



THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AND AGREED AT THE NEXT MEETING

**Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council held via Zoom, at 7:00pm
on Monday 30th November 2020**

Present: Cllr D Jones (Chair), Cllr L Ashcroft, Cllr A Bray, Cllr H Coates, Cllr T Crew, Cllr M Johnston, Cllr S Stevens, County & District Cllr Mocatta and Mrs P Norris, Clerk.

In attendance: There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

Due to the current pandemic and Government legislation preventing public meetings, the meeting was conducted via the Zoom video-conferencing platform. The Agenda had been posted on the community website and on the public noticeboard as normal and provided details for any members of the public wishing to join the meeting. Some protocol guidance had been produced in advance as per the May meeting of the Council.

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

Declaration of interest from both Cllr Jones and Cllr Mocatta – as a Member of the South Downs National Park Authority, the Local Planning Authority for the area, 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 National Park 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 if it should come before me at the National Park for decision. Cllr Mocatta declared that he is a member of the South Downs National Park Authority's Planning Committee. 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.

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

3. To approve minutes from BPC meetings held on 28th September 2020.

The minutes were approved as a correct record and the Chairman will sign a copy for the Council's Minutes Books. **Action:** Chairman to sign

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2020.

- Pond Green Bridge – Matt Marriott is still planning to finish this work.
- Bank signatories: Cllrs Coates and Stevens yet to be added.
- Monks Walk: location of refuse bins for collection. Cllrs Jones and Johnston to meet with the residents when Covid restrictions allow.
- BT connection to Monks Walk: Phone line connected but not broadband yet
- BT connection to the church: still no contact from BT about this but a wayleave is expected.
- The insurance values for Parish Council buildings and the link to the Asset Register will be carried out in 2021 as this will be carried out by the insurance company when the insurance is renewed.
- Network Rail fencing: reply received from Network Rail: work delayed due to Coronavirus
- Staging stored in the village hall: not yet considered by the Hall Committee

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- Website: implications of the Public Bodies (Website & Mobile Applications) Regulations – work to meet these regulations had been carried out before the Government deadline and the website manager will carry out extra work in the next financial year.
- Proposals from Buriton School for School Meadow – no details have been received
- Defibrillator – emails have been received from the defibrillator team who suggest that a consultant is needed to look at placing the defibrillator on the wall in the High Street at a cost of £1,500 and so the team have asked if the Village Hall can be used instead. Following a discussion it was felt that the Village Hall is tucked away and if it was there appropriate signage would be needed. It was agreed that Listed Building consent to use the proposed site in the High Street should be sought without the need of a consultant as applications are understood to be free of charge. Cllr Jones offered to help the defibrillator team with the application
- The damaged litter bin by the bus shelter has been resolved by East Hampshire District Council.
- Halls Hill Car Park: reflective strips have been added to the logs by Hampshire County Council which now discourage dangerous parking. Queen Elizabeth Country Park is waiting to hear from Cllr Bray about adjustments to positions of logs if required. **Action:** Cllr Bray
- The purchase of a new laptop is in hand the clerk will approach Disking when they reopen.
- Councillor Crew is contacting contractors for annual playground inspections. **Action:** Councillor Crew.
- Village Hall Car Park – the cycle parking has been completed including signs. The work to the remaining pot holes still outstanding. **Action:** Cllr Crew
- The insurance has been renewed.
- National Pay Award has been implemented for the Clerk and Village Hall Manager.
- The garage on the recreation ground has been removed.
- The problems with the bin collections in South Lane had reoccurred. It was reported again and may now be resolved.
- Replacement screen – on agenda
- New childcare service in the Village Hall – on the agenda
- Potential use of the changing rooms by the Tennis Club – on the agenda
- Changes to the grounds maintenance contract to be considered next year – mowing less frequently and leaving an area to grow wild. **Action:** Cllr Crew.
- Planting of more trees in the recreation ground is being discussed with Matt Marriott.
- Asset of Community Value moratorium of the Village Inn has expired. No updates to the expression of interest reported to the Planning Committee but a planning application has been lodged to a change of use to a single dwelling.
- Response to the Government's proposed changes to the planning system has been submitted.
- Dog fouling – no information has been received on the actions taken by East Hampshire District Council e.g. regular patrols, dual-use stickers on bins. The bag dispenser has been purchased and installed at the Kiln Lane entrance to the recreation ground. Thanks were expressed to the Community Produce Stall.
- Commemorative Bench – there has been a delay in the repairing of the mosaic which had been damaged. The clerk to chase Lasermaster about the back. **Action:** Clerk. At the end of the financial year there will be no outstanding costs, all of which will have been funded by grants and donations.

5. Co-option Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies. This has been advertised on the noticeboard and the website and the closing date is 14th December 2020, to date there has been four expressions of interests.

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Cllrs agreed that Cllr Stevens be co-opted onto the Planning Committee.

Open Forum

A member of the public expressed the following relating to planning matters:

As a member of the public I would like to say a few words about the two planning issues mentioned in item 10:

1. Application to Change the Village Inn into a Single Dwelling: SDNP/20/05029/FUL.

In respect of this application I have 8 points to mention:

1. The current owners indicate that the business is not viable and in this respect I feel there should be a full independent review. This is particularly important as firstly, the owners live in Maidenhead and have to pay on-site managers, and secondly it has only been marketed for customers as a boutique hotel.
2. Has the property and business been properly marketed over the last 2 years? For example, there has never been a "for sale" board on the property, which would be customary in such circumstances. Also, for the last 6/9 months it has been used for housing the homeless. Firstly, this questions the extent and detail of a thorough marketing campaign and secondly the current usage of the property in these unusual times cannot give a true reflection of the business and its potential that one would normally expect.
3. Concerns the asking price. - I believe this started at £1.2m, which I think everyone considered was overpriced, so no wonder it didn't attract interest. In February of this year it dropped to £960,000, but then it was about to be used to house the homeless, so not an attractive business proposition. The fact that it did not sell at such an inflated price and then the enforced imposition of "homeless housing" is no reason for a change of use.
4. The business had noticeably declined prior to it's current/temporary use. Staff/partners/chefs had departed and the enthusiasm that was apparent at the early stages had evaporated. Why? Businesses such as this need to evolve and diversify (I hope you've all seen the recent episodes on BBC2 called "Saving Britains' Pubs"). So it would seem that the Village Inn's business may have benefitted more by growing in-line with the popularity the South Downs National Park and the wonderful area in which we live. – We really must not lose this amount of accommodation (14 bedrooms) within half a mile of the South Downs Way and in a village, which is lucky enough to have two long distance footpaths running through it, including one that passes right in front of the front door.
5. Diversification and innovation are key to moving forward, such as the enthusiasm of the young tenant who operated a mountain bike hire from the property before Enterprise Inns sold to Mr Camping. I also recall one tenant even sold walking supplies and outdoor clothing. It could even satisfy more domestic demands within the community, particularly as it now seems likely there'll be an additional 10 houses built off Greenway Lane. - And there are many reasons why it could and should work in conjunction with the 5 Bells. It just needs engagement. This leads onto...
6. As you know, the Village Inn is registered as an Asset of Community Value and before being converted into residential there are many other uses that should and must be explored.
7. With regards to the current planning application, the Parish Council should note that the red line delineating the ownership of the property is exaggerated and incorrect as it includes part of the highway. The registered plan at HM Land Registry, however, shows that ownership hugs the outline of the property and also includes the small car park opposite. The planning application omits this detail and should be corrected.

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8. The application is for a rambling 6 bedroom house. This clearly will have limited appeal in this location, so it's more than likely that once permission has been granted it will be purchased by a speculator, similar to our experiences a couple of years ago, whereby planning will be sought to convert it into several dwellings with perhaps a separate property on the small car park...It could of course attract the same individual?!!

2. Emerging Proposals for 10 dwellings on Land at Greenway Lane

This has of course been discussed at the recent PC Planning subcommittee. Some quick points:

1. It is important that as a result of more houses in this location there's bound to be an increase in vehicles and pedestrians along Greenway Lane. Both will be competing with one another, particularly if our bus service is withdrawn. Then of course there are the many cyclists who use our roads. It therefore seems sensible that as a condition of granting planning, a footpath is provided inside the field running adjacent to Greenway Lane for its length until the railway bridge.
2. Plans should observe all appropriate VDS guidance, particularly in relation to Dark Night Skies. In this respect, I feel we should very carefully look at permitted development, that allow roof lights. As we know, many rooflights have been allowed in the village with conditions requiring automatic blinds. However, we are well aware that many of these blinds do not work properly. As a result, the proliferation of light spillage could seriously reduce the quality of our night skies particularly as we're in an International Dark Skies reserve – one of only two in the Country.

6. Coronavirus and Chairman's Update

Cllr Jones presented a report on Buriton's ongoing response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and other updates, attached to these minutes. Main points included:

- Arrangements introduced in coordination with St Mary's church, Neighbourcare Buriton and the Five Bells for the country's second lockdown period appeared to have worked well
- This coordination group is now focusing on loneliness through the winter months and Councillors were asked to act as eyes and ears to identify any vulnerable parishioners.
- Cllr Jones expressed thanks to Patrick and Sarah Figgis who have made Manor Barn available every Friday, to coincide with the Post Office, this is for the community to meet, and to purchase refreshments with donations going to charitable causes.
- Although the normal Remembrance Sunday activities could not take place, the Chairman and Parish Priest had marked the occasion with payers and wreath laying.
- It was noted that it is still proving difficult to keep up to date with changes in Government regulations as parish councils do not receive any direct communications from Government and their websites are changed regularly without any accompanying notification
- Cllr Crew has installed more tape around the skate park as the last lot was removed by unauthorised users who had also added some anti-lockdown signs to the closure signs.

7. County and District Councillor's Reports

County and District Councillor Mocatta presented his report, attached to these minutes.

- Village Inn – East Hampshire District Council has no contract with the Village Inn and is paying commercial rates for B&B accommodation. This will continue for at least the next two months. They are very complimentary of the owner. This will have no effect on the current planning application.
- Email – Hampshire County Council has sent out an email to anyone who had gone onto the website and said yes to marketing relating to obtaining faster broadband.
- Lengthsman – Stroud Parish Council have approached Petersfield Town Council for them to undertake their lengthsman work, other parish councils may follow.

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- East Hampshire District Council officers have been proactive in approaching businesses that may be able to apply for more support grants, initially contacting those who received grants earlier in the year.
- Cllr Jones thanked those who litter picked along Greenway Lane. It was assumed that this was EHDC contractors but this was not certain.
- There is a new footpath provided by the National Park Authority as a result of the housing development at Land South East of the Causeway (Petersfield) which links the two paths to Buriton and produces a circular route.

8. Finance and Accounts

- Councillors received and approved the Receipts & Payments for the Parish Council report to 23rd November 2020. The Chairman will sign when able to do so. There were six receipts totalling £1,796.96 and fifteen payments totalling £24,471.63 for the Parish Council Account. **Action:** Chairman.
- Councillors received and approved the Receipts & Payments for the Village Hall report to 23rd November 2020. The Chairman will sign when able to do so. There were fifteen receipts totalling £2,423.50 and twenty four payments totalling £3,020.64 for the Parish Council Account. **Action:** Chairman.
- Councillors approved the reserves.
- Councillors received and reviewed the performance against budget. It was noted that no payments have been received for the bins at Monks Walk. It was agreed that this would be looked at as a whole package with a possible sinking fund for the access road through the car park.
- Councillors approved the amended Financial Risk Assessment to include consideration in the budget making process for the pandemic.
- Councillors noted that during the budget process three new cost codes were missed off the final calculations and that no income has been received from Monks Walk. As the VAT income had not been considered when drafting the budgets they agreed that the precept figure recommended would remain. Councillors approved the budget for 2020/21 and the precept of £20,948. Clerk to submit to East Hampshire District Council. **Action:** Clerk.

9. Village Hall and Recreation Report

The Chairman summarised points from a report which is attached to these minutes:

Village Hall

- There are no bad debtors.
- The financial situation, affected by Covid-19, was noted and that the expected level of funds that were due to be added into reserves for maintenance projects was unlikely to happen.
- Councillors approved the updated risk assessments.
- The Film Group has contributed £630 towards the new screen. However this was paid into the Parish Council bank account and not the Village Hall. It was agreed that the invoice be made out to the Parish Council for it to be paid from that account.
- Tai Chi – the group is using the recreation ground when the weather allows, other groups pay if they use the recreation ground. Councillors agreed for the Village Hall Committee to explore charging for outdoor sessions.

Ducklings Child Minding Facility

Ducklings have received their Ofsted approval and hope to start offering child minding facilities in January. Councillors approved the draft agreement which had been circulated.

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Network Rail Car Park Request

Network Rail wish to use the car park at the Village Hall in March and May 2021 for storage of welfare huts and parking for minibuses that will bring in workmen, with most of the work being carried out over weekends. Network Rail is offering £750 for the use. Concerns were raised about issues with parking for the school and if the Village Hall is being used, this could lead to more congestion on the adjoining roads. Network Rail had considered putting down matting on the recreation ground but this was not financially viable for them. It was agreed that reassurance must be given that no additional vehicles be parked and that a detailed plan of their proposals be produced and that the area will be left as found, with detailed photos being taken. Councillors agreed that subject to minimum space being used and time that materials are stored, and the community being informed, this would be approved. Cllr Bray expressed his reservations.

Tennis Club – Changing Rooms

Cllrs Johnston and Jones explained that they would not take part in this item. A letter had been sent to the Tennis Club offering use of the changing rooms for a fee of £1,320pa. A reply was received asking for a peppercorn rent and, as an alternative, use just on match days. Following a discussion, including points from Cllr Mocatta, Cllrs agreed to offer the changing rooms for £500pa for a trial for a year so that the Tennis Club could monitor their usage or to hire when required at £35. It was suggested that these charges be expressed as a cost per member of the Club, based on the recent annual information received. As there is a separate meter for the electricity it was agreed that the Tennis Club should pay for the usage. Councillors also agreed to add a clause to any agreement for a regular inspection by the Village Hall Manager.

CIL Report

An annual monitoring report has to be completed for any CIL received from SDNPA. Cllrs approved a draft circulated by Cllr Jones. This will also appear on our website.

10. Planning

Cllr Johnston presented a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

- A reply has been sent on the consultation for the Supplementary Planning Document on parking.
- St Mary's Church has approached the Conservation Officer at East Hampshire District Council on the condition of the roof at Haven Barn.

Emerging Proposals for Ten Dwellings on Land at Greenway Lane – The Parish Council has been consulted on the pre-application stage for ten dwellings on land adjacent to Greenway Lane, a reply has been sent which has been circulated. All parishioners will be invited by the Consultants, BCEG, to go on-line to make comments on the proposals. It was agreed that Cllrs will meet with BCEG on site, Clerk to respond to invite. **Action:** Clerk. It was also decided to draw the community's attention to this development.

Application to Change the Village Inn into a Single Dwelling – SDNP/20/05029/FUL

This application will be discussed at the Planning Committee on the 14th December at 6pm. The points raised in the Public Forum session and other points raised by parish councillors will be taken into account. The application is being considered by East Hampshire District Council but Cllrs agreed to ask that it be considered by the South Downs National Park Authority.

11. Trees, Pollinators and Biodiversity

Cllr Jones presented a report, attached to these minutes. Despite the delays in Hampshire County Council launching the Pollinator Project, the Parish Council is getting ready. It was agreed that three more trees will be planted on the recreation ground but consideration to be given for machine access for maintenance and mowing. Cllrs also agreed to make contact with other partners e.g. school, local farmers.

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12. Rights of Way Report

Cllr Jones informed Cllrs of the following

- Signs have been installed on the Hangers Way through the chalk pits nature reserve to warn cyclists of the steep gradient and pedestrians
- There has been some cutting back on the footpath to The Links but not to The Links itself which is part of the Hangers Way. Clerk to contact to find out what is happening. **Action:** Clerk.

13. Work for the Lengthsman

The Clerk to contact the Clerk at Steep Parish Council to establish what work has been completed during this financial year. **Action:** Clerk

14. Correspondence

Most items of correspondence were covered on the agenda, the other items were:

- **Food Van** – issues have been raised concerning the generator and the litter. It was agreed to approach the operator of the food van about some of the issues raised. **Action:** Chairman and Clerk.
- **Village Inn** – the owners of the Village Inn had noted in the minutes that someone had potentially been interested in the Inn and they would be pleased to make contact with them directly. It was agreed that the individual would be contacted to explain that if they were still interested that they should contact the owner. **Action:** Chairman

15. Approval of Meeting Dates for 2021

Cllrs approved the following meeting dates for 2021, all on a Monday: 25th January, 29th March, 24th May (including the Annual Parish Meeting), 26th July, 27th September and 29th November.

16. Date of next meeting

- The next meeting of Buriton Parish Council is at 7:00pm on Monday 25th January 2021 – probably via Zoom unless national advice changes.

At the conclusion of business the meeting ended at 9.16pm.



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Coronavirus – Chairman's Update Report (November 2020)

The end of the country's second 'lockdown' period (5 November to 4 December) is approaching and once again arrangements in the community (which the Parish Council has coordinated with St Mary's Church, the Five Bells and Neighbourcare Buriton) appear to have worked well. In addition, with the arrival of the darker evenings and wintry weather, thought has also been given to the wellbeing of vulnerable parishioners over the next few months: not just food supplies but loneliness, isolation, depression etc – particularly for elderly people living alone (but potentially instances of pressures on families if jobs are lost etc, too).

Prior to the announcement of the second lockdown period the Parish Council arranged a (socially distanced, externally seated!) meeting of the coordination group referred to above which confirmed a number of initiatives for the forthcoming period, including: a midweek hot lunch service (in addition to the regular evening takeaway meals) from the Five Bells; help with repeat prescriptions; retention of the weekly Post Office visit in the Seward Room (Fridays 9.30-11.30); details of church services (on Zoom) and the availability of the church for private prayer; the availability of food supplies from the Five Bells; and occasional Zoom Quizzes (the first of which, hosted by Abigail McKern on 12th November) was successful and popular with all those households taking part. Plans are also being made by St Mary's church for small roving groups of carol singers to visit different parts of the community so that residents can join in from their doorsteps as a replacement for the traditional gathering at the village pond.

The Parish Council has also been liaising with Patrick and Sarah Figgis about opportunities to make use of the Manor Barn during the winter months. As it is not currently possible for tea and coffee to be provided during the Friday Post Office visits to the Seward Room the following arrangements are being made by Mr and Mrs Figgis to provide a haven for local residents: the Manor Barn will be open every Friday with opportunities for hot drinks, slices of cake, bowls of soup and friendly chats. By opening from 10am to 4pm, the Barn will be available for those visiting the Post Office but will also offer morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea alternatives. Covid-secure measures will be in place and 'track and trace' and other social distancing procedures will operate. Donations for drinks and food will go to a number of charitable causes.

With most parishioners able to obtain shopping, and with supermarkets having made improvements to their services, this latest lockdown period presented a different scenario from the first one. However, the normal (pre-Covid) Neighbourcare service still remains available.

Arrangements for each of the Parish Council's own facilities were also examined for compliance with new Government lockdown rules: the village hall was only available for use by the school; the playground was allowed to stay open with all users to follow social distancing requirements; but all outdoor sports facilities (including tennis courts and skate parks) had to close. Signage and hazard tape was installed on the skate ramp area to make this clear, reiterated on the community website.

Up-to-date information continues to be posted on the 'COVID-19 VIRUS' section of the Community Website and regular update emails are still circulated to as many parishioners as possible (with extra names being added to the circulation list upon request).

It should be noted that it is still proving difficult to keep up to date with changes in Government regulations and guidance relating to Covid-19. Parish Councils still do not seem to receive any direct communications from Government (or via MPs) and have to rely on finding things for themselves or receiving information from other organisations. Relevant pages on Government websites are updated from time to time (often a number of days after the start of new regulations) but maintaining a constant watch to see if anything relevant has changed is impractical and, in any case, the updates or changes rarely seem to be highlighted or identified (the date at the top of the page is simply changed) and so finding the words that have changed

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requires the whole of the website pages to be re-read alongside a previous version. We have been particularly grateful for help received from the charity Action Hampshire.

The second lockdown period has, as with the first period, brought more visitors to the parish with some attendant pressures but actions initiated by the Parish Council earlier in the year have generally proved successful.

Although the normal Remembrance Sunday activities could not take place, the Parish Council Chairman and the Parish Priest marked the occasion with prayers and wreath-laying at 11am with other wreaths laid on behalf of the District Council and Armed Services shortly afterwards. Once again the recently cleaned war memorial was suitably decorated by Elaine Bray to whom sincere thanks are recorded. The war memorial provided a fitting focus for parishioners and visitors to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many and it was pleasing to note that the mosaic poppy roundel, (framed by the words 'Never Forgotten, Forever Grateful'), inspired by teenager Josh Bailey and crafted by local sculptor Andy Cheese, had been laid to complement the new Portland Stone bench. Thanks are due to all involved in this project.

In spite of the ongoing restrictions during the pandemic it has been pleasing to note that the Parish Council has been able to continue with many wide-ranging aspects of business as reported in items elsewhere on this agenda as well as in matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

The National Association of Local Councils continues to advise local councils to continue to meet remotely, without face to face contact. They point out that local councils have the powers to hold public meetings remotely by using video or telephone conferencing technology until May 2021 and so most councils should have no need to meet in person. They point out that local councils have a duty to allow the public to observe council meetings without placing restrictions on the number attending, which many council meeting venues cannot accommodate in a safe way at this time. In these circumstances it seems sensible to continue to hold our meetings on Zoom for the foreseeable future and we have now held a number of successful meetings (with members of the public attending) in this way. Other emergency measures agreed by the Parish Council on 30th March 2020 continue in place.

*Doug Jones
November 2020*

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT PETERSFIELD BUTSER

NOVEMBER 2020

1. Emergency funding for vulnerable families

Parish Councillors will of course have noticed the media attention around the campaign for free school meals for families during half terms and holidays, involving the footballer Marcus Rashford.

On 27 October 2020 the Leader of Hampshire County Council announced emergency funding to help Hampshire's most vulnerable families. A funding package is to be distributed to food banks, charities and other organisations, to help vulnerable families - at a similar level to the Government's previous free school meal voucher scheme. **I have contributed £2,000 of my councillor grant to this programme.**

Any families in need of assistance in East Hampshire are asked to visit this webpage below or telephone our partners Community First on 0300 500 8085 to find their nearest source of support.
<https://www.cfirg.org.uk/news/free-school-meals-over-october-half-term/>

2. Active Places Summit on 19 October

The online Active Places Summit was attended by over 120 delegates including local walking and cycling groups, Highways engineers, District Council officers and Councillors from all tiers of local Government. It feels as though this agenda is now being given the urgency it really deserves. Boosting walking and cycling is important for climate change as well as health reasons.

At the online event we had three excellent presentations from national experts followed by an interesting discussion. The main message from the Summit was that walking and cycling must come first in the new Local Transport Plan being developed at Hampshire. This will tie in with the LCWIP developed by EHDC. The video of the Summit will be available to watch on hants.gov.uk shortly.

3. New plastic recycling infographic

Many people are confused about which plastics can be put in the mixed recycling. When the wrong plastics are sent to the Materials Recycling Facility, it creates contamination as well as unnecessary emissions from collecting and then redirecting the wrong plastics. The committee requested an infographic which explains the correct advice clearly. We are keen to promulgate it as widely as possible.

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WHAT PLASTICS CAN WE RECYCLE IN HAMPSHIRE?



If it's made of plastic and shaped like a bottle, we want it. This includes milk, soft drink, cosmetic and cleaning product bottles.

Plastic bottles can be placed in your recycling and the lids and labels can be left on.

Please empty any liquid content and squash the bottle before replacing the lid.



WHAT PLASTICS CAN'T WE RECYCLE IN HAMPSHIRE?



Plastic bags, film, pots, tubs, trays and cartons.

These are made of a wider variety of polymers. They can't be sorted at the Material Recycling Facilities without large investment in new equipment.

Some other authorities collect mixed plastics for processing. There is no guarantee all items will be recycled or be processed in this country. This is entirely dependant on the availability of profitable and stable markets.



It's important that sustainable markets are used for different types of plastic.

Unfortunately, these markets are currently not widespread in the UK or abroad.



We continue to watch the markets and look for ways on increasing the range of items we can accept for recycling.

We therefore take the next most sustainable option and recover energy from plastics that cannot be recycled.

Hampshire's three Energy Recovery Facilities transform unrecyclable waste into enough electricity to power

 **x50,000**

homes every year and, as a result, Hampshire **sends less than 10%** of all household waste to landfill.



Many residents would like HCC to accept more types of plastic. We are waiting for clarity from the Government on the design of the new national waste and recycling system. Pending that clarity, there is zero benefit in collecting additional plastics. There is currently no market for these plastics; they cannot be converted into useful products. It would create further unnecessary carbon emissions to collect and process more plastics. It is much better to put them in the rubbish where they will generate some useful electricity at our energy recovery facilities. Our advice to residents who really hate plastic waste is to avoid purchasing products with plastic packaging by shopping at the local markets and farm shops.

4. New Carbon Strategy for Hampshire Highways

HCC has developed a Climate Change Action Plan with the Carbon Trust. Hampshire Highways have now published their Carbon Reduction Strategy for 2020-2024. I was really pleased to see that the Highways Team have developed this plan. It is an impressive document and certainly worth a read for anyone interested in climate change issues.

HCC will continue to explore innovations and opportunities, invest in lasting change, and continually monitor and review the ongoing reductions in carbon emissions that the Highways service is already achieving to identify where further improvements can be made. The plan can be read at this link:

<https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=46ebee67-5840-44a8-8415-5b366d6f1d27>

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5. Hampshire Countryside Service podcast

The Rangers at Hampshire Countryside Service have launched a podcast series called “**Looking After Nature**”. It will contain interviews with Rangers and countryside experts. The podcast gives a real insight into the world of conservation and countryside care. It also provides guidance on how to get health and wellbeing benefits from the fabulous Hampshire countryside. The first episode is an interview with Senior Ranger Steve Peach about trees and tree planting in Hampshire. Steve addresses the issue of ash dieback which has had a real impact locally

I would invite you to “follow” the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or Acast. I particularly hope that young people will be informed about the podcast.

ROBERT MOCATTA

County Councillor for Petersfield Butser

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Village Hall and Recreation Report for PC Meeting: 30 November 2020

This report provides updates on a number of matters since the last meeting of the Council including sections about the Buriton Ducklings child-minding facility, Network Rail use of the car park and the potential hiring of the changing rooms to Buriton Tennis Club on which decisions are required:

- The hall had been open for bookings during October but was closed to all users (except Buriton Primary School) for the duration of the lockdown period which commenced on 5 November
- There are no bad debtors
- Inspections and cleaning activities have continued as well as regular maintenance and servicing
- Over the next few weeks: the fire alarms, fire extinguishers and boiler are all due to be serviced
- Other forthcoming maintenance includes replacement of an external light and a light in the store room – as well as the dishwasher service/repair reported to a previous meeting
- The new projector screen has been ordered and should be fitted in the near future. A generous donation of £630 has been received from the 'Films in Buriton' Group for this purpose. This donation has been paid into the Parish Council Bank Account
- The Hall Manager continues to ensure that the village hall is a Covid-secure venue
- There have been a number of enquiries for regular hall bookings for 2021 but all will be dependent on Covid restrictions and regulations
- There is a booking for a Tai Chi Class to use the village hall for part of the year and to use part of the recreation ground at other times of year. The Parish Council is asked to consider the matter of charges for this use of the recreation ground
- Figures from the Hall Manager suggest that, at the end of October (prior to the second lockdown) – and thanks primarily to the grant of £10,000 received – the hall was still in a break-even position. The budget for 2020/21 had, however, been designed to produce a surplus of more than £7,000 to go into our 'sinking fund' (Reserve) for forthcoming village hall repairs / improvements. This will not now be possible which could have knock-on delays to major repair projects and to the fabric of the building unless funding can be found from other sources
- An application has been made for a further grant (approximately £1,300) as a contribution towards the loss of income during the latest lockdown period
- The Covid pandemic has delayed any further assessment or proposals about our project to replace windows, doors, soffits etc (which is also considering work to the roof and rear staircase) because visits by prospective contractors which were anticipated during November have not taken place and have yet to be rearranged. Assistance from Andy van den Broeke continues and it may be possible to circulate updates separately as / when available
- The cycle parking facilities have now been installed at the village hall car park but repairs to remaining pot-holes remain to be addressed
- The garage on the Recreation Ground (discussed at the last meeting) has been removed and a donation from the winding-up of the Cricket Club is anticipated: to be used for a specific purpose (perhaps another bench or a tree to mark the long-standing tradition of cricket in the village)
- Observations suggest that usage of the playground since re-opening in July continues satisfactorily with Covid guidelines being displayed on posters as well as on the Community Website, Facebook and email. During the latest lockdown period (5 November to 2 December) outdoor sports facilities (including skate parks) had to close and so signage and hazard tape was installed on the skate ramp area to make this clear, reiterated on the community website.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

It should be noted that it is still proving difficult to keep up to date with changes in Government regulations and guidance relating to Covid-19. Parish Councils still do not seem to receive any direct communications from Government (or via MPs) and have to rely on finding things for themselves or receiving information from other organisations. Relevant pages on Government websites are updated from time to time (often a number of days after the start of new regulations) but maintaining a constant watch to see if anything relevant has changed is impractical and, in any case, the updates or changes rarely seem to be highlighted or identified (the date at the top of the page is simply changed) and so finding the words that have changed requires the whole of the website pages to be re-read alongside a previous version. We have been particularly grateful for help received from the charity Action Hampshire.

Buriton Ducklings child minding facility

It is understood that an Ofsted assessment for Jade Styles' 'Buriton Ducklings' child-minding facility took place on 25 November and, if successful, she may be able to start after Christmas in January. At our last meeting the Parish Council agreed an initial rate of £4.50/hr for use of the Upper Hall (and exclusive use of the referee's toilet). Hours of usage (and days of the week) are not yet clear and payment would just be for the hours used. If there are other bookings for the Upper Hall 'Buriton Ducklings' understand that they would need to work around those times. If no-one else is using the Upper Hall, they are happy to clean it themselves. If other users use it, they would expect to find it as they had left it. A clause in a written agreement will need to specify that if / when the booking is terminated, the room should be left in the good condition that it was in when the child-minding facility commenced. Buriton Ducklings have arranged insurance and conducted Risk Assessments etc which the Parish Council / Hall Manager will wish to see.

Network Rail request to use the village hall car park

Details of this request have been circulated to all Councillors but, in summary, Network Rail would like to use part of the car park for three weeks in 2021: Monday 8 March to Friday 19 March and Monday 3 May 2021 to Friday 7 May. They would bring a small welfare cabin (approx. 15ft) containing a small office and toilets and tool cabins for handtools. Parking would be for essential vehicles only and a mini-bus drop off area (to bring workers from Petersfield on 13 and 14 March). A payment of £250 a week has been offered (and is described as the maximum payable as NR has to justify how it spends public money). If the Parish Council is happy to proceed NR will provide a draft licence for review. NR will send a formal letter to all residents in the new year. Councillors are asked to consider this matter and make a decision.

Potential usage of the Changing Rooms by Buriton Tennis Club

Following an enquiry from the Tennis Club an annual hiring fee of £1,320 was proposed by the Parish Council (to include toilet rolls, hand soap, paper towels and water supply). The Parish Council would also pay the electricity standing charge with the Club being charged for units used. Cleaning would need to be undertaken by the Club as the Parish Council's cleaner is not interested in taking on this task as cleaning the toilets etc on an infrequent basis would make it a difficult task. A reply from the Tennis Club has been circulated to all Councillors providing background information and asking for the fee to be reduced to a peppercorn rent. The reply also notes that "the referee's toilet, which we have enjoyed free of charge for many years, is no longer available due to the Ofsted Covid requirements for the new nursery". As the Club requires access to a toilet for league matches they ask, if agreement cannot be found on an annual rent, whether the PC would consider allowing use of the changing rooms toilets on match days and, if so, at what price. Councillors are asked to consider these matter and make decisions.

In separate correspondence from the Tennis Club, their annual report to the Parish Council indicates that they have 186 members (55% from the parish) and that "as at the end of October, the Club had total available funds of £21,339.67: this after completing the cleaning, bonding and repainting of the courts at a cost of £5,442".

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

The pond / church car park

The long-running request for BT Openreach to install a phone line through the car park to Monks Walk appears to be drawing to a conclusion although St Mary's church is seeking a branch from this supply, across the Parish Council's car park, and – as yet – the Council has not been approached by BT and no discussions have taken place with regard to a Wayleave etc.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Report 30th November 2020

To be read in conjunction with the minutes of the planning meeting of the 11th November 2020.

Update on current planning matters

SDNP/20/00994/REM - New House at Cobwebs, North Lane. Decision Pending

SDNP/20/01535/FUL: The extraction of 343,670 tonnes of chalk (156,214 cubic metres x 2.2 tonnes per cubic metre) and the importation of 1,149,000 tonnes (633,333 cubic metres x 1.8 tonnes per cubic metre) of clean inert waste/soils and clays and the importation of approximately 31,000 tonnes of top soil (21,000 cubic metres x 1.4 tonnes per cubic metre) with the continuation of ancillary recycling operations until 31st December 2028 at Butser Hill Lime Works, GU31 5SP. A series of questions and answers between the Parish Council and the case officer for this application have been exchanged. Our comments and concerns were submitted. Application in Progress

SDNP/20/04434/TEL Butser Hill Radio Station New duct down Butser Hill. Application refused and Prior approval required

SDNP/20/03764/HOUS Toads Alley South Lane Buriton Petersfield GU31 5RU Gazebo to the side of the house. Application approved

SDNP/20/03906/HOUS The Old Rectory High Street Buriton Petersfield GU31 5RX New railings along South Lane. Application in Progress

SDNP/20/04119/ADV TJ Butser Quarry – Erection of a sign at the entrance to Quarry. Application in Progress

SDNP/20/04252/HOUS Rock Cottage Bones Lane Buriton Petersfield Hampshire GU31 5SE. Application in Progress

SDNP/20/04589/LIS – Arbour to side of dwelling, Rock Cottage, Bones Lane, Buriton. Application in Progress

SDNP/20/04443/PRE – Pre-application consultation by SDNPA about the erection of ten residential dwellings with the associated access, parking and landscaping, on land at Greenway Lane, Buriton (site approved in South Downs Local Plan). In Progress

SDNP/20/04548/HOUS – Garden shed, 2 Monks Walk, North Lane, Buriton GU31 5RT Application in Progress

Parking Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Consultation by South Downs National Park Authority: This was discussed at the meeting and subsequently a response was drawn up and sent.

The following applications are registered and will be discussed at our meeting planned for the 14th December:

SDNP/20/04994/HOUS. New log stores at the Old Rectory High street

SDNP/20/04680/HOUS. 1 Monks Walk. Retrospective permission for a shed plus permission for a greenhouse.

SDNP/20/05029/FUL. Conversion of The Village Inn from Public House to Domestic Dwelling.

The attention of the Planning Committee has been drawn to the deteriorating condition of 'Haven Barn' (the cartshed garages building alongside Monks Walk) where asbestos tiles are sliding off the roof and ancient timber beams inside the listed building are getting increasingly damp. It is understood that St Mary's church has reported this situation to the Conservation Officer at EHDC.

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The occupants of Monks Walk have yet to agree any sort of payment to the Parish Council for the refuse bin collection arrangements which was a specific condition in the approval of planning permission for the dwellings. The Committee will seek to meet with the occupants as soon as Covid regulations allow.

Maggie Johnston

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Trees, Pollinators and Biodiversity Report to Parish Council meeting (30 November 2020)

Proposals to plant a number of trees in the parish have been discussed at previous Parish Council meetings and a start made with the new planting on the recreation ground during the lockdown.

It has also been reported that the parish has been selected to be a pilot area for a County Council 'Parish Pollinator Project' (to explore low cost actions to improve the local environment for pollinating species alongside increasing general awareness about pollinator issues to help people take action locally to make a difference) and that Steve Peach, Land Management Officer in HCC's Countryside Service Department, visited the village in September to discuss ideas.

A range of ideas to help wildlife and to involve the local community were discussed at the Parish Council meeting in September with opportunities to extend the initiative beyond pollinators into something to promote greater awareness and understanding of nature more widely and to connect with other important issues such as climate change, health & wellbeing and changing other behaviours (such as reducing littering, dog fouling etc) also noted.

Mr Peach has subsequently confirmed that the funding to support the County's project has now been approved but that his role within HCC has changed and so there could be further delays whilst it is decided who else will lead the work.

In his latest message Mr Peach explains that the County Council has decided to re-launch the Parish Pollinator Project in January with a dedicated web-page aimed at supporting the pilot parishes. It is hoped that this will be completed in December so that people can view it before the official launch. He adds that Rangers at the QE Country Park are also happy to be involved in the Buriton project.

The ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic (and the other delays to the official launch of this HCC project) have meant that it has not yet been possible to engage the community but the following actions have been undertaken recently, working towards a launch of the initiative in the new year:

- discussions have taken place with the owners of the Manor Barn to explore the idea of hosting a 'launch event' there in spring 2021 – with stalls and advice etc from a range of wildlife groups and maps of the parish to help parishioners consider opportunities etc. No date has been identified but there is enthusiasm for the principle
- Councillor Mocatta has agreed to help with the issue of mowing contracts on land owned by HCC and EHDC – with an opportunity to reduce the number of cuts per year (not to cease cutting altogether) for the greater benefit of wildlife. This could include the significant grassed areas in Heatherfield and at each end of Sumner Road
- Councillor Mocatta has also explained that other roadside grass verges form part of the highway and are, therefore, HCC land. EHDC cuts these verges on behalf of HCC through an agency agreement which sets the minimum number of times the verges need to be cut each year. It is not yet clear how long the current contracts / agency arrangements last or how easily it will be to adjust (reduce) the number of cuts per year but it is hoped that the HCC Pollinator Project will help in this matter
- The Parish Council's Tree Warden (Matt Marriott) suggests planting three more trees on the recreation ground: one sited 15 metres west from the north-west corner of the tennis courts (this would not interfere with tennis or football) and two along the boundary with Kiln Lane between the existing beech and apple trees. He suggests that it would be good to get some different (native) species, perhaps with autumn colour, and an oak
- An article has been submitted for the winter edition of the Parish Magazine and is attached as an Appendix to this report.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors are asked to consider the suggestion of planting three more trees on the Recreation Ground (as outlined above) and to agree that plans to launch the local pollinator project in spring 2021 should continue to be made, including making contact with local farmers and schools.

Appendix: text of article for Winter edition of Parish Magazine

Helping nature help us: a new project for Buriton

Buriton has been selected as one of only six parishes in Hampshire to take part in a pilot programme to help improve conditions for important pollinators – and it is hoped that lots of people will want to take part.

Small creatures such as bees, butterflies, moths and beetles are vital for flowers, crops and food production. Some experts say that one in every three mouthfuls of food that we eat depends on them.

But Government reports show a loss of over half of bees, butterflies and moths over the last 50 years. Human activity is changing nature at a rate never seen before and Britain is becoming one of the most nature-depleted countries in the whole world.

The County Council project is intended to increase awareness and participation in villages like Buriton – and to begin to improve and connect local green spaces across Hampshire to help pollinators and other creatures.

Turning the tide could begin here!

The project offers the potential to involve the village school, St Mary's church, local farmers, roadside verges and residential gardens as well as Parish Council land and the existing Nature Reserves. Each part of the village might wish to think about how their area could help.

It may be possible to plant some more native trees or shrubs, to build bug hotels, to reduce grass mowing and to increase areas of wildflowers. Simply mowing some parts of grassed areas less frequently and thinking carefully about when not to cut vegetation back can probably help to create corridors for wildlife through the village to connect to the wider countryside.

And everyone can get a buzz out of wildlife-friendly gardening – excuse the pun!

The Parish Council has already made a start by planting a new copse of trees on the recreation ground during the first coronavirus lockdown and it will also be considering how to manage its land to enhance nature.

It also welcomes ideas from residents and hopes that lots of parishioners will be keen to join in the project. If you would like to take part in any way, please contact Doug Jones (01730 231326 / doug.pam@btinternet.com) or anyone else on the Parish Council.

There could be opportunities to extend the initiative beyond pollinators into something to promote greater awareness and understanding of nature more widely and to connect with other important issues such as climate change, healthy living and changing anti-social behaviours such as littering and dog fouling. All suggestions and ideas are welcomed ...

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