

## **BURITON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **During the year 2018/19 the Parish Council has:**

- Welcomed Lynne Ashcroft and Cathy Edgeworth as new Councillors to replace Tricia Newby and Sarah O'Donoghue who both stepped down due to personal circumstances
- Reluctantly accepted Karen Crookshank's resignation as Parish Clerk after a period of excellent service and organised recruitment for a replacement. Stephen Holden was appointed in August but resigned after a three month period. The Council has since welcomed Petra Norris as Parish Clerk following another recruitment exercise
- Submitted a strong and comprehensive response to the County Council's consultation seeking to reduce bus services (to save over a £1 million) and encouraged and assisted residents to make their views known so as to protect the Buriton service
- Welcomed the County Council's subsequent decision to make no changes to the Buriton bus (Service 94) whilst noting the scale of cuts in services in other places
- Noted the installation of measures to improve pedestrian safety along Kiln Lane which had been sought in previous years
- Continued to discourage parishioners from using Petersfield Road and Bolinge Hill Lane as a through route between the village and the Causeway
- Noted continuing interest in Buriton's innovative traffic calming and de-cluttering work (undertaken over ten years ago) with interest from traffic consultants and communities from Hampshire, Kent and elsewhere – and a request from the National Park Authority to promote the Buriton scheme as a good practice case study
- Continued to liaise with Hampshire County Highways and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park about occasional parking problems outside the Halls Hill car park, including the placement of logs to help protect the green triangle
- Made representations to Highways England to enhance sight lines at the A3 slip-road junction to improve safety
- Continued to employ the services of the parish lengthman (in conjunction with other Parish Councils), carrying out a programme of minor works on highways and footpaths
- Organised a popular opening event for the new playground on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and completed the programme of works with fencing, paths and signs
- Welcomed the designation of Buriton as a Dark Skies Discovery Site, supported by the South Downs National Park Authority and approved by the authorising body at the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh
- Received a presentation about Dark Night Skies at the July meeting of the Parish Council from Dan Oakley, Dark Skies Officer, South Downs National Park Authority
- Continued to try to protect the Dark Night Skies through representations on planning applications
- Studied all planning applications in the parish and submitted comments to the planning authorities, drawing upon the Buriton Village Design Statement which continues to help to deter out-of-character development proposals
- Drawn parishioners' attention to ongoing planning applications at Buriton Manor to help identify issues to be included in Parish Council responses
- Presented evidence to meetings of the National Park Authority's Planning Committee

- Assisted the Planning Authorities with information about planning enforcement issues in parts of the parish
- Submitted evidence to the Public Examination in Midhurst of the South Downs Local Plan which has allocated a new housing site on Greenway Lane (as well as protecting a number of Local Green Spaces) and noted the outcome that “all suitable opportunities should be taken to create a new public footpath, parallel to Greenway Lane, between the new housing site and the railway bridge”
- Successfully objected to the demolition of historic lime kilns in the Butser Hill Lime Works and initiated actions to consider longer term protection so that these features might become part of an educational resource when the site is restored
- Triggered the ‘Asset of Community Value’ process on behalf of the community so that any interested local parties could prepare and submit a bid to buy the Village Inn after it had been announced that it was up for sale
- Assisted with arrangements for a series of activities to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War, including funding to clean the gravestone in the churchyard of one of the brave men killed in the conflict
- Continued fund-raising for the commemorative bench to recognise the contributions made by a wide range of parishioners during international conflicts
- Pursued a successful Appeal to the Secretary of State (under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) against the County Council’s failure to consider the Parish Council’s request to alter the status of BOATs 19 and 47 to bridleways, citing grounds of public safety, public expenditure and environmental damage
- Subsequently made further representations to the County Council’s Regulatory Committee about these BOATs and, following disappointment at the decision not to agree the changes being sought, submitted an Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate
- Replaced a stile on Footpath 34 in Weston with a kissing gate, following requests from parishioners – meaning that, in recent years, the Parish Council has removed 27 stiles and replaced them with 20 kissing gates
- Reported problems on Rights of Way via the County Council’s online reporting system, resolved minor issues with landowners, organised replacement fingerposts at the village pond, obtained ‘no cycling’ signs to discourage misuse of public footpaths and submitted cutting priorities to HCC
- Initiated a campaign to try to reduce dog-fouling around the parish by asking children at Buriton School to draw posters for widespread display and by circulating details of fines / penalties provided by the District Council’s Animal Welfare Team
- Organised a popular ‘litter-picking’ event and followed-up the issue of litter with the Manager of the McDonalds outlet in Petersfield, with the prospect of further cooperation from the company
- Reported occasional incidents of fly-tipping to the District Council and arranged for the removal of abandoned vehicles from Parish Council car parks
- Reluctantly accepted Terry Doubleday’s resignation as Village Hall Manager but welcomed Steve Franks as replacement after a successful recruitment exercise
- Continued a wide-ranging programme of maintenance and testing of equipment and facilities in the village hall including health and safety assessments, an energy audit, repairs to the stair-lift and sound system, redecoration of the upper hall, and installation of a new boiler and heating controls with balancing of radiators

- Noted the closure of Buriton's Nursery School after a difficult period of time but worked with the County Council's Children's Services Department to try to find a replacement facility and welcomed the Dottie Dots Nursery School from May 2019
- Alerted parishioners about a series of thefts from cars, sheds and garages and arranged for Police Representatives to visit the village more frequently, including attending the Parish Council meeting in September to hear about problems and discuss solutions
- Commenced exploration of a potential CCTV initiative to deter thefts etc in the village
- Worked closely with the Weston Residents Association – particularly on a number of Highways and Rights of Way matters
- Responded to a number of consultations, including criteria for the creation of Local Heritage Lists and the Government's review of National Parks
- Continued to provide small grants towards the costs of the Parish Magazine and St Mary's Church
- Agreed a small increase in the Parish Precept (from April 2019) in the light of increases in costs and reductions in the Council's reserves
- Noted that, as a result of the Local Election process in April/May 2019, there are only six members of the Parish Council: Cllrs Ashcroft, Bray, Crew, Johnston, Jones and White. Cllr Gardner decided not stand for re-election and no applications were received from either Cllr Concannon (Chairman) or Cllr Edgeworth.