a record for EHDC to inspect. The Parish Council sees no reason to stop this practice as it is scarcely onerous to count a small number of vehicles. Any inputs from residents affected by the application should also be taken into consideration.

SDNP/19/00731/LIS: minor variations to the consented refurbishment scheme at the Old Stable Block, The Old Rectory, Buriton. Agreed to submit comments, noting that the application not only seeks to remedy problems encountered on the implementation of the already granted consents, but it also appears to be increasing the number of glazed windows and roof lights in the scheme. The Parish Council is unclear as to whether these changes should require planning permission as well as the listed building permission being requested. Also noted that no reference has been made to the South Downs Local Plan which now carries increasing weight as it nears its adoption date. In particular it puts more onus on the need to protect Dark Night Skies. Although black-out blinds have been promised for the roof lights, the Parish Council would ask that low transmittance glass be

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used in all new glazing to prevent more light than absolutely necessary spilling out into the village high street. Neighbours have already reported suffering from at least one new, strong external light and this problem must be kept under control. Any comments from neighbours should be taken into account when considering this application.

5. The Committee's decisions on the above applications

As above.

6. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be arranged as required.

Meeting finished 6.40pm

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South Downs Local Plan

Update to Parish Council Meeting on 25 March 2019

The Examination of the South Downs Local Plan was conducted in November/December 2018 and the SDNPA learnt from the Inspector in January that he was generally very happy with all the contents and that he was intending to make only a small number of relatively modest modifications.

The National Park Authority has subsequently been consulting on the modifications and alerted Parish Councils and others on 31 January. The consultation runs for eight weeks and closes on 28 March. Responses will then be forwarded to the Inspector and his final report should be received shortly afterwards. It is then anticipated that the Local Plan will be adopted at either the full SDNPA Meeting on 17 May or 2 July.

Given the very advanced stage of the Plan, the policies contained within it can now be afforded significant weight in the consideration of planning applications.

Once adopted, all the policies in the East Hampshire District Local Plan (2006) and in the Joint Core Strategy (2013) which have applied to those parts of the district inside the National Park over recent years will be superseded by the new South Downs Local Plan.

The National Park Authority will be running a programme of Local Plan training events for planning officers and Councillors at EHDC (and SDNPA/elsewhere) with training for town and parish councils scheduled for the autumn.

During the public Examination of the plan the Inspector heard submissions from people who were objecting to aspects of the National Park's proposals for Buriton – and the Parish Council had also submitted evidence but did not attend the hearings. Amongst other things, objectors were hoping to get the size of the Settlement Policy Boundary enlarged and a housing site allocated in Kiln Lane.

It does not appear as though the Inspector has agreed to any of the changes being suggested by objectors. It looks as though the Settlement Policy Boundary for Buriton will remain as proposed in the draft Local Plan and it looks as though the idea of a housing site in Kiln Lane has been rejected.

Therefore, the Greenway Lane site appears to remain as the only site allocated for new houses (8 to 10) for the 15-year period of the Local Plan. An extra sentence has been added into the plan for this site: "All suitable opportunities should be taken to create a new public footpath, parallel to Greenway Lane, between the site and the Greenway Lane railway bridge."

The Local Plan also defines a number of Local Green Spaces in villages across the National Park. These will be protected as Local Green Spaces in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. The Policy lists five Local Green Spaces in Buriton: the Recreation Ground; land around the pond & war memorial; land at the sheep dip & pond green; part of the Links; and the Sumner Road green spaces. These appear to be in line with Parish Council wishes (although other sites had been put forward as well) and the precise boundaries of these new, protected Local Green Spaces will be illustrated on a Policies Map which will be part of the adopted Local Plan.

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REPORT TO BURITON PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2019: BURITON VILLAGE HALL

1. FINANCIAL POSITION

I am very pleased to report that the village hall finances continue to move in the right direction despite the new nursery not being operational yet. Bookings remain at a very healthy level. Our bank balance at the end of March is in order of £14k; our consolidated balance, taking into account monies owed to us and monies owed by us, is nearly £11k, so continues to show a steady increase. (At the last meeting we reported the balance was £9.7k). I will attach the financial papers and booking statistics with this report.

We have had some issues with late payments by one of our users but I am pleased to report that payment has been promised and we believe this issue is now resolved.

Regrettably, we continue to have problems with the bank concerning receipt of the bank statements. The bank is saying it will not send statements to someone who isn't an authorised signatory (ie the Village hall manager) – despite the fact that it has done exactly this when sending statements to the clerk! I believe this matter will be discussed elsewhere on this agenda, but suffice it to say the Village Hall Committee members would be very supportive of either changing banks or setting up online banking, as the service we have received, and continue to receive, from our bank has been appalling.

2. THE NEW NURSERY

At the time of drafting the report Karen Burrows is still awaiting Ofsted approval to proceed with opening the new nursery but has her Ofsted visit on 27th March so hopefully a decision is imminent. Her preparations, including staff recruitment, children signed up, open days etc have gone, or are going well. However, Karen has been asked by Buriton Primary School to provide some after school childcare provision for 2 hours a day – this does not need Ofsted approval and this usage of the hall can be accommodated without inconvenience to our regular users. Discussions on this are currently underway, including discussions on the charge the school, and will be reported when the outcome is known.

The nursery has also offered to fund the setting up of broadband and wifi, as has previously been reported, and will offer broadband access to the PC. This could provide a very cost-effective solution for the PC for the provision of wifi in the village hall.

Karen has also offered to replace the curtains in the upper hall; we have discussed and agreed with her what type, colour etc of new curtains would be suitable.

Karen has also planted up the little flower bed alongside the village hall with some colourful flowers and small fir trees. I received a letter of concern about the suitability of the trees for this space and we have discussed this with Karen. She has assured us they were only intended to be very temporary and will be relocated and we are very happy with this response.

We are grateful to Karen for her very helpful and positive approach to her use of the hall.

3. MAINTENANCE ISSUES

We have had some issues with one of the toilets in the Gents loos becoming blocked frequently and Steve is getting a contractor to clean it through.

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Steve is also getting some estimates for work to some of the control mechanisms on the sound system which aren't functioning.

We have no health and safety issues to report.

4. UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

Regrettably, we had an incident at the hall over the weekend of 16/17 March involving unacceptable antisocial behaviour on the part of one of our users, which impacted the hall manager and another hall user. We discussed this at our committee meeting on Monday after and agreed that we would not tolerate such behaviour. Appropriate action has been taken with respect to the user involved and apologies have been made to the affected user.

5. NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

Despite all our best efforts, a gremlin resulted in the old, out-of-use, telephone number being included in the Directory in the spring Parish magazine! To confuse people more, the correct new number is included in my article elsewhere in the body of the magazine!

I would be grateful for the continued assistance of all councillors in promulgating the right number for the hall: **07878027845**

In summary, I am very pleased with progress on the village hall and would like to thank the hall manager, the committee members and all councillors for their help and support.

Daphne Gardner,
Chairman, Village hall committee,
Buriton Parish Council

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A Defibrillator for Buriton Parish

By Dr Cathrine Edgeworth

Introduction

In England there were 156,000 acute myocardial infarction (MI-heart attack) and there were 26,000 report of angina pectoris¹. In addition, there were 400,000 inpatient episodes. There were 66,000 cardiovascular deaths (CVD). The British Heart Foundation (BHM) reports 31,000 resuscitations or which only 2700 were discharged alive². the most important or ‘modifying’ figure is that less than 10% of resuscitations will leave hospital alive.

Hampshire has the one of the lowest recorded rate of England with a rate of less than 2000², that is approximately 3%. The number of out of hospital cardiac arrests one is actually going to encounter in BPC is likely to be very small.

Defibrillators

Defibrillators save lives, they work by sending an electric shock to the heart and transform a fatal cardiac arrhythmia, known as ventricular fibrillation or tachycardia to a rhythm that pumps blood around the body.³Defibrillators are not as effective when the heart stops, known as asystole. The cost would be circa £700, evidence suggests that defibrillators are most effective if used alongside local resuscitation training and telephone contacting of those trained³ when there is an out of hospital arrest.

Local Factors

There is a huge pressure on the NHS and local ambulance services, it is rural areas without an local accident and emergency that are worst hit, that includes here in Buriton.⁴ Therefore, the chance of an ambulance reaching Buriton Parish on time if there is an out of hospital arrest are very slim (one has less than 10 minutes after the arrest happens). Furthermore, I spoke to a very helpful resuscitation officer who works for a private ambulance service in Portsmouth who offered to do some training if we did decide to go ahead. He confirmed the evidence that defibrillators work best if alongside a telephone system to contact those trained and aware.

For discussion

The decision whether to go ahead with a defibrillator and associated training probably rests with the BPC and local community. A defibrillator could plausibly be an ideal choice for a local ‘Crowd-funder’ initiative where the community raises funds- the funding raising itself would raises awareness.

References

1. cvd-statistics-2018---chapter-2---morbidity.
2. cvd-statistics-2018---chapter-1---mortality (1).
3. Nichol G, Sayre MR, Guerra F, Poole J. Defibrillation for Ventricular Fibrillation. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2017;70(12):1496 LP-1509. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2017.07.778.
4. Chanta S, Mayorga ME, McLay LA. Improving emergency service in rural areas: a bi-objective covering location model for EMS systems. *Ann Oper Res.* 2014. doi:10.1007/s10479-011-0972-6.

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**Rights of Way report for PC Meeting:
25th March 2019**

A number of short updates are provided below on the following matters:

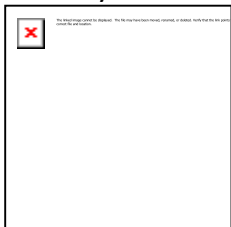
- Byways Open to All Traffic
- cycling on Rights of Way
- broken fingerpost
- kissing gate at Weston
- litter-picking: feedback from meeting with McDonalds
- new Senior Ranger at QECP.

Byways Open to All Traffic

The latest update on the Parish Council’s application to have BOATs 19 and 47 reclassified as Bridleways is as follows: as a result of the Parish Council’s Appeal to the Secretary of State, an independent Inspector had ruled that Hampshire County Council (HCC) must make a decision on this matter by February 2019. The Parish Council has recently heard from HCC that, due to staff shortages, it has not yet been possible to finalise the report and so it will now be presented to meeting of the Regulatory Committee on 17 April. It may be possible for Parish Council representatives to speak at this meeting and this will be investigated in due course.

Cycling on Rights of Way

Parishioners have reported that cyclists are increasingly using Footpaths 1 and 2 (to/from Buriton Pond), carrying their bikes over the kissing gates etc. We have requested and obtained a small supply of small plastic ‘no cycling’ roundels from HCC and these will be fitted in the near future so as to try to discourage this mis-use.



Broken fingerpost

The fingerpost in South Lane, which marks the start of the Bridleway (No 4) on the approach to the bridge underneath the rail line, has been broken and reported to HCC. As the sign marks the route of both the Hangers Way and Shipwrights Way (where they leave the public highway) it is hoped that that it may be repaired or replaced swiftly. HCC have replied saying that the matter has been logged and a job sheet raised.

Kissing gate at Weston

It will be recalled that requests were received last year from parishioners to replace two stiles on Footpath 34 with kissing gates. Agreement was obtained from the landowner for one of the stiles to be replaced in April 2018 with potential consideration of the remaining one after the passage of a year. It is suggested that the Parish Council ascertains whether residents in Weston would still

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like the second stile to be replaced and, if so, liaise with the landowner and explore potential funding sources.

Litter-picking: feedback from meeting with McDonalds

Councillors will be aware that within minutes of the community completing its excellent litter-picking exercise on Saturday 23 February, more litter had been discarded on the edge of the village (as entering along Greenway Lane): all McDonalds wrappers. Swift contact with McDonalds led to an immediate reply from the local Manager and a meeting was subsequently held on 18 March with Cllrs Jones, Ashcroft and Johnston accompanied by a parishioner. We made a number of suggestions to the Manager, Josh Reeve, and a number of potentially positive ideas / outcomes emerged:

- Idea of children at Buriton School producing posters on the theme of ‘take your litter home’ for display at the ‘Drive Through’ window (and elsewhere) at McDonalds. Buriton could, perhaps, be the first of a series of local schools to be show-cased in such an initiative and it could also be promoted via social media
- McDonalds would be willing to show small groups of schoolchildren around their premises, explaining their environmental and food sourcing credentials. They have a member of staff who is a ‘Planet Champion’, well-placed to help with education
- The Petersfield store is one of 21 franchised to the same owner (Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Chichester, Arundel, Portsmouth areas) and it utilises 120 staff. The store also has electricians, plumbers, landscape gardeners at their disposal. McDonalds is keen to enhance links with local communities and arrangements could be made for these staff to undertake work in nearby villages – and they could probably pay for basic materials (paint etc), too
- They may also be willing to fund other community projects such as the purchase of a defibrillator etc (perhaps a kissing gate)
- They would be willing to attend village events (such as School Fete, Village Show etc) and they could help to set up beforehand or take down / tidy up afterwards. They could also offer prizes for raffles etc.
- They would be willing to undertake a litter-picking exercise in the Buriton area in April / thereafter and could assemble quite a large team (10-15 people) for much of a day
- There may be other tasks that we could explore with them – eg. clearing the views from the seats on Rights of Way above the village etc?

It is suggested that the Parish Council agrees in principle to progress ideas with McDonalds and that we liaise with the school, Village Show Committee and others to pursue opportunities and retain contacts with the local McDonalds manager.

New QECP Senior Ranger

QECP has appointed a new Senior Ranger, James Lovegrove, who has joined the County Council from Euroforest where he was Area Manager South East. Amongst other responsibilities he will have oversight of the Buriton Chalk Pits Local Nature Reserve with Ranger, Ashlea Walters. A meeting is being arranged in early April to meet with James and Country Parks Manager, Tim Speller.

Doug Jones
March 2019

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