



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

**Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council held at Buriton Village Hall,
at 7:00pm on Monday 26th September 2022.**

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

In attendance: There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr L Ashcroft, Cllr L Lloyd, and Cllr M Johnston.

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 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.

3. To approve minutes from BPC meeting held on 25th July 2022.

The draft minutes of the meeting held 25th July 2022 were approved as a correct record and the Chair will sign a copy for the Council's Minutes Book. **Action: Cllr Jones.**

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2022.

- Pond Green Bridge: repairs completed with assistance from H Newby, EHDC and M Marriott.
- Monks Walk: Cllrs Jones, Johnston and Lloyd yet to meet to discuss the way forward.
- Staging stored in the village hall: not yet considered by the Hall Committee.
- Proposals from Buriton School for School Meadow – further details still awaited.
- Pond at Chalk Pits Nature Reserve: QECP investigating repairs.
- Installation of the defibrillator in the High Street kiosk: an update has been received from the Defibrillator Team and the defibrillator will now be installed on the wall at The Nest. The Defibrillator Team was thanked for all their work and Cllrs discussed possible uses for the kiosk, one option was a book exchange. Cllr Stevens agreed to talk to the resident who suggested this. **Action: Cllr Stevens.**
- EHDC hedge along Petersfield Road – Cllr Mocatta updated Cllrs that the Property Surveyor dealing with this matter had left the Property Estates Team to join Havant BC. This matter will still be dealt with by that department but not as a priority.
- Visits by EHDC Dog Wardens – this is on the list to be inspected periodically.
- Repairs to the school fence: the school now has this in hand.
- EHDC work at village pond: Still in hand. Cllr Mocatta agreed to raise the issue of the ash tree growing on the island.
- New seat in memory of a former resident: the seat has been delivered to Cllr Johnston's and is waiting to be installed.
- 'Friends of Playground' Group: Cllr Coates has met with the resident who is happy to assist with this. She has suggested that events could be held across the year to raise awareness about the costs of maintaining the playground. Information could also be placed on the website.

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The resident suggested information at the playground with a QR code which people could scan and make a donation. Cllrs were happy for Cllr Coates to work with the resident on this.

Action: Cllr Coates.

- Action about B2146 at Hurst: correspondence has been received from Harting Parish Council who are discussing this matter at their meeting. It was agreed that a site meeting would be beneficial with Hampshire and West Sussex County Councils and both parish councils.
- The ditch in Petersfield Road by Bones Lane is still overgrown. Cllr Mocatta agreed to chase this together with the ditches at the top of Kiln Lane. Also the High Street was closed the previous week to clear the gullies but this did not happen.
- SDNPA event in Buriton to mark the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the South Downs Way was held on the 23rd September 2022 with a walk for the children of the school and the presentation of a plaque to the parish council. Cllrs agreed that this would be displayed in the Village Hall.
- Playground gateway works: Cllr Crew has this in hand but it has been too dry to carry out the work.
- The display at the War Memorial for The Falklands anniversary had been funded by private individuals, at no cost to the parish.

5. Chair's Update

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

- The Parish Council was saddened upon learning about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and wished to thank Her Majesty for her devoted service over 70 years. The Parish Council gave their condolences to the Royal Family for their loss and gave best wishes to the new King.
- Local arrangements had been put into place with a condolence book available in the church.
- Cllrs discussed possible options to help parishioners through the worst of the winter taking into account the current financial climate. It was agreed to see when the hall was free and consider running trial sessions to provide a warm place for people to go in January and February, it was agreed to discuss further at the November meeting.
- It was agreed to look at using the Changing Rooms could become a hub for encouraging reuse and recycle with surplus food, toys, clothing etc. This would run up to Christmas from the end of October. Cllrs Stevens agreed to ask for volunteers to take this forward on Facebook.

Action: Cllr Stevens.

- Cllrs wished to express huge thanks to Andy van den Broeke for his assistance during the Village Hall enhancement project.
- The Parish Council has been awarded a significant CIL award from SDNPA which will give opportunity to complete other phases for proposed work on the Village Hall.

6. County and District Councillor's Reports

County and District Cllr Mocatta summarised points from his report which is attached to these minutes:

- The glass collection may not be collected until October or possibly longer. EHDC are trying to negotiate a contract with Norse direct rather than through Havant BC. Residents are encouraged to use the new larger glass collection points across the district, details of the location of these can be found on MyEHDC, on the council's website.
- If a collection of any waste is missed this can be reported on-line or by contacting Cllr Mocatta direct.

Open Forum

- A parishioner stated that there had been two planning applications in Weston which they did not know about. The Chair explained that Notices of Planning Application would have been displayed close to the location. It was unfortunate that no-one from Weston has volunteered to join the Parish Council and so Cllrs agreed to try a process whereby if the council is informed of an application in Weston, Liz Baker would be informed for her to pass on to other residents.

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- A parishioner suggested looking at what other parishes were doing to help residents during the winter by using their facilities.

7. Finance and Accounts

- **Summary of Reserves** – Cllrs noted the summary of reserves as at 1 September 2022 with the CIL Reserve now completely spent on the recent village hall refurbishment project. The grant recently received for the Beelines initiative has been ring-fenced for that project.
- **Approval of receipts and payments up to 16th September 2022 for the Parish Council** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 5 totalling £23,893 (including £20,000 transferred from the reserve account). Cllrs approved the following payments: 17 totalling £29,235.59 from the current account and £20,000 transfer from the reserve account to the current account.
- **Approval of receipts and payments up to 16th September 2022 for the Village Hall** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 9 for the Nat West Account totalling £1,881.00 and 18 for Unity Bank totalling £22,775.83 (including £20,934.93 from the Nat West account). Cllrs approved the following payments: 12 for Nat West totalling £22,180.51 (including the £20,934.83 to Unity) and 8 for Unity Bank totalling £1,123.33.
- **Budget against performance up to 16th September 2022** – Cllr noted the budget against performance.
- Cllrs agreed to accept the quote of £450 from Lightatouch to provide the internal audit for 2022/23.
- Cllrs had received an email from the SAAA (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointment) relating to the next round of 5-year appointments and considered whether to remain as part of the SAAA sector led appointment scheme or to opt out and appoint their own external auditor. Cllrs agreed to opt-in to the central procurement regime managed by SAAA.
- Cllrs agreed to accept the insurance quote provided by Gallagher at a cost of £3,242.65.
- Cllrs discussed email addresses specifically for parish council communication. An option of using a suffix associated with the Council's website had been suggested by web-manager Ali Martin as the capability already exists and the costs involved would be minimal. The Clerk is currently contacting other councils to establish what they use. **Action:** Clerk.
- Cllrs noted the outcome of the external audit. The appropriate notices will be displayed on the website and noticeboard. **Action:** Clerk.
- The Clerk informed Cllrs that there is one bad debtor. Andrews Newby have not paid for parking at the Village Hall for the period 1st April to 30th September 2022 despite several telephone call reminders. Clerk to write formally enclosing the due invoice together with the invoice for the period 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023. **Action:** Clerk.
- Cllrs agreed to hold a budget options workshop at the end of October or beginning of November.

8. Village Hall and Recreation Report

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

- There are no bad debtors. The Village Hall Manager reported that during July and August saw income exceed expenditure by £711.
- All servicing is up to date.
- The works to refurbish the Village Hall has been completed at a total cost of £37,752 inc. VAT. All of the special CIL reserve of £20,094.16 was used with the rest from the Village Hall Reserve. Cllrs expressed sincere thanks to Andy van den Broeke for all his time and expertise in managing and monitoring the implementation so thoroughly for the community.
- The parish council has been successful in its application for £50,000 CIL funding from SDNPA for further enhancements to the Village Hall. Cllrs agreed to consider solar panels and electric charging points and look at the daytime use of the hall and what would be sold back to the grid. Andy van de Broeke has sketched out a potential route for future works considering the energy audit received from BuildPass and has also produced a summary of findings from the visit by

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Project Solar. There are lots of potentially inter-related bits of work which will need significant further detailed consideration.

- Cllrs agreed to the trial use of the Hall Manager Booking System for 90 days.
- Cllrs discussed the quote received for repairs to the playground. It was agreed to the repairs to The Tower, the Log Climber and the quarter pipe on the Skateboard Ramp. A quote will be requested for the eye bolt on the climbing net and to replace the small goal post as the cross bar has been snapped.
- Cllrs agreed not to carry out work to the basketball net and back board at this time.
- Advice has been received from the Parish Council's insurance company with regard to the proposed Table Tennis Table. Cllrs agreed to ask Sawscape Play for their expert advice.
- It was agreed to hold a Village Hall Committee meeting soon.

9.Planning

The following matters were noted:

- 47 North Lane – this application has been refused.
- Five Bells – the original application to carry out works on the trees has been withdrawn and another has been submitted.
- Butser Lime Works – the conditions for looking after the Lime Kilns is now on the website.
- Greenway Lane Development – EHDC have put forward three suggestions for the name of the development:
 - Downs View
 - Gibbon Close
 - Edward Gibbon Close
- Following a discussion Cllrs felt that Downs View was the most appropriate but felt that this could be improved to South Downs View. **Action:** Clerk to contact EHDC.

10. Work for Lengthsman & Highway Issues

The Lengthsman is carrying out the regular work. Cllrs decided that the ditch between Tithe House and The Nest in Greenway Lane needs attention and the drains in the High Street need to be cleared. **Action:** Clerk to contact Lengthsman.

Cllr Bray informed Cllrs that North Lane would be closed in the near future so that HCC can remove the dead ash trees.

11. Rights of Way

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

- Miles without stiles – Cllrs were very disappointed that this is no longer happening. It was agreed to write to Cllr Mocatta to express the disappointment. **Action:** Clerk.
- Co-opted member of the Rights of Way Committee, Dave Grant, has reported to HCC that the handrails and one to the gates at the sleeper bridge adjacent to the first pond along the Hangers Way heading out of Buriton was in unsatisfactory condition.
- South Downs Way 50th Anniversary – A commemorative plaque has been received marking the anniversary. Cllrs agreed to write to SDNPA to say thank you and agreed to place the plaque in the Village Hall. **Action:** Clerk. Cllrs also agreed to frame an award received from EHDC and place it in the Village Hall.

12. Update on Trees, Pollinators, Biodiversity and Climate Change Initiatives

The Chair highlighted points from a report which is attached to these minutes:

- Cllrs agreed to four swift boxes being fitted under the eaves of the Village Hall at a cost of £35 each, a total of £140. A further thirty boxes will be fitted to parishioners' houses around the village.

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- It was agreed that bug hotel could be placed in the recreation ground but would prefer old logs which would need to be secured.
- Cllrs agreed to contact Network Rail to find out how they help wildlife and pollinators as their track could be a valuable corridor through the parish. **Action:** Clerk.
- It was agreed to monitor the grass cutting on the highway verges for future action.
- Beeline funding has been received and the next steps were noted.
- The Yellow Rattle Seeds have been delivered.
- Further funding may be available from SDNPA for interpretation signage after agreement of specification and placement
- Cllrs Jones, Johnston and Stevens are meeting Paul Bushell, a Ranger from SDNPA, to discuss the Re-Naturing Call for Sites initiative.
- The Trees for the Downs application has been successful.
- The application to HCC for trees on highway land has also been successful with three trees due to be planted at Heatherfield in the planting season Oct 2023 - March 2024: a crab-apple, a whitebeam and a hawthorn.
- A Project Manager from HCC attended the Village Show to promote the Community Forest initiative. Some parishioners were interested in obtaining trees for their gardens and collecting seeds for a seed bank
- It has been confirmed that there is a rare Chinese Elm on the Recreation Ground, this is the first recording of one in Hampshire.
- Climate Change – there is a growing list of households signing up for a survey using the Thermal Imaging Camera.
- Cllrs agreed not to cut the hedge on the inside of the Recreation Ground to allow a 2-year growth of plants to encourage berries, flowers and fruits for insects and butterflies. **Action: Cllr Crew**

13. Correspondence

The list of correspondence received is attached to these minutes. All matters were included on the agenda.

14. Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Buriton Parish Council is on 28th November 2022

At the conclusion of business the meeting ended at 9.40pm.

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Chair's Update Report (May 2022)

I will use this report to record the Parish Council's sadness upon learning about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022, to thank Her Majesty for her devoted service over 70 years (the longest-serving Monarch in British history), to record our sincerest condolences to the Royal Family for their loss and our best wishes for the new King.

The long-planned local arrangements with St Mary's Church were put in place swiftly (before 9am on 9th September) with a condolence book available in the church from 8am until 9pm each day until Monday 12th September and, thereafter, from 8am to 6pm until the funeral. Local arrangements were communicated via the website, emails etc.

I will also use this report to encourage a discussion about ideas to help parishioners through the worst of the winter, against the backcloth of increasing heating costs and the cost of living crisis. Parish Councillors are asked to consider what, if anything, the Parish Council could/should do, including ideas for practical actions and next steps. Scope / options might include:

- providing a 'warm room' environment for parishioners perhaps once or twice a week over the worst of the winter? (eg. part of the village hall as a warm space, perhaps with tea / coffee). And/or 'Soup Saturdays' (perhaps borrow big pans from the pubs, get veg donated etc)
- use the Changing Rooms as a place where surplus food, toys, clothes, school uniforms etc could be re-used, perhaps with some recycling facilities for things that can't be put in the regular recycling. Local produce (eggs, jam, honey etc) could perhaps also be available for sale...

And we should also recognise the huge assistance received from Andy van den Broeke during our Village Hall enhancement project. Opportunities for the next phases of this work have now been boosted by the significant CIL award offer from the South Downs National Park Authority.

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September Report: HCC & EHDC

EHDC

Waste collection

The collection of glass from households is currently suspended due to driver shortages, and the decision by EHDC to prioritise waste and recycling. EHDC is in the complex process of trying to move the waste contract from Havant Borough Council, where it was delegated, to EHDC. This is a complex process, and EHDC has to “novate” the contract by forming its own JV with NORSE SE. EHDC is not a party to the current contract, so has no recourse as the glass is not being collected – nor the grass being cut in some instances. There is hope that door to door glass collection can start again in October, but there is no guarantee. Residents are advised to either hang on to their glass (where possible) or take it to one of the bottle banks (the closest are in the Tesco and Waitrose car parks in Petersfield). EHDC has put out new larger glass bins, put the old collection bins back and is adding 10 more temporary sites in the District.

EHDC advice on missed bins is here

[Bin collections | East Hampshire District Council \(easthants.gov.uk\)](http://easthants.gov.uk)

The advice on how to find your collection date is here

[Finding your bin calendar | East Hampshire District Council \(easthants.gov.uk\)](http://easthants.gov.uk)

Full details on available EHDC services are here (including local tree protection orders and any local planning applications):

[iShareMaps | East Hampshire District Council \(easthants.gov.uk\)](http://easthants.gov.uk)

You can also sign up for email notifications if there are problems in your area:

[East Hampshire District Council - Sign up for updates on bin collections in East Hampshire \(govdelivery.com\)](http://govdelivery.com)

If you haven't signed up for MyEHDC, it is highly recommended. There is lots of detail on EHDC's services on this page.

[Welcome to MyEHDC | My East Hampshire District Council \(easthants.gov.uk\)](http://easthants.gov.uk)

Property Services

Following the split with Havant Borough Council, EHDC's property management team is being reorganised. The surveyor, whose responsibilities included the Buriton pond and the hedge on Petersfield Road, has decided to join Havant BC rather than EHDC. The council is currently using short term contractors whilst they try to fill this role. There was a management plan in place for both assets, but work is not likely for the rest of this year.

Hampshire County Council

Highways figures for July

Here's the Hampshire Highways update for August, based on information for July

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Highways Maintenance Newsletter

August 2022



Summer is the most opportune time for implementing much of our planned highway maintenance programme since, generally speaking, the county usually enjoys sustained periods of dry weather and longer hours of daylight. Through Operation Resilience, our programme of planned structural maintenance, our aim is to ensure that the highway network can more effectively withstand the adverse impacts of extremes in weather and increasing volumes of traffic. With 5,500 of highways to maintain, this is an ongoing challenge but having a longer

term programme in place, with an additional £10 million invested each year by the County Council over and above the grant funding we receive from the Department for Transport, means that we are in a better position than many authorities to effectively manage our local network. Without doubt, the heatwave has been a challenging test of our roads' resilience in extreme temperatures. Road temperatures can be considerably hotter than the air temperatures and once surface temperatures exceed 50 degrees Celsius the risk of softening increases, particularly

on older surfaces. However, modern bitumens are much more resilient to high temperatures so, as expected, most of our network was able to cope without any issues, with just a few localised incidents (fewer than 10) of 'softening' road surfaces by sending out our winter gritters to deposit a fine dusting of sand where needed.

Do remember that the most efficient and effective route for notifying us of problems on a Hampshire road, is online at hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance

Countywide Statistics for July 2022

366

Emergencies attended

35,595

Square metres of carriageway resurfacing

10

Operation Resilience schemes completed

14,657

Gullies and other drainage cleared

270,530

Square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt

139

Arboriculture jobs completed

2,801

Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

10,520

Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

573

Other Jobs completed (outside of all works shown)

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Village Hall and Recreation Report for PC Meeting: 26 September 2022

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

- There are no bad debtors, all servicing is up to date and the Hall Manager reports that both July and August saw income exceeding expenditure (by £711 in total)
- Buriton Ducklings were contacted a number of times about whether or not they wish to hire the Upper Hall again but no replies have been received
- The project with Executive Windows to replace windows, doors, soffits, cladding and the external stairs from the upper hall has been completed for a total cost of £37,752 (inc VAT). This includes the cost of work to roof timbers etc during the project. As anticipated and approved, this project has utilised all the special CIL Reserve of £20,094.16 (received in April 2020) as well as drawing funds from the Village Hall Reserve. It will, however, be possible to add the VAT refund on the project back into the Village Hall Reserve. Sincere thanks are due to Andy van den Broeke for all his time and expertise in managing and monitoring the implementation so thoroughly for the community
- As noted elsewhere at this meeting, we have been successful in our application for £50,000 CIL funding from SDNPA. This application for enhancements to our village hall was initially made a number of years ago and it had been one of the NPA's "High Policy Priority Infrastructure Projects", awaiting sufficient funding. We had been able to update the application in February, explaining that "it is still planned to improve the village hall for the expanded population via energy efficiency improvements such as roof insulation, new double-glazed windows and doors, point-of-use hot water heaters, enhanced lighting controls, water efficiency measures and a potential 12kw solar PV array which could also enable the provision of two fast-charge EV charging points. The project also has the potential to create a waste collection hub (to enhance recycling opportunities in the community) and to convert the adjacent changing rooms to a 'Health & Wellbeing Hub' which could be available to a wide range of users as a base for physical and mental health activities: from walks into the nearby countryside and nature reserves, through picnics on the expansive recreation ground (which is already being enhanced for biodiversity) to mental health initiatives via arts and crafts etc." We anticipated a total cost of £80,000 and were seeking £50,000 CIL funding towards that total with an estimated start date of 8th August 2022 and an estimated delivery duration of 12 months with phases in 2023. The remainder of the funding (£30,000) to come from Village Hall Reserves. It is understood that the £50,000 of CIL money can only be spent on specified / agreed works and that SDNPA will hold it: it will not yet be transferred into our bank account. The recent correspondence from SDNPA states: "We are delighted to confirm that Buriton Village Hall Enhancements - energy efficiency improvements - potential for 12kw solar PV and provision of two fast-charge EV charging Points has been allocated £50,000.00 of CIL funding. This amount will be held for 3 years, after which time if the money has not been spent then we will consider reallocating it to another project."
- Notwithstanding the above CIL grant and potential projects, we must always make sure that we always keep an adequate amount of funding in our Village Hall Reserve to cover unforeseen reductions in income or unforeseen costs of repairs, maintenance, replacements (internally and externally) – as well as for longer-term changes such as boiler replacement etc

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- Andy van den Broeke has kindly sketched out a potential route for future works at a very high level to begin to prompt further thoughts for the future (separate attachments to this report) but this will, inevitably, require a lot of work to bring to fruition. The 'energy audit' report that we received from BuildPass in February is also very relevant: reviewing the energy demand of the hall and looking at both short- and long-term strategies for reducing the energy, running costs and carbon footprint (including a review of the building fabric as well as space and water heating, on-site energy production and electrical and water operational efficiencies)
- Andy has already provided a summary of findings from the visit by Project Solar and implications for future opportunities (including potential charging points for Electric Vehicles at the Changing Rooms) which were noted at the last Parish Council meeting and estimates for roof insulation options are expected imminently from Executive Windows & Construction who investigated this matter during the recent works.
- With the successful transition to on-line banking it is now possible to consider using an on-line booking system for the village hall (so that the Hall Manager can see if/when deposit payments have been made etc). Steve has looked at a number of systems and concludes that Hallmaster is likely to be the most suitable option for Buriton: good functionality at a reasonable price (£199 plus vat). He thinks that, once it is set up, Hallmaster appears easy to with some nice features. It has the ability for a number of 'administrators' to use the system and would need those that are covering in his absence to be au fait with it (and actively use it) as external bookings would require confirmation etc. They offer a free 90 day trial and he suggests in first instance that we pursue that option. Cllr Coates also has some knowledge about this system from her school. A trial there concluded that it was very quick and simple to use with payment going through on booking. The only reason that the school did not go ahead with Hallmaster was that it was not compatible with their online calendar and a couple of other services they had to offer. These possible drawbacks do not seem to be relevant to Buriton village hall. Cllr Stevens has also looked at a range of options including 'Lemon' which has some interesting features and a nicer user interface. It has no set up fee, no minimum term, one month free and then £30 per month (£360pa) for their silver level. The booking calendar, request forms, email templates, invoicing and online payment look straightforward but it also allows uploading of documents like conditions of hire etc and photos of the venue. It also has some potential ways of supporting communities and highlighting local businesses, connecting to social media etc – if we might want to use that additional functionality. Councillors are asked to agree next steps.
- Observations suggest that general usage of the play equipment continues satisfactorily with regular inspections by Cllr Wheeler and, since the last meeting of the Council, Sawscapes have provided their next quarterly inspection.
- At the last PC Meeting it was agreed to obtain quotes for repairs to two pieces of playground equipment (the Climbing Net and the Log Climber). It was noted that repairs to one other piece of equipment (the Tower) may be needed in the future. The quotation received totalled to £2,064 (including vat) but this included providing a new net for the climbing feature, not just replacing the eye-bolt. The recent inspection by Sawscapes has identified the Tower as well as the eye-bolt. Other items noted included the entry gate area, the smaller goal posts and the quarter pipe on the skate board area. Councillors are asked to agree actions required.

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- A quotation for repairing the backboard on the basketball court was also obtained (£378 inc vat) and it had been suggested that this might be a suitable project for a grant from Cllr Mocatta. Views of Councillors are sought.
- Next steps on the concrete table tennis table initiative are awaiting recommendations from Sawscapes following the advice received from Sheet PC and from our insurance brokers who drew attention to the 'Reasonable Care Condition' in our Policy which requires the Council to take reasonable precautions to prevent injury or damage arising. They recommended that expert advice be sought by using whoever conducts our regular inspections
- Cllr Coates may be able to report about the idea of creating a 'Friends of the Playground' Group
- Other information about the role of the Recreation Ground in the community's Pollinator Project is included in the 'Climate and Nature' report elsewhere on the agenda.

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Rights of Way report for PC Meeting:

26th September 2022

Miles without stiles

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council Cllr Mocatta has met with Elliot Rowe of HCC's Countryside team with the aim of putting together a plan to replace all the remaining stiles in East Meon, Buriton and Langrish, helping to make the paths more accessible to those with pushchairs and maybe even cross country wheel chairs. It was explained that HCC have a (first come first served) grant fund to which parish councils can apply. It was estimated that metal gates cost about £550 each, and that projects which were part funded (eg. by parish councils) were more likely to be looked upon favourably. HCC would help with getting volunteers to install gates. Cllr Mocatta is happy to offer grant help from his HCC pot of up to £100 per gate if this is needed to top up Parish council grant funds.

In Buriton we are aware that, following a major initiative about ten years ago, only about 5 stiles remain in the parish – but it is our understanding that the landowners are not agreeable to having them replaced. The meeting arranged by HCC's local Community Engagement Ranger in April had explained that HCC would be willing to approach landowners as this was likely to have greater effect. That meeting also suggested that there was a fund of over £50,000 available, provided via a CIL grant to HCC from the South Downs National Park Authority to be spent in relevant parts of the county.

Councillors are asked to consider next steps.

Hangers Way

Dave Grant (Co-opted Member of our Rights of Way Committee) has recently reported that the handrails and one of the gates at the sleeper bridge adjacent to the first pond along the Hangers Way heading out from Buriton are in unsatisfactory condition (the sleepers have been replaced fairly recently and look fine). He has chatted to the landowner about this and also reported it onto the HCC system. The landowner thinks that it is HCC's job to repair but strictly, it is the landowners' responsibility to provide and maintain "furniture" on RoWs. HCC may however be flexible about this as it is sometimes easier to do it themselves than to get landowners to act.

South Downs Way: 50th anniversary

The Parish Council had written to the Chief Executive of SDNPA on 5th February drawing attention to this 50th anniversary (July 15th) and to the fact that the designated route ran between Eastbourne and Buriton with the village pond providing the start or finish point for thousands of long distance walkers for over 20 years (it was not until 1995 that the route was extended to Winchester). It had been hoped that an event or activities could have been arranged to mark the occasion and on 16th June a reply was received proposing a circular walk starting at Buriton to be led by the SDNPA's National Trails & Rights of Way Officer. However, at relatively short notice, this proposal was cancelled and a new event was held in the village on Friday 23rd September. After the presentation of a special commemorative plaque to the Parish Council by the National Park's Director of Countryside Policy & Management, Andrew Lee, National Park staff led a group of almost 50 children from Buriton School on a nature walk into our Chalk Pits Nature Reserve.

Councillors are asked to consider a location for the special plaque, potentially in or around the village hall or near the village pond.

An award made to the Parish Council by EHDC some time ago has now been framed, ready to be added to the collection in the village hall.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Climate and Nature initiatives:

Report to Parish Council meeting (September 2022)

Feedback from the Village Show

The Parish Council's recent work on the village hall, the long grass on the Recreation Ground and the Thermal Imaging Camera initiative all seemed to be very well-received at the Village Show in August – amongst lots of other good climate and nature displays / activities. Some specific issues for Parish Council consideration emerged:

- Getting four swift boxes fitted under the eaves on the village hall (screwed into brickwork, not the soffits) at £35 each including installation: total cost of £140. The expert from the Hampshire Swifts Group said that it would be an ideal location and stressed that if swifts are to be saved in this area, villages like Buriton need to be getting boxes up. Subsequent emails to parishioners have produced a list of about 30 boxes and the Swifts Group plan to visit the village next month to install them all. A provisional order for four boxes has been placed and agreement to spend £140 is sought
- There was lots of interest in bug hotels too, with suggestions that there should be at least one of the larger ones in the Kiln Lane / rail line corner of the recreation ground (with offers of help to construct). Agreement to this idea is also sought
- Suggestions that we should press Network Rail to find out how they help wildlife, pollinators etc as their track could be a valuable corridor through the parish
- Some further suggestions about highway places (verges etc) for the pollinator project to try to take forward.

Pollinator and Nature Projects

The latest situation on the projects can be summarised as follows:

On the BeeLines project on the Recreation Ground:

- Since getting the soil samples analysed etc we did some baseline surveys in the long grass margins in July and have recently got the long grass cut followed by our Community Hay-Day to rake away the arisings on 4th September
- Funding has been received from SDNPA and the order of 2500g of Yellow Rattle seed has been delivered
- A “cut & collect + scarify” visit by Idverde is being arranged for late October (quote of £957.87 already agreed)
- We will then sow the yellow rattle seeds quite soon thereafter (probably a manual process?)
- Another professional ‘cut & collect’ mowing is planned for January and would then become an annual operation at that time of year
- The initial surveys would be repeated in July, with a cut of the long grass in September, followed by our community hay-day (raking etc) again ...

A separate payment from SDNPA may yet be forthcoming for interpretation signage after agreement of specification and placement. Whilst we can (and already do) make use of our Parish Magazine and website to reach a range of audiences, the Parish Council's submission has explained that some signage on the Recreation Ground itself will explain not only why the area looks different (to cater better for nature) but also to provide illustrations of the range of plants and creatures for people to observe: increasing awareness and encouraging families to do similar things in their own gardens to improve corridors for bees, pollinators and more.

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On the 'Re-Naturing Call for Sites' initiative:

- Paul Bushell, a Ranger for the Western Downs area of the National Park Authority, has replaced Laura Tong whilst she is on maternity leave and a meeting has been arranged for Monday 3rd October at 11.30am. Cllrs Jones, Johnston and Stevens are able to attend but all other Councillors would be very welcome
- It is hoped that we will receive advice and support throughout our work, perhaps helping us ensure that the Recreation Ground site becomes part of a wider network of places suitable for nature, including family gardens in the village, margins of agricultural fields, nearby Local Nature Reserves and other land owned by the District and County Councils (including road verges) to provide habitat connectivity – and to bring corridors for wildlife into and through the village
- This initiative may also be able to help us explain the rationale for the projects (via potential interpretation boards and other communications methods) so that people (residents and visitors) understand the project, its purposes and the wildlife (wild flowers etc) that they can expect to see. This should then enable more people to appreciate the wider benefits that managing land for biodiversity can bring to society and encourage more projects in the locality

On the HCC Pollinator Project:

- HCC staff attended the village show and helped disseminate a wide range of advice and ideas
- HCC is arranging another networking meeting with representatives from other communities which are also involved in this project: the next meeting is likely to be held in Buriton on Saturday 29th October and any parish councillors (as well as others) would be welcome to attend

On the various tree initiatives:

- we had been informed that our '*Trees for the Downs*' application had been successful but we do not yet appear to have received any more information from SDNPT
- *our application to HCC for new trees on highways land* also appears to have been successful: Adam Maskill (Arboriculturist with Hampshire Highways) has visited the village and is initially allocating 3 trees (a crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), a whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) and a hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) for the area in Heatherfield. He advises that he has already committed most of the pre-ordered stock for this coming planting season so they will not be able to plant here until next year's season (Oct 2023 – March 2024). All of HCC's trees will be on a cycle of watering/maintenance but anything additional will always be of assistance: he hopes that residents may be able to assist with watering, particularly during hot, dry weather.
- *HCC's 'Community Forest' initiative*: HCC's new Project Manager for a Tree Planting Strategy also attended the village show and may be interested in some follow-up meetings with local landowners – perhaps connecting with Farm Cluster Groups. There was some interest from parishioners in obtaining trees for their gardens, in becoming tree guardians and in collecting seeds for a seed bank.
- *Rare Chinese Elm* on the Recreation Ground: another expert visited the parish in September and confirmed earlier information that we have a rather rare tree here: *Ulmus parvifolia*, a species of planted tree, with this appearing to be the first record in Hampshire. It is felt that the age of the tree may fit with the date of Queen Victoria's Jubilee but no records of this have been found.

Climate Care

In addition to the activities at the village show (and the work at the village hall), the main progress since the last PC Meeting is the growing list of households wishing to have their homes surveyed using the Council's Thermal Imaging Camera during the forthcoming colder months. At least one more volunteer has also offered to help conduct the surveys.

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BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

Correspondence

Date	Details	Sender
10.8.22	Query relating to the pond / offering to provide a bench	Gillian Bailey
10.8.22	South Downs Local Plan Review – Launch of Call for Sites and Local Green Space nominations	SDNPA
11.8.22	Proposed table tennis table	Catherine Murphy, Buriton Tennis Club
21.8.22	Comments about minutes and queries about Jubilee celebrations	Elaine Bray
23.8.22	Condition of the chalk pits path, sculptures and outdoor classroom	Sue Williams
23.8.22	Clearance of the sculptural trail, Chalk Pits	Sue Williams
23.8.22	Copy of letter from HCC to The Nest re items on public Highway (dated 23.8.22; received 8.9.22)	Amanda Bird, The Nest
26.8.22	Removal of Publicity for Submitted Pre-Application Enquiries	SDNPA
30.8.22	Loud music	Parishioner
2.9.22	Copy of email to Cllr Mocatta re parking on pavement	Tim Mitford
2.9.22	Options for road names at new Greenway Lane housing site that are acceptable to Royal Mail.	Steven Brackley, EHDC
4.9.22	Hedge at Manor Lodge	Bridget Grant
7.9.22	Questions re Greenway Lane development	Charlotte Milligan
9.9.22	Historic records belonging to Buriton from the 1930s	Brenden Gibbs, Clerk to Soberton Parish Council
9.9.22	Provisional increases to election costs for 2023	Electoral Services, EHDC
12.9.22	Presentation of plaque for 50 th Anniversary of South Downs Way: considering re-arranging the date from 23 rd and querying presentation or unveiling	Ruth James, SDNPA
12.9.22	Copy of email to SDNPA re Greenway Lane development	Charlotte Milligan
14.9.22	Query about responsibility for fencing between the recreation ground and the school's grounds	Buriton School
15.9.22	Update on the defibrillator	Defib team
15.9.22	Query about progress with the Dale bench for the Recreation Ground	Elizabeth Leigh-Breese
15.9.22	Thanks for progress with orders for swift boxes	Tim Norriss
16.9.22	Confirmation of a rare Chinese Elm on recreation ground	Steve Povey
16.9.22	Request about using village hall etc for presentation of plaque for 50th Anniversary of South Downs Way on 23rd	Ruth James, SDNPA
20.9.22	HCC will install 2 temporary 'road narrows' signs on both approaches to the Greenway Lane pinch-point whilst new permanent signs are ordered and they will looking to recharge the costs to the driver.	Cllr Mocatta, HCC

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