



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

**Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council held via Zoom, at 7:30pm
on Monday 25th January 2021**

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 3 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 2020 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 meeting held on 30th November 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 30th November 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: all work successfully completed
- BT connection to the church: on the agenda.
- 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. Clerk to chase. **Action:** Clerk
- Staging stored in the village hall: not yet considered by the Hall Committee
- Proposals from Buriton School for School Meadow – no details have been received

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

- Defibrillator – it is now installed in a temporary location, Kiln Lane, whilst the High Street site is resolved with East Hampshire District Council. The defibrillator team is due to liaise with Cllr Jones.
- Halls Hill Car Park: 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 a quote has been provided from Disking and the Clerk is in contact with them.
- Councillor Crew is contacting contractors for annual playground inspections. **Action:** Councillor Crew.
- Village Hall Car Park –The work to the remaining pot holes still outstanding. **Action:** Cllr Crew
- The problems with the bin collections in South Lane have been resolved.
- Replacement screen in village hall – purchased and fitted.
- 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. A quote has been received by the Clerk and will be forwarded. **Action:** Cllr Crew and Clerk.
- Planting of more trees in the recreation ground approved and is in hand.
- 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.
- Commemorative Bench – all costs have been covered by donations and grants. The seat back is expected to be received this week and will be fitted. There have been some issues with the roundel some repairs are needed when the weather allows. There has been positive feedback received for the bench.
- Co-option – interviews were held before this meeting.
- Precept for 2021/22 of £20,948 has been submitted to East Hampshire District Council for processing.
- A reply has been received from Hampshire County Council about the cutting back of vegetation on Rights of Way – “Footpath 14 and the section of path 15 which heads north from footpath 14 were both inspected in October and any sections cut back that required it. Unfortunately we do not have any resources to be able to cut these routes more than once a year. I will however get our Community Engagement Ranger to inspect the routes and if further works are required they will be able to organise volunteers to cut the routes”. A discussion was held about the condition of footpath 14 as the route is disappearing because of the overgrowing vegetation, it was agreed to contact Hampshire County Council. **Action:** Clerk
- Details of the work of the Lengthsmen had been obtained and circulated.
- The individual interested in the Village Inn was contacted and advised that the owners would be pleased to discuss with him if he would like to contact them.
- Reply was received from the Fish & Chip vendor answering all the questions that had been posed.

5. 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:

- The Parish Council is working in coordination with St Mary’s church, Neighbourcare Buriton and the Five Bells for the current lockdown, the group is still focusing on loneliness through the winter months.
- The Council also posts up-to-date information onto the special Covid pages of the community website and contributes to regular update emails

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

- The Chairman thanked Patrick and Sarah Figgis for making The Barn available for the community to meet on a Friday morning for tea and something to eat. This proved very successful prior to the lockdown with all proceeds going to charity.
- Peter Gray's pop-up shop in Glebe Road is proving very helpful and stops the need to travel for provisions.
- Residents are being encouraged to send their thanks to NHS staff.
- The Village Hall has been offered for the vaccination programme.
- There have been reports of fly tipping and inconsiderate parking but EHDC have acted swiftly. With more visitors coming to the village there has been more littering. Cllrs agreed to obtain some posters to display in the village hall and pond car parks to remind people about social distancing. **Action:** Cllr Jones.

Open Forum

A parishioner raised the issue of parking in New Barn Lane. Following the issues with inconsiderate parking on Halls Hill and Dean Barn Lane the logs that were placed on the verges there have had the desired effect but vehicles are now occasionally parking on the verges in New Barn Lane, in particular two places which may need to be used as passing bays. The parishioner has forwarded email exchanges, a video clip showing an occasion when a vehicle needed to reverse and photographs relating to the issue from two days in December. Concerns about access for emergency vehicles were also raised. The parishioner quoted the Highway Code in particular paragraphs 155 and 156 about not parking in passing spaces. The parishioner also said the manager from Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Tim Speller, had agreed to erect no parking signs at Halls Hill in the past but these were not now required because of the installation of the logs. The parishioner said that she had agreed with Councillor Mocatta that these signs would be erected in the two places on the verge in New Barn Lane.

The parishioner also confirmed that there was an electricity supply to Halls Hill Car Park which could be used for number-plate recognition and that they would be happy to meet and show where this was. Tim Speller has confirmed that the reconnection would be expensive.

The Chairman thanked the parishioner for their contribution and confirmed that all the information provided had been received and circulated. He also thanked Cllr Mocatta and Tim Speller for their time spent on this matter amongst so many pressing priorities at this time.

6. County and District Councillor's Reports

County and District Cllr Mocatta informed the meeting that he had spoken to Tim Speller about the issue that the parishioner had raised and that vehicle recognition was not financially viable. He will ask Highways to erect the no parking signs in the two places on New Barn Lane but explained that these would not have any legal backing and there would be no enforcement. It was hoped that these would not lead to more signs in other places.

Cllr Mocatta also stated:

- Hampshire County Council has asked for contributions for the Local Transport Plan and encouraged the Parish Council to participate some of the issues will be speed limits and alternative routes.
- BOATS – in relation to an item later on the agenda, and due to the deteriorating condition of the many BOATS in the East Hampshire area by the use of motorised vehicles he is proposing a motion to the SDNPA to investigate and take legal advice about changing BOATS to Restricted Byways or introducing Traffic Regulation Orders. The Chairmen of East Meon and Langrish Parish Councils will be talking about the impact of motorised vehicles on the BOATS in their respective areas. Cllr Mocatta asked the Parish Council to gather evidence on the condition of BOATS in the area including the reluctance of other

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

users of enjoying the BOATS in case they meet a motorised vehicle. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this motion and provide evidence. **Action:** Chairman and all Councillors.

7. Finance and Accounts

- Councillors received and approved the Receipts & Payments for the Parish Council account to 19th January 2021. The Chairman will sign when able to do so. There were three receipts totalling £847.22 and ten payments totalling £4,661.93 for the Parish Council account. **Action:** Chairman.
- Councillors received and approved the Receipts & Payments for the Village Hall account to 19th January 2021. The Chairman will sign when able to do so. There were nine receipts totalling £2,707.50 and fourteen payments totalling £1,555.32 for the Village Hall account. **Action:** Chairman.
- Councillors approved the reserves. It was noted that the Commemorative Bench is now at £0. The free balance was approximately equal to one year's precept as encouraged as good practice.
- Councillors received and reviewed the performance against budget. There appears to be an issue with the £10,000 grant for the Village Hall which is showing in the budget for the Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk
- Ladywell, who supply the payroll services, have given notice. Alternatives were discussed and it was agreed to approach other parish councils to see who they use and Petersfield Town Council. **Action:** Clerk

8. 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 childminding service is currently on hold
- A further grant has been received from East Hampshire District Council.
- All servicing is up-to-date
- Due to Covid there has been no progress with the project to replace the doors and windows etc.

Network Rail Car Park Request

The school have been informed of this use of the top end of the car park and will advise parents nearer the time. There was an issue with access to the line but this has been clarified in communication received today. Cllrs approved this use of the car park and the Chairman will sign the licence. **Action:** Chairman

Tennis Club – Changing Rooms

Following discussions with the Tennis Club to hire the changing rooms they have suggested that they use the lockable half of the changing rooms which includes a toilet on a lease for five years at £300pa, increased by RPI, or they just have the use of the toilet. Cllrs discussed the proposal and decided that the changing rooms are a real asset and careful consideration must be given for their use. The long term goal is to hire that changing rooms at a market rate. Cllrs agreed to a year's hire for all the changing rooms from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 at £300pa plus the electric use and that the Tennis Club will be responsible for the cleaning and any maintenance costs. Cllr Johnston agreed to produce a proposal to circulate to all Cllrs. **Action:** Cllr Johnston.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

The pond car park

St Mary's church is now seeking a branch, across the Parish Council's car park, from the new BT supply to Monks Walk and BT had proposed a route and a one-off Wayleave payment of £150 to the Council. It was felt that the proposed route for the underground ducting, whilst being inside the car park area, would be very close to the kerbing which forms the edge of the tarmac in front of the church. It was agreed that the route should be at least 2 metres inside the car park so that the kerbing should not get damaged either during the works or gradually afterwards.

Cricket Square Water

Due to the administrative cost of £75 + VAT to have the water supply to the cricket square cut off Cllrs agreed not to do this. **Action:** Clerk

9. Planning

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

- Haven Barn: a reply was received following a letter sent voicing our concerns on the condition of the roof, a temporary repair has been completed

Buster Lime Works

A very constructive meeting was held over Zoom with the Director of TJ Quarries, John Palmer and Sabrina Robinson from the SDNPA. If permission is granted a liaison group will be formed which the parish council will be invited to join. Issues were raised about retaining the old lime kilns and the shared use of the access road with pedestrians, cyclists and the increase in use by heavy lorries. The access road is the responsibility of Highways England and not Hampshire Highways. Cllr Mocatta agreed to contact Highways England about the issue.

Proposals for Ten Dwellings on Land at Greenway Lane – this is still at the pre-application stage. A meeting was held with the agents on 22nd January 2021 which included a briefing on the responses from the consultation. The main issues were a path along Greenway Lane to the railway bridge (the agents had said that this was not an option as the landowner had said that all the land required was in farming use) and a possibility of further development in the adjoining field in the future (the agents had stated that this land was a field outside the settlement boundaries). A preferred layout option had been developed which is likely to go to a full planning application. The agents had stated that they are willing to attend future a Parish Council meeting or a meeting of the Planning Committee. Councillors asked that the Chairman should contact the landowner to check about the potential new path. It was felt that it would be a great shame if this safety issue could not be included. **Action:** Chairman.

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

This application is on-going.

10. Trees, Pollinators and Biodiversity

Cllr Jones presented a report, attached to these minutes, which included:

- HCC's pilot Pollinator schemes cannot yet start due to the current Covid situation.
- There has been a positive response to the project from farmers, parishioners and other partners although the schools felt unable to take part at this time
- Matt Marriott raised over £100 in his 'New Trees for Old' initiative where he provided a shredding facility for Christmas trees. The Chairman thanked Matt.
- More trees have been purchased for the recreation ground.
- Cllr Crew reported that he has been looking, with Matt, to have a small finger of land from Kiln Lane towards the tennis courts of unmown grass and trees. This would help soak up water on the recreation ground but thought must still be given to the fact that this is still an

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

open space. Cllrs agreed to this idea and Cllr Crew will develop details with Matt Marriott. **Action:** Cllr Crew. Cllr Coates also suggested that other 'natural play' features could be added, for example, muddy puddles which are successful in other areas. **Action:** Cllr Coates to provide additional information.

11. Rights of Way Report

A report, attached to these minutes, summarised issues with BOATs over many years and recent developments including that official signs and barriers, intended to prevent motorised use on BOAT 47, had been removed without permission. It was felt that recent Covid pressures had brought long-standing issues relating to BOATs to the fore again. The issues with BOATs was also covered by Cllr Mocatta and Cllrs agreed to make a submission of support to the SDNPA about removing motorised vehicles from BOATs 18, 19 and 47 as part of a package with nearby parishes.

12. Work for the Lengthsman

Information has been received on the work carried out by the Lengthsman this year. It was agreed to ask them to sweep the leaves from the footpath along the High Street. **Action:** Clerk. A discussion was held about whether to ask the Lengthsman to straighten the tree by the Village Inn which has been hit by a car. It was decided to ask Matt Marriott for his opinion first. **Action:** Chairman.

13. Correspondence

Most items of correspondence were covered on the agenda (list attached to these minutes), the other items were:

- We were copied in to a letter to Hampshire County Council asking for more signage on the Hangers Way but we have not seen a response.
- We received a request from Buriton's Village Design Statement Group asking if we would hold their funds as their current provider was closing the account. A reply was sent stating that we were unable to hold funds for a third party due to audit implications.
- Hampshire County Council's Local Transport Plan – All Cllrs to look at this and contribute for discussion at the Planning Committee. **Action:** All

14. Date of next meeting

- The next meeting of Buriton Parish Council is at 7:00pm on Monday 29th March 2021 – probably via Zoom unless national advice changes.

At the conclusion of business the meeting ended at 9.37pm.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Coronavirus – Chairman’s Update Report (January 2021)

For a short period of time, following the end of the country’s second ‘lockdown’ on 4th December, the parish was in a Tier 2 area but this changed later in the month with Tier 4 regulations being imposed from 26th December before the third national lockdown commenced from 5th January.

The Parish Council has endeavoured to keep track of all the changing implications for its facilities (including the village hall and playground) as well as continuing to help coordinate arrangements in the community with St Mary’s Church, the Five Bells and Neighbourcare Buriton. As well as access to food and other important supplies, thought has also been given to the wellbeing of vulnerable parishioners to try to minimise loneliness, isolation and depression during the dark winter months.

Although Councillors have not been able to meet with many other people over the last two months, outcomes have included:

- for a short period of time in December, thanks to the generosity of Patrick and Sarah Figgis, the Manor Barn was available on Fridays (10am - 4pm) as a place for residents to go and have a hot drink, a slice of cake, a bowl of soup and a chat. Fridays were chosen so that people could dovetail their visits with their use of the Post Office in the Church. Covid-secure measures, track and trace and other social distancing procedures operated (in accordance with Government guidelines) as well as all other regulatory requirements. Donations went to local charities
- promoting Peter Gray’s pop-up shop in Glebe Road so as to help villagers avoid travelling to shops or supermarkets (or going less often). Public Health England has suggested that supermarkets are amongst the most common places where people catch Coronavirus
- promoting the Five Bells which is also able to help with supplies, in addition to providing regular evening takeaway meals and hot lunches
- Neighbourcare continues to operate, supporting their client base with extra help for anyone who is on the Government’s ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ list
- help with repeat prescriptions
- retention of the weekly Post Office visit in the Seward Room (Fridays 9.30-11.30)
- St Mary’s church continues to hold services (although booking is essential and services can be joined remotely via Zoom) as well as being available as a place for private prayer
- occasional Zoom Quizzes hosted by the Five Bells
- encouraging parishioners to produce supportive ‘still thinking of you’ messages to boost the morale of hard working NHS staff who are under immense strain in all hospital wards/units.

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).

Details of a number of fraudulent scams relating to Coronavirus testing and vaccination roll-out have also been drawn to the attention of parishioners to try to prevent anyone from falling victim. Other advice, including help available for people to keep warm in their homes (so that they do not become more vulnerable to Covid) has also been circulated.

On 5th January we were swift to offer any help possible to our MP Damian Hinds to assist with an efficient roll-out of the vaccination programme, including use of the village hall. He replied the next day to say thank you and to explain that he will keep our offer in mind during the regular briefings that he has with the local NHS and primary care teams but, to date, we have not heard any more.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

The latest periods of lockdown period have, 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. Action has been taken in connection with some anti-social parking and occasional instances of fly-tipping have been swiftly cleared by EHDC. Extra littering has, however, been reported from different parts of the parish.

In spite of the ongoing restrictions 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 previous Minutes.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Village Hall and Recreation Report for PC Meeting: 25 January 2021

This report provides updates on a number of matters since the last meeting of the Council:

- The hall had reopened for bookings in the period following the end of the second 'lockdown' on 4th December when the parish was covered by Tier 2 regulations but circumstances changed again later in the month with Tier 4 regulations being imposed from 26th December before the third national lockdown commenced from 5th January. The hall has, therefore often been closed to all users (except Buriton Primary School who have permitted usage) and it is not now anticipated that the hall will be available for use again until March at the earliest
- Our Hall Manager, Steve Franks, has continued to do an excellent job in these challenging circumstances including liaising with all prospective users, inspecting Risk Assessments when the hall has been available for bookings, ensuring that the hall remains Covid-compliant, obtaining bookings from new customers and arranging for repairs, regular maintenance and servicing
- New bookings obtained included a two-hour Lifestyle dance class aimed at under 5s for two hours every Monday morning, Art History classes for ten weeks on Thursday mornings, three hours of music practice in the upper hall every other Friday and interest from a Taekwondo club. Aspire Coaching had booked for three days at half-term
- The 'Buriton Ducklings' child-minding successfully obtained its Ofsted Certificate and was planning to commence on 4th January at the rates / terms previously discussed and agreed by the Parish Council. The organisers have, however, understandably decided to defer the opening date due to the ongoing Covid situation. Ref's toilet keys have been returned by the Tennis Club
- With the Covid regulations preventing bookings from taking place, efforts continue to be made to obtain appropriate grant funding to compensate for the significant loss of income. In response to an application made in late November £1,334 was received and we have subsequently received £667 to help during the Tier 4 period. It is hoped that further money will be available in relation to the current national lockdown period
- Figures from the Hall Manager suggest that, due to the success in obtaining grant funding in addition to the levels of bookings whenever the hall has been able to be used, it may yet be possible to meet the budgetary target for 2020/21
- There are no bad debtors
- Inspections and cleaning activities have continued as well as regular maintenance and servicing. All servicing is up to date with the fire extinguishers and boiler being serviced in December. Lights in a storeroom and by the fire exit stairs have been replaced and the new projector screen has been delivered and fitted. The hall manager is also exploring the provision of internet access
- There has been a problem with the gas meter which was initially reported to British Gas on 14th October. A photograph of the meter was requested and sent on 9th November. Nothing more was heard and so the Hall Manager chased the situation on 8th December, re-sending the photo. It was thought that the matter would be resolved on 29th December when the Hall Manager met an engineer who was due to replace it but, unfortunately, the meter serial number provided to him by British Gas was not correct and he could not do any work. This was reported back to British Gas / Centrica on the same day and the meter is (again) due to be replaced: now due on 27th January. The meter is not currently recording gas usage. With the hall rarely (if ever) in use, gas usage will have been very low and the standing charges have been paid as normal
- New contracts for gas and electricity supplies have commenced following a comparison of quotes obtained by the Hall Manager prior to the previous contracts reaching the ends of their terms. The previous contracts were both with British Gas (electricity was charged at 15.32p per unit for daytime weekdays and 13.18p for weekend/evenings with a standing

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

charge of £26.91p. Gas was 4.8p per unit with no standing charge). As anticipated, there were no deals available which were as cheap to renew but the cheapest options which also had good low-carbon energy credentials were selected: gas continues to be supplied by British Gas with rates of 3.265p/unit and a standing charge of £74.15 on a 3-year deal; electricity is now supplied by EDF with charges of 15.996/unit for daytime weekdays and 14.34p/unit for weekend/evenings with a standing charge of £23.25 (also a 3-year deal)

- The ongoing Covid restrictions have prevented any further work on the project which is exploring the replacement of windows, doors, soffits etc (and is also considering work to the roof and rear staircase) and it has not yet been possible to re-arrange visits by prospective contractors which were anticipated during November. Assistance from Andy van den Broeke continues and it may be possible to circulate updates separately as / when available
- Repairs to remaining pot-holes in the village hall car park have also yet to be addressed
- Observations suggest that usage of the playground since continues satisfactorily with Covid guidelines being displayed. Under national lockdown conditions outdoor playgrounds can remain open but users must adhere to all the appropriate rules
- A potentially dangerous gap in part of Network Rail's fencing along the edge of the village Recreation Ground was reported on 26th December (it appeared to have been crushed down by people accessing the track) as it might have enabled children and others to climb over it and onto the track. Network Rail responded to the incident (ref 201227-000013) on 29th December and carried out remedial work to fix the fence.

Network Rail use of the village hall car park

As agreed at the last meeting, Network Rail plan to use part of the car park for three weeks in 2021: Monday 8th March to Friday 19th March and Monday 3rd May 2021 to Friday 7th May. Updates since the last meeting include:

- we have informed the school (explaining that this will mean a reduction in car park capacity and that we had explored whether Network Rail could adjust the dates to fit into the school holidays) and the school has replied, thanking us for the advance notice, appreciating that the inconvenience is unavoidable and saying that they will advise parents closer to the time
- it has been clarified that no vehicles will need to travel over the Recreation Ground (either to get to / from the compound area in the car park or to get to / from the railway tracks)
- an illustrative image showing the approximate location for the fenced compound has been received but the exact position of temporary demarcation fencing within the car park will be carefully discussed with Parish Council representatives at the outset
- photographs of the condition of the car park, cycle parking barrier etc will be taken prior to commencement of any works by NR or their contractors
- the clearing of "vegetation and fencing off the working area adjacent to the railway line" has been queried as (a) in the period of time since the foot crossing over the railway line was closed, the Parish Council has been keen to try to ensure that no-one (particularly children) attempts to gain access to the railway line from this corner of the Recreation Ground and (b) this corner forms part of a wild area being provided for nature.

In particular, in regard to this issue, it has been pointed out to Network Rail that:

- in addition to the Network Rail fencing, an additional fence (previously a secondary gate) has been retained by the Parish Council as an extra barrier to discourage access by children
- creating "a walking path wide enough to access the trackside" sounds as though there could be a risk that the work may create a tempting path for children who may be hidden from view
- this path would be available from the commencement of works on Monday 8th March all the way through to the end of the second visit (Friday 7th May) and, potentially, thereafter

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

- with the safety of local children in mind, there should be no access except for NR workers along this path at any time (which may require the installation of secure temporary fencing in this corner of the Recreation Ground)
- at the completion of the works, the Parish Council's secondary fencing (including the secondary gate) should be fully restored to provide a safe and secure secondary barrier – and also that the new 'walking path' should be eradicated by the planting of new (native) vegetation. As there is no walking path at present, the Parish Council would not want there to be one in the future because of the temptation risks to local children.

Potential usage of the Changing Rooms by Buriton Tennis Club

Since the discussion and decisions about this matter at the last meeting there has been some further correspondence:

- Initially, 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) with the Parish Council also paying the electricity standing charge and the Club being charged for units used. Cleaning would need to be undertaken by the Club. The Club had replied asking for the fee to be reduced to a peppercorn rent
- At the last meeting it was agreed that a special rate of £500 could be offered to the Club for the period January – December 2021 (with the same conditions as previously quoted) but thereafter the Parish Council reserved the right to revert to the alternative charging levels. It was pointed out that this was, in effect, a cost of £2.70 for each member of the Club for the entire year and it was hoped that this would make it possible for the Club to trial the arrangements for 2021. If the Club chose, instead, to use the changing rooms toilets for league matches, there would be a charge of £35 on each occasion
- The Club replied on 14th December explaining that (a) the Club did not wish to increase its fees for members as they aim to keep tennis affordable for all and (b) they had not applied for any grant funding as that could be used in more deprived areas
- The reply also explained that, without taking the proposal of £500pa back to the full tennis club committee it would not be possible to commit to that amount until the cost for cleaning had also been obtained. It was suggested that, once the Club had had the opportunity to investigate the total cost involved it might be best to hold a small meeting (either socially distanced or on Zoom) to discuss a satisfactory conclusion that is mutually beneficial to all – rather than using email conversations in which it is easy for the tone of a conversation to be misunderstood. The importance of the Council being able to rent the facility out in order to raise funds was understood and the Club said that they would consider renting only half of the space (a lockable part with a toilet) if that suited the Parish Council

No further correspondence has been received from the Club and any update can be reported at the meeting. In the meantime, no tennis matches can be played because of the Covid restrictions which are likely to extend for at least the next few weeks. Councillors may wish to discuss other longer term options for the use of the changing rooms before considering any arrangement with the Tennis Club beyond 2021 – and may wish to allow new Parish Councillors the opportunity to take part in any such deliberations.

The pond / church car park

- The long-running request for BT Openreach to install a phone line to Monks Walk has been satisfactorily concluded with the Parish Council persuading all other parties to avoid the proposal for poles and overhead wires around the back of the pond and / or digging trenches through the tarmac apron area in front of the church. This line is now believed to be fully operational
- St Mary's church is now seeking a branch from this supply, across the Parish Council's car park, and the Council has recently been approached by BT to agree a suitable route and

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sign an appropriate Wayleave. The Wayleave would include a one-off payment of £150 to the Council

- The proposed route for the underground ducting, whilst being inside the car park area, appears to be very close to the kerbing which forms the edge of the tarmac apron in front of the church. A reply has been sent to BT requiring that the route should be at least 2 metres inside the car park so that the kerbing should not get damaged either during the works or gradually afterwards. It is understood that St Mary's church will be making the arrangement for the trench to be dug and ducting laid, rather than BT.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning Report 25th January 2021

To be read in conjunction with the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of the 14th December 2020.

Update on current planning matters

SDNP/20/00994/REM - New House at Cobwebs, North Lane. Application Approved

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. See below for further update.

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

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

Application Withdrawn

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

Application Approved

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

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 See below for further update

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

Application in Progress

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

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

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

Application in Progress

SDNP/20/04997/TCA. Land adjacent to Buriton Pond. Reduce height and width of willow tree.

Application Approved

SDNP/20/05227/HOUS. 14 Petersfield Road, 2/1 storey rear extension and front porch. Decision Pending

An update on the Butser Quarry proposal (SDNP/20/01535/FUL): Feedback from meeting with SDNPA, the applicant (TJ) and his consultant (SLR): 20 January 2021

SDNPA had arranged the meeting so that the Parish Council could summarise remaining issues of concern. Cllrs Johnston, Jones and Stevens attended, thanked SDNPA for this opportunity and explained that quite a lot of interest was being taken in the application as there is the potential for quite a wide range of effects on the parish: both the place and the people. Comments were being based on the premise that this application will bring an end (in 2028) to any quarrying or waste disposal in the quarry area, with some disadvantages for up to 8 years but some benefits thereafter.

Parish Councillors reiterated that there are some huge opportunities to be grasped in terms of the landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage, recreation and learning and that it was good to see more detailed thought had been given to a number of these matters in recent weeks.

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We raised six main issues:

1. Worries about the (relatively new) 'shared use' cycle and pedestrian route between Greenway Lane and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park which uses the same access as all the big lorries travelling to and from the quarry site. This route is part of a National Cycle Route and the proposals could bring conflicts and increase existing dangers. We asked for two lots of safe segregation: (firstly) to keep all the heavy lorries away from all the vulnerable walkers and cyclists and (secondly) separating walkers from cyclists as there are already some dangerous conflicts. The consultant explained that this would need to be done by a Section 278 agreement (if identified in a safety audit) as this road was the responsibility of Highways England, not HCC. We have asked for our concerns to be passed on to Highways England

2. We queried the proposal to provide some parking facilities in the site, suggesting that it may be better to limit car parking to the nearby QECP site which is well monitored and regulated. Any access for new parking areas could continue the safety risks on the 'shared use' cycle and pedestrian route and encourage fly-parking along the access road. We recommended that this issue should be thoroughly discussed with HCC

3. We asked about proposals for the future ownership and long-term management of the site. John Gosling (TJ) explained that they had discussed this at Board Level and were minded to transfer ownership once they were confident that they had finished all their responsibilities properly and that there were no problems. No dates or finances were mentioned but the impression given was that this might be around 2030

4. We welcomed the proposals to provide some interpretation about the heritage of the site and offered to help with materials from the local history 'Heritage Bank' project. This was noted

5. We said that we had seen that the proposals now retain the rare historic Lime Kilns but we asked to understand a bit more about what 'retained' really means as we wouldn't want them to gradually fall down over the next 10-20 years. We said that we felt that the planning permission needs to have a clear Condition saying that the kilns need to be protected and preserved as set out in Policy 7 of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan. Both TJ and SLR saw retention of the kilns (or, at least, parts of them) as an important heritage focal point for future interpretation and SDNPA appear to be proposing a carefully worded Planning Condition.

6. We said that we look forward to working together, should the application be permitted, as part of an ongoing Liaison Group (to help during the final operational period and also with the restoration and aftercare phases) and asked about "funding for local benefits" which are mentioned in planning policies. SDNPA said that they would explore ways of seeking funding

We have also asked SDNPA to check whether there are any other 'extant' planning permissions (or extraction licenses) for any of the land surrounding or south of this current site which is in different ownerships.

Emerging proposals on the proposed development on Greenway Lane.

Cllrs Ashcroft, Johnston, Jones and Stevens attended a "Teams" presentation hosted by BECG. The main points from the meeting are as follows:

The virtual exhibition (30 Nov – 21 Dec) had been viewed by 331 different people with 23 responses:

- 48% supported or strongly supported the proposals (11 responses)
- 35% objected or strongly objected (8 responses)
- 17% were neutral / non-committal (4 responses)

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Comments were mainly about: support for affordable houses; comments about design and materials; impact of traffic / site access; requests for footpath along Greenway Lane to rail bridge; wildlife / vegetation; dark skies; proximity to houses in Glebe Road.

Views of the Parish Council and SDNPA planners had also been received.

Changes to initial proposals were mainly: increased buffer zone between houses and fields to the north; increased distance between new houses and existing homes in Glebe Road; replacing timber fencing with masonry walls; removal of flat green roof proposals (except on garages/sheds); all houses will have 2 parking spaces (three will also have a garage) with 4 other parking spaces for visitors; road layouts will be rustic (not imposing).

They were not proposing to include the footpath (inside the field margins between the site and the railway bridge) because, having asked the landowner about it, they had been told that the land was not available because it is part of a working farm.

The layout was not preventing future access into the field to the north. They said that there were no plans for any more houses in those fields (not currently in the Settlement Policy Boundary). They said that changing the layout to prevent future access northwards was likely to result in a worse view of the new development when entering the village.

Main points raised by Parish Councillors included: the strong desire for the (omitted) path to be provided for safety reasons; the failure of the layout to prevent future access into the fields beyond; the importance of ample numbers of car parking spaces; designs and materials should reflect local styles; new homes should be cheap to run (discrete PV solar etc); highways elements should be low-key, not over-engineered etc; drainage was important close to Glebe Road; adverse effects on water supplies (pressures) should be avoided; planting, landscaping etc should be native species. The consultants agreed to send details of the survey responses and information about water supplies.

Their next steps were to finish taking comments on board into design plans and then to submit a planning application in February. They would be willing to attend any Parish Council meeting.

The following Planning Applications are for discussion at our next meeting on the 1st February 2021:

SDNP/20/05702/HOUS and SDNP/20/05703/LIS Rock Cottage Sussex Road Nursted Petersfield GU31 5RD. Single storey extension to two sides

SDNP/20/05562/HOUS and SDNP/20/05563/LIS 10 High Street Buriton. Single storey rear extension and replace front door and windows.

SDNP/20/05721/HOUS Weston Farmhouse, Weston Lane single storey rear extension

Maggie Johnston

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Trees, Pollinators and Biodiversity Report to Parish Council meeting (25 January 2021)

Hampshire County Council continues to experience delays in launching the Pollinator Project for which this parish has been selected as one of six Pilot Parishes: 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. These ongoing delays mean that none of the Pilots can start work but some actions have taken place here since the last meeting:

- an article was included in the winter edition of the Parish Magazine to inform the community about the forthcoming initiative and to encourage participation
- contact has been made with schools, local farmers and other potential partners
- arrangements are in hand to obtain and plant the new trees agreed at the last meeting
- Cllr Mocatta was asked if there was any grant funding from either HCC or EHDC this financial year to help with the purchase and planting of these trees but none is available
- thanks to the generosity of Tree Warden Matt Marriott, £109.25 was raised on Saturday 9th January in a 'New trees for old' event: shredding parishioners' Christmas Trees. It was a popular event and the money is to be added into the small reserve being held for nature projects.

Following agreement at the last meeting, the following trees have been purchased to add to the new planting on the recreation ground which was undertaken during the May 2020 Covid-19 lockdown:

- one Oak tree (£174 excl vat) for the location near the tennis courts
- one Wild Service Tree (£390 excl vat) along the Kiln Lane side of the Recreation Ground
- one Crab Apple (£129 excl vat) also along the Kiln Lane side of the Recreation Ground
- one red Hawthorn (£117 exc vat) at pond green to replace the tree lost there in 2019.

These should help a range of species and ensure a good range of blossom, fruit and autumn colour. Costs total to £810 (excl vat) and Matt Marriott has arranged for the costs of tree ties, stakes, guards, compost etc to be paid for by Sequoia Tree Services. The Parish Council's costs can be paid from remaining funds in our 2020/21 budget (code 4440). A further £1,000 has been allocated for trees in the next financial year but this will have to cover any felling, lopping etc which may be required in the period to March 2022. A further £1,000 has also been allocated in the Council's 2021/22 budget for the pollinator project – but this may be required for a wide range of matters.

Steve Peach (Land Management Officer in HCC's Countryside Service Department) has explained that there may be small amounts of funding from HCC to help with the Pollinator Project but it is meant to be a low-cost initiative (with lots of benefits for pollinators) which any parish anywhere else might subsequently be able to follow, without needing lots of money. He has also said that it may be possible to get some help from some businesses (garden centres, nurseries, B&Q etc.) He was very pleased that, rather than waiting for the official launch of the project, the Parish Council was going to plant the trees referred to above (during the current planting season) and that we plan to adjust our mowing contract for the Recreation Ground to create some areas of longer grass.

It has also been suggested that the Parish Council could consider a finger of trees and uncut grass out into the Recreation Ground across from Kiln Lane towards the tennis courts as (a) a wild life habitat / biodiversity improvement and (b) a device to soak up / hold back surface water run-off. Views of Councillors are sought so that this initiative can be considered for 2021/22.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Peach has also explained that a significant component of the County Council's launch will be a website devoted to the Pilot Parishes where helpful materials can be accessed and emerging plans (and 'pledges' to implement plans) can be shared with the other pilot areas (likely to be Greatham, Hambledon and Liss with possibly West Meon and/or Horndean). In due course the work from the Pilots will be more widely available for other parishes to draw upon.

Once HCC has formally 'launched' the Pollinator project, Mr Peach explains that there will be more leverage with other parts of Hampshire County Council – particularly Highways who cut roadside verges (and own pieces of land in Heatherfield and at Halls Hill etc). He advises us to obtain the support of our County Councillor and to pursue such matters together after the launch. He has also explained that, at that stage, some of the Countryside Rangers (the County Council's Rights of Way team) may be willing to help with ideas, plans etc. He reiterated the idea of plotting potential corridors (designed to help pollinators through the village) onto maps as part of the planning stage.

Mr Peach also welcomes the Parish Council's suggestions of trying 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).

Following the last meeting of the Council, contacts were made with a number of local farmers/landowners and with schools and other potential partners. Responses have been received as follows:

- the owners of the Manor Barn have confirmed, in principle, their willingness to host some sort of Buriton 'event' (subject to whatever restrictions might apply) – with stalls and advice etc from a range of wildlife groups and maps of the parish to help parishioners consider opportunities etc.
- Andrew Bray (Nursted Farm) has explained that uncertainties about the post-EU situation may make it difficult for farmers to commit until agricultural support implications are clearer
- Susan Shone (Bolingie Hill Farm) is very interested in the idea and will explore opportunities of supporting the Buriton initiative as part of joining a Countryside Stewardship Scheme
- Gemma Barnett (Buriton Estates) has responded very positively as she is keen to improve the environment as much as possible for future generations; but she recognises that contractors work most of the land on the estate and their involvement would be necessary
- Oliver Howe (Weston Farm) has explained that the farm's ten-year HLS environment scheme ended in February 2020 but they have applied to enter into a Mid Tier Environment Scheme in 2021. As part of the application they have majored on creating more areas for pollinating insects and butterfly habitats which fits well with the Parish Council's initiative
- Buriton School has explained that they cannot currently dedicate time and effort to this project although, under normal circumstances, they might wish to do so. They say that they will look again at this project once they are in a better position to offer the commitment it deserves
- At the time of writing, no reply had been received from Ditcham Park School
- Tim Speller and Ashlea Walters (QE Country Park) have confirmed that they are always happy to get involved in Buriton projects
- Chris Lickley (South Downs National Park) is supportive of the messages that the Project wishes to convey and has offered to be a point of contact with wider national and regional pollinators projects that the NPA is currently involved with (eg. B-lines and work by the SDNP Trust)

In addition, a group of just over a dozen parishioners have expressed an interest in helping with the initiative following the article printed in the winter edition of the Parish Magazine.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Rights of Way report for PC Meeting: 25th January 2021

The main issues to report at this meeting relate to Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs).

The use of BOATs by motorised traffic has caused problems in this parish for decades with repeated requests being made to HCC to introduce TROs following evidence collected in the Parish Plan and on other occasions. The main BOATs affected are numbers 18, 19 and 47.

Adverse effects have included: danger (and perceived danger) to pedestrians and horse-riders discouraging their use of these routes; damage to the surface of the BOATs and harm to their character and to their amenity; effects on natural beauty and on tranquility.

In December we were informed that Hampshire County Council was introducing a series of 'temporary closures' of BOATs during the winter period to prevent damage to the routes.

BOAT 47 at Ditcham has been included in this package of measures and has been closed from 14th December 2020 to 11th May 2021.

But BOATs 18 and 19 (which are much more useful links in the Rights of Way network and much more popular with potential users) have not been included.

Within days of signage and barriers being put up to mark the closure of BOAT 47 they were torn down and removed. This was reported to HCC who replied to say that they would reinstall them.

At the South Downs National Park Authority's workshop for Parish Councils on 8th December, problems relating to BOATs were raised by a number of Parish Councils including Steep, Langrish and East Meon as well as Buriton. National Park Officers acknowledged that National Park Authorities have powers to introduce traffic regulation orders (TROs) to prohibit the use of BOATs by vehicular traffic but they encouraged Parish Councils to approach HCC for action / attention.

Cllr Johnston has replied to the SDNPA survey about the workshop meeting and made the following comments: "It was very interesting that a number of Parish Councils reported problems about BOATs and this is certainly an issue in Buriton parish as in many parts of East Hampshire. It is hoped that the National Park will be able to help parishes work with Hampshire County Council to tackle this matter in an organised way and not just by piecemeal actions which only shift the problems to other nearby communities."

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Correspondence

Date	Details	Sender
4.12.20	Thanks for donation	Royal British Legion
5.12.20	Greenway Lane Development (copy of letter to SDNPA)	Mick Ayling
10.12.20	Clearance of trees in Widow Knight's Copse	Liz Bissett
10.12.20	Reply confirming acceptability of our CIL Statement	SDNPA
13.12.20	Fish & chips (reply to our questions)	S Findlay
14.12.20	Monks Walk fencing (reply to our message)	SDNPA
14.12.20	Changing rooms (reply to our message)	Tennis Club
15.12.20	Use of car park (reply to our message)	Network Rail
15.12.20	Notification of Temporary Closure of BOAT 47	HCC
16.12.20	Priority cutting list (reply to our message)	HCC
18.12.20	Copy of message to HCC about RoW	Heather Barr
21.12.20	Greenway Lane development (copy of submission to developers)	Rob Wood (Buriton Walking to Health Group)
26.12.20	Report of damaged fencing by railway	Tim Mitford
1.1.21	Copy of reply to Jamie Lister about Halls Hill	CLlr Mocatta
1.1.21	Copy of reply to CLlr Mocatta about Halls Hill	Jamie Lister
2.1.21	Copy of message to CLlr Mocatta about Halls Hill	Sue Williams
3.1.21	Copy of message to QECP alleging insanitary conditions at Halls Hill car park	Sue Williams
3.1.21	Haven Barn Roof (reply to our message)	Bert Moore
4.1.21	Copy of reply to Sue Williams about alleged insanitary conditions at Halls Hill car park	Tim Speller
4.1.21	Copy of reply to Sue Williams and Jamie Lister about parking in vicinity of Halls Hill car park	CLlr Mocatta
4.1.21	Copy of reply to CLlr Mocatta	Sue Williams
4.1.21	Copy of reply to CLlr Mocatta	Jamie Lister
5.1.21	Ending payroll function	Ladywell
5.1.21	Electrical supply to Halls Hill Car Park	Sue Williams
5.1.21	Will replace notices and barriers at BOAT 47	Elliott Rowe (HCC)
6.1.21	Thank you for grant	St Mary's Church
7.1.21	Request to hold funds for VDS Group	Buriton VDS Group
7.1.21	Butser Quarry	SDNPA
8.1.21	Remedial work to fix the fence undertaken	Network Rail
19.1.21	Notification from HALC about opportunity to comment on HCC's new Local Transport Plan (deadline 28 Feb)	HALC

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