

## BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

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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 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**Present:** Cllr T Wheeler (Chair), Cllr A Bray, Cllr H Hill, Cllr H Myers, District & County Cllr Mocatta and Mrs P Norris, Clerk.

**In attendance:** There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Lloyd and Cllr M Wright.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Declaration of interest from 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

### 3. To approve minutes from BPC meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were approved as a correct record and the Chair will sign a copy for the Council's Minutes Book. **Action: Cllr Wheeler.**

### 12. Nature, Biodiversity and Climate Change Initiatives

Tim Speller of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park attended the meeting to inform Cllrs of:

- Kiln Lane – this will be closed in January so that the overhanging branches which are in amongst the BT cables can be removed. This could be for 8 days. The Parish Council are not being informed of all road closures by HCC. **Action: Clerk** to email Cllr Mocatta.
- Chalk Pits and the Volunteer Group – there are now 3 rangers across QECP and it is hoped to start sessions working in the Chalk Pits from January. Lottie Gibson will be arranging this. It was agreed that information will be added to the parish council Facebook page to ask for volunteers. **Action: Cllr Wheeler**
- Head Down Events – There are 9 events are scheduled for 2025 these will be the Bognor Regis Motorcycle Club, 750 Motor Club and the Down Hill Endurance. Cllr Myers asked if notices could be put at all access points as walkers suddenly come across the events, and also can consideration be given to timing with the fawns around.
- Paddock at Halls Hill – this is currently being used by Hampshire Outdoors for supervised school groups and those on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

### 4. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

- Monks Walk driveway: waiting for the building works to be completed.
- EHDC hedge along Petersfield Road – still on-going
- Dog fouling: no stickers have yet been provided. **Action: Cllr Mocatta**
- Replacement of trees and other works at village pond: a survey was carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> November with a view of producing a management plan. More details are included in the report under Nature, Biodiversity and Climate Change Initiatives.
- Potential works to the Village Hall: Executive Windows and Construction are the appointed contractors and the work will commence in January 2025. The deposit has been paid and the £50,000 grant received from SDNPA
- On-line banking: Cllrs Lloyd and Wright to confirm if they have managed to gain access. It was agreed to add to Cllr Myers. **Action: Clerk.**

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- Nursery Garden – still outstanding, Cllr Wheeler trying to locate the keys to the shed.
- Consultation – completed and the results compiled. A summary has been included in the Parish Magazine and a meeting to be held once the improvements to the village hall have been completed.
- Review of assets: now completed.
- Management of BOATS: the new procedure from HCC is being produced, it is hoped that closures will be carried out after discussions with the relevant parish council.
- Royal British Legion – an email thanking Elaine Bray for providing the wreath has been sent and a donation of £100 sent to Royal British Legion.
- Resurfacing of the High Street – Cllr Mocatta has asked for this to be re-done, this is likely to be in the next financial year.
- Fire Alarm – being dealt with by the Village Hall Committee
- Wi-Fi password – this is to be displayed for users of the village hall
- Drain under the Tennis Club noticeboard – this has been cleared but will need to be inspected on a regular basis
- Fence around playground – this has been repaired but another post is damaged. **Action: Cllr Wheeler** to inspect.
- Lengthsman – the area around the village hall and the old hall has not been done. **Action: Clerk** to chase.

### 5. Chair's Update

The Chair stated that all updates were included in the agenda.

### 6. County and District Councillor's Reports

County and District Cllr Mocatta provided a report from EHDC and HCC which is attached to these minutes. He also informed the meeting of the following:

- Glass collection – Cllr Mocatta stressed that if your glass is not collected it is very important that is reported which can be done via the website.
- Devolution – a very interesting article has been in The Times, there will be a White Paper coming out from the Government. Hampshire is very likely to be in the first tranche.
- Buses – it is still planned that buses that transport SEN children to school will be used on rural routes during the day.

### 7. Finance and Accounts

- **Summary of Reserves** – Cllrs noted the summary of reserves. It was agreed to create a new reserve for the War Memorial maintenance. **Action: Clerk.**
- **Approval of receipts and payments from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 for the Parish Council** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 4 totalling £12,862.54 in the current account and 1 totalling £433.96 in the reserve account. Cllrs approved the following payments: 15 totalling £8,281.93 from the current account. Details of payments over £500 are attached to these minutes.
- **Approval of receipts and payments from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 for the Village Hall** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 24 totalling £2,617.40. Cllrs approved the following payments: 30 totalling £3,535.59. Details of payments over £500 are attached to these minutes.
- **Budget against performance up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024** – Cllr noted the budget against performance.
- **Pay Increase** – Cllrs agreed a pay increase for the Clerk and the Village Hall Manager, as in line with the Local Government Services Pay Agreement, to £15.58 backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. **Action: Cllr Wheeler** to inform the payroll contractor.

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- **Approval of Budget and Precept for 2025-26** – Cllr agreed to the proposed budget for 2025-26 and requesting a precept of £24,500. The increase of £500 is due to the increase in insurance and that the current grounds maintenance contract will expire in April.

### 8. Village Hall and Recreation Report

It was reported that:

- There are no bad debtors.
- All maintenance has been completed.
- JC Sports who hire the hall for children from the school to do sports after school, damaged a door when it was forced open. They are now disputing the percentage that they should pay for the repair. They are at the moment being charged the village rate for hire. Cllr Wheeler will send another email with a copy to the school so that they are aware of the situation. **Action: Cllr Wheeler.**

### 9. Planning

- **Possible development Sites** – SDNPA carried out a Call for Sites for developments, where owners of land could put forward possible development sites. Officers examined all the sites and have now listed the possible sites for inclusion with a public consultation on these sites in January. Included in this list are fields which are off Greenway Lane and Kiln Lane with a proposal for a development of 11 homes. The Parish Council will submit comments on this proposal but Cllrs stressed how important it will be for parishioners to submit their own comments during the consultation.
- **Greenway Hotel** – the developments are currently lodging an appeal for this proposed development. Their representatives have written to the Parish Council and all those who lodged comments on the planning application.

### Open Forum

A parishioner raised the issue of the proposed development site in Kiln Lane and was wondering what the Parish Council's position will be. The parishioner was informed that the Planning Committee will meet in January when the consultation opens and discuss the proposal in detail and submit comments. It was stressed residents submit their own comments individually. The Village Design Statement Group will also meet and submit theirs.

A parishioner asked that now the table tennis table has been installed has this been added to the insurance. **Action: Clerk** to check.

A parishioner asked if someone could show her how to use the HCC app, Cllr Mocatta agreed to do this. She wanted to report again that the damage to the gully at Weston was still not repaired.

A parishioner said that she was looking forward to receiving the survey on the pond. She also reported that the talk on the water quality held at the village hall was well received with a reasonable turnout. The water quality will continue to be tested.

A discussion was held about who will apply for the CIL grant to remove the silt from the pond. **Action: Cllr Mocatta** to investigate.

Concerns were raised about the amount of toxins found in the water and whether this was coming down from the old rubbish pit on HCC land in Kiln Lane. **Action: Cllr Mocatta** to ascertain if the rubbish pit was still being monitored.

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### **10. Work for Lengthsman & Highway Issues**

Several issues with potholes were highlighted and needed reporting, there were:

- At the pinch point in greenway Lane
- In the cobbles in North Lane
- Those repaired in North Lane have broken out again
- There is a huge pothole in Kiln Lane caused by all the traffic diverting when the A3 was closed.

### **11. Rights of Way**

BOAT 47 is currently closed up at Ditcham. The cart track onto the Milky Way is in a very poor state.

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

The notes from the BEA group are attached to these minutes. Cllr Myers volunteered to be the Parish Council representative on the group.

### **13. Approval of Meeting days for 2025.**

Cllrs agreed to the following meeting dates for 2025 – 27<sup>th</sup> January, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> June (including the Annual Meeting), 28<sup>th</sup> July, 29<sup>th</sup> September and 24<sup>th</sup> November.

### **14. Correspondence**

A list of all correspondence is attached to the minutes.

### **15. Date of next meeting:** The next meeting of Buriton Parish Council is on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

At the conclusion of business the meeting ended 8.30pm.

## **BURITON PARISH COUNCIL**

**November 2024**

### **Planning**

EHDC is calling on the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) to take its fair share of homes after plans revealed it could build fewer than 60 homes per year in East Hampshire.

The new Government has proposed that East Hampshire's housing figures be ramped up by 86 per cent, from 575 homes a year to 1,074.

Now the SDNPA's plans suggest it will build only around 60 of these in East Hampshire's part of the national park.

[South Downs National Park housing plans would 'leave us high and dry' | East Hampshire District Council](#)

### **Waste collection**

EHDC is moving to collecting glass from households every two weeks. Subsequent to this, it has removed the glass bins from the town centres as the council felt that these were being misused.

[Misuse forces early removal of bottle banks in East Hampshire | East Hampshire District Council](#)

Full details on glass collection are in the link below, including what containers to use, and how to report a missed collection.

[Glass recycling | East Hampshire District Council](#)

The collection calendar is in this link

[Find your bin calendar | East Hampshire District Council](#)

### **Council action on flytipping**

EHDC has prosecuted two individuals who would not cooperate with an investigation into fly tipping. This action received extensive local media coverage.

[Fines for failing to provide information on fly-tippers | East Hampshire District Council](#)

### **Support for community Christmas lunches**

EHDC is offering community groups up to £750 to put on a Christmas lunch for local residents.

[Have a cracker of a Christmas with our Christmas Lunch Grants! | East Hampshire District Council](#)

## **November 2024**

### **Highways Updates:**

#### **Barriers to cycling and walking.**

Hampshire County Council are carrying out an audit of accessibility and connectivity across the county.

The survey is aimed at identifying issues with accessibility and connectivity for walking and cycling. This is part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improving accessibility and encouraging more people to walk and cycle for short journeys.

The survey closes just before midnight on 22 December 2024.

Please click on the scheme web page to access the survey:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/barriers-walking-cycling>

#### **Reporting Highway Problems**

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:



**Barriers to walking and cycling**

Have your say between **28 October and 22 December**

As part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improve accessibility and enable more people to walk and cycle for short journeys, you are invited to help us identify where there are barriers to walking and cycling on your local streets.

We want to hear from all walkers and cyclists, including people who use **mobility aids (including mobility scooters), pushchairs or buggies, people who use cargo bikes and trailers, or other adapted cycles.**

**Have your say**

The survey is open from **28 October at noon until 22 December at 11.59pm.**

For more information, and to complete the survey:

Visit: [hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling](https://www.hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling)  
Email: [engagement.feedback@hants.gov.uk](mailto:engagement.feedback@hants.gov.uk)  
Phone number: 0300 555 1388

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<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

**When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you**

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### **HCC Savings Proposals – HWRCs and School Crossing Patrols saved.**

HCC cabinet voted to reject proposals to close local Household Waste and Recycling Centres and remove School Crossing Patrols at the budget meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October..

The 12 HWRC sites at Aldershot, Bordon, Romsey, Hedge End, Marchwood, Petersfield, Somerley, Alresford, Bishops Waltham, Fair Oak, Hartley Wintney and Hayling Island will remain fully open.

The County Council has bold plans to improve recycling across Hampshire in the next four years, Cabinet felt that any change to the HWRC network needed to be taken into account alongside these emerging schemes.

Cabinet also rejected plans to remove School Crossing Patrols from 17 locations across the county in the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Instead a review will begin into more than 170 school crossing patrol sites to identify whether hard crossings could be eventually be installed as an alternative to manned crossings as and when the posts become vacant.

The review will start with the more than 30 sites where a school crossing patrol should be in place, but the Council have been unable to recruit to the role.

Although school crossing patrols are a lovely, traditional way for school children to cross the road -it is unreliable. Ever fewer people wish to undertake the role. Investment in formal crossings will ensure our children's safety for years to come.

### **2024 Budget**

This is the statement of the HCC leader, Nick Adams King.

“This was a deeply disappointing budget for Hampshire County Council, for local growth and for our businesses.

The extra £1.3 billion for local government is like a few grains of sand when distributed across England but the fact the government has said it will be targeted means we cannot rely on it and I fear much will go to the midlands and the north.

Instead, we will have to grapple with added costs due to this budget. The huge increase in employer National Insurance contributions will cost the council millions, and while Government say it is funded, that is part of the extra local government funding so is in



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effect an extra burden. The effect of the national living wage rising way above inflation will also likely increase our costs substantially. We simply cannot afford this.

The Local Government Association said before the budget that local authorities were facing a £2.3 billion gap in 2025-26 to stand still. What the Chancellor has done is offer a totally inadequate sum - even if we receive our fair share of it. Then, almost immediately, she has hit us with increased operating costs. Our budget deficit will remain unless we are given the tools to decide how to spend and raise our money. We should not be forced to operate via government diktat and increased budget ring fencing or with second class status while money heads to other areas. Sadly, there was nothing concrete in the Budget to help us despite me writing to the Chancellor spelling out the situation and how we could improve it if we were given the powers to innovate through less central control of funding and reform of how councils operate. The only good news is extra money for schools and children's social care but they are relatively small sums and, again, we simply cannot rely on it coming to Hampshire, if the government is looking to push funding to other areas.

The extra money for SEND, which is a huge issue for Hampshire, is a drop in the ocean compared to the pressure we face, if shared equally it will turn a deficit next year of £90m into one of £70-75m, so hardly a 'rescue package'!

I just don't see how this government is investing for growth in Hampshire. It has announced it will cease funding for the functions previously delivered by Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Business Board Network. None of this will drive good, local economic decision making.

Junction 8 of the M27 is now forever cancelled as an 'unfunded and unaffordable' in another blow to our local infrastructure.

Finally, I have to say, I am hugely concerned for our farmers, who have been treated terribly by the budget. As a former small business owner, I am also horrified for those who own their own businesses - they are the backbone of our local economy and must be devastated. I think the national insurance tax raid on working people and businesses will be disastrous, not just here in Hampshire, but across the country."

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### Funding for disease-resistant elm trees

Hampshire Forest Partnership has funding available to give away different variants of disease resistant elms (bare root and pot grown).

Farmers and landowners are eligible to apply and can specify preferred tree sizes. The land need not be publicly accessible, but the Partnership prefers locations where people will be able to see the elms once they grow to maturity - for example in fields, hedgerows or boundaries viewable from a road, footpath or viewpoint.

They prefer locations out of woodlands, and the trees must be allowed to grow to full maturity.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../peopl.../disease-resistant-elms>

Please contact [treeplanting@hants.gov.uk](mailto:treeplanting@hants.gov.uk) for an application form.



## HAMPSHIRE FOREST PARTNERSHIP

*a legacy in leaves*

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### DISEASE-RESISTANT ELM TRIALS

Join our trial and claim your free trees to take part

The English countryside was once dominated by elms, stately giants that watched over our landscape, providing a beauty of form and grace unique to these glorious trees. Since the 1960s, they have been ravaged by Dutch elm disease, a disease that was accidentally introduced to Europe in the early 20th century. The disease is caused by a pathogenic microfungus carried by two species of elm bark beetle and has killed nearly all the mature elms in Britain, an estimated toll of 60-100 million trees.

The elm was historically one of the six major trees within our woodlands, widely used in landscaping and hosts more than 80 species of invertebrate, including several rare moths and the now endangered white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

We are trialling several different elm varieties that have been developed by specialised breeding programmes, with initial findings suggesting these cultivars can resist the disease and establish well. The planting locations are being mapped to help record future growth patterns, ability to resist the disease and how well the elms support biodiversity and nature recovery.



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### **Nominate a rural business for The Countryside Alliance Awards?**

The Countryside Alliance is seeking to find the best rural businesses in the country who go the extra mile for their customers and communities.

They will be presenting awards in the following categories:

- Village shop / Post Office
- Rural enterprise
- Pub
- Local food and drink
- Butcher

Anyone can nominate a local rural business, by going to: <https://www.countryside-alliance.org/awards>

Nominees simply have to explain why the business is special and deserves to be recognised, highlighting how the business champions local producers and makes a real contribution to the community. Nominations must be received by Sunday 17 November.

### **General HCC Information –**

#### **WORK STARTING ON 'ALL WEATHER' POPULAR HAYLING BILLY TRAIL**

Work has begun to upgrade the Hayling Billy Trail, on Hayling Island in Havant, with an all-weather surface, making it easier for walkers, cyclists, mobility scooter users and horse riders to use in all seasons throughout the year

[Work starting on 'all weather' popular Hayling Billy Trail | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/work-starting-on-all-weather-popular-hayling-billy-trail)

#### **STILL TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AFFORDABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY AS DEADLINE EXTENDS**

With more than 4,900 households in Hampshire expressing interest in the latest opportunity to benefit from more affordable solar energy, Solar together Hampshire is extending its registration deadline

[Still time to take advantage of affordable renewable energy as deadline extends | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/still-time-to-take-advantage-of-affordable-renewable-energy-as-deadline-extends)

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### **HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY HAMPSHIRE LIBRARIES!**

This autumn Hampshire Libraries is marking its centenary of providing a public library service in the county, and residents are invited to join the celebrations. Whether that's by attending an event at one of the County Council's 40 libraries, contributing to a 'letter to libraries' display or enjoying one of the books in the special collection

[Happy 100th birthday Hampshire Libraries! | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

### **GREEN LIGHT FOR M27 JUNCTION 10 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME AS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONFIRMS FULL GO-AHEAD**

Hampshire County Council has announced that the M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme is full steam ahead following the completion of formal funding agreements with Buckland Group, the developer of Welborne Garden Village, and Homes England

[Green light for M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme as Hampshire County Council confirms full go-ahead | Hampshire County Council](#)

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### Payments over £500

#### **Parish Council Current Account**

9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Idverde Ltd	£660.00	Grounds Maintenance Aug 24
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	AJGIBL	£3,624.01	Insurance
30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Idverde Ltd	£660.00	Grounds Maintenance Sept 24
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	Philip Newman	£1,100.00	Valuation of assests
30 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Idverde Ltd	£660.00	Grounds Maintenance Oct 24

#### **Village Hall**

11 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Cleaning	£582.83
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Cleaning	£582.83

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**Climate and Nature initiatives** (including the village pond):  
Report to Parish Council meeting (November 2024)

The BEA group of volunteers has continued to arrange a series of events/activities to gradually engage more and more residents.

**This report provides a summary of these activities and also highlights some issues for the Parish Council's attention – including cutting requirements for IdVerde during 2025.**

During 2024 the BEA group has been involved in arranging:

- thermal image camera surveys of homes during the winter months
- the community litter-pick in February
- a seed-swop event in the village hall
- learning about lichens (in the churchyard)
- a talk about the future of farming
- the B-earth day village show event in May
- an Open Gardens Renaturing Trail
- a guided visit to Coulters Dean Nature Reserve
- an Eco-Church event
- a guided bat walk
- the community Hay-Day on the Recreation Ground
- a guided fungi walk
- a talk about 'How Clean is Our Water'.

The year will be rounded off by a presence at the Christmas Market on 7<sup>th</sup> December and at the Treefest event in the Manor Barn. It's hoped that Parish Councillors will visit to see the information and messages on display.

Some artists in the BEA group will be promoting their love of nature and inspiring people to fight climate change and help nature recover at the forthcoming exhibition in Winton House, Petersfield, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November & Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December (10am-4pm). Further details are [here](#)

Groups of villagers are now improving conditions for wildflowers, pollinators and other creatures along parts of Greenway Lane as well as in Heatherfield and on Pond Green. It would be good if parishioners might like to help in other parts of the parish and it's suggested that they should contact Petra, as Parish Clerk, in the first instance (or contact the BEA group at the Xmas Market or TreeFest events) so that species and actions can be added into a coordinated plan.

It's hoped that Parish Councillors will help to lead the way by making a different **New Year's Resolution** for 2025 as described in the forthcoming Winter edition of the Parish Magazine. The Buriton Climate Change Challenge encourages people to pledge to do just one thing (or one thing more!) in 2025. The item explains that small steps can bring big changes – and it provides a number of ideas for local households.

There will be scope for more parishioners to have **Thermal Imaging Surveys** conducted on their homes during the winter months and the Parish Council can help to promote this opportunity for householders to see how to cut spiralling energy bills and combat climate change. The Parish Council holds the small donations from each household (£15) in a ring-fenced reserve to be available as / when new batteries are required for the Thermal Imaging Camera.

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### Local and national recognition

It has been encouraging to see some of Buriton's projects making national news, showing that the parish is doing its bit to try to address the poor state of nature in Britain:

- the country's National Parks published a 'case study poster' about Nature Recovery, featuring a range of projects. Buriton's work was included as the highlight in the South Downs, alongside projects on Lake Windermere, Hadrian's Wall and elsewhere. Details are on the community website: [www.buriton.info](http://www.buriton.info)
- the Guardian featured the rare Cheese Snails in our Chalk Pits Nature Reserve: a species which villagers were keen to protect when funding to look after the area was obtained in 2007. It's good to read that the work continues to be successful and appreciated (see [here](#)).

Hampshire County Council has made an on-line video about Buriton's work as part of its Nature Recovery series 'Conserving our Wild' (available [here](#)).

And the South Downs National Park Authority has published another Case Study about good practice in Buriton. The new document is about the community's 'Climate Action' work that was initiated a few years ago. It can be seen [here](#).

### 2025 and beyond

More activities are already being planned for 2025, including a chance to get up close and personal with owls at the village hall coffee morning on 1<sup>st</sup> February when representatives of the Hampshire Barn Owl Project will be coming to the village with some of their rescued birds. As in 2024, it's hoped that there will be some events or activities each month of the year.

The BEA group also works to try to help the Parish Council keep its commitments and obligations in each of the initiatives where grant-funding and other support has been received. It is understood that SDNPA's Re-Naturing, SDNPA's Bee Lines and SDNPT's Trees for the Downs are all still on track. Details are contained in reports to previous Parish Council meetings and it remains important to make sure that work continues on each of these initiatives for a number of years.

The parish is also still a leading pilot in HCC's Pollinator Project and was involved in the planting of more trees during the year (including in Heatherfield) by HCC's Highways Dept.

### **Requirements for IdVerde in 2025 should usefully include:**

- Hedge along Kiln Lane: top the hedge (along with the road-side cut) in the Autumn. A light cut of the Rec Ground side of the hedge will be needed in 2025 – but no more than 30mm – to help it flower and fruit efficiently
- Wildflower margin on the Rec Ground (and the Pond Green and Heatherfield areas done in 2024): 'Cut & Collect' visit at the end of October so that yellow rattle and other wildflowers can gradually become established. Also, depending on winter growth, they may need a Feb/ March cut. And cutting a 1m strip each side of the Pond Green and Heatherfield paths would help to demonstrate that the longer growth is deliberate etc.

It's felt that some simple interpretation / educational materials could usefully be added in due course – and the SDNPA's original award included contributing towards the costs of these (subject to the involvement of their Comms Team. The intention would be to explain not only why the areas look different (to cater better for nature) but also to provide illustrations of the range of plants and creatures that people might 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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### **Water Quality and the Village Pond**

Sian and Doug met briefly with Carmen Perry (Principal Ecologist, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust) on 12th November before she began her survey of the village pond for EHDC. Her report and recommendations should be available relatively soon.

As background for her work, some reports were provided by EHDC which explained that:

- EHDC had recently netted half of the pond and caught 200 carp as well as other smaller fish (including some ornamentals). Thirty were taken away for health checks and all were found to have a clean bill of health
- EHDC's next steps are understood to be relocating as many carp as possible (to improve the water quality), working closely with the Petersfield District Angling Club
- An analysis of the silts in Buriton Pond in November 2023 for EHDC had found an average depth of about 26cm and had found levels of copper, lead, arsenic and barium over the inert waste landfill criteria which could affect disposal costs
- EHDC had received a report with recommendations in August 2023 which recommended: reducing the numbers of carp; de-silting the pond; reducing adjacent soil cultivation; and creating more meandering ditches (with silt traps) into the pond.

A presentation by Keir Smith of the Western Sussex Rivers Trust charity in the village hall on 13<sup>th</sup> November had shown the poor state of local streams:

- He explained that Buriton's Waste Water Treatment Works in the Links has a bad record of Untreated Sewage Discharges: Environment Agency data for 2023 shows that there were 172 recorded 'spills' in the year, totalling to 2395 hours
- But he added that Water Companies are not the only polluters – and that their treatment works cannot remove all the problems. They are, for example, unable to remove microplastics or pharmaceuticals and other chemicals that may be coming from washing machines, sinks and toilets
- The Trust's 'River Guardian' volunteers are now assembling regular evidence of water quality conditions and results from Buriton indicate that whilst the level of phosphates in the water around the pond was generally ok, beyond the Waste Water Treatment Works some readings have been amongst the worst in the entire catchment area: many times the recommended 'acceptable' level
- There are also surprisingly high levels of nitrates in the clear stream flowing into the village pond – as yet unexplained.

Keir also highlighted some other issues:

- Dog flea and tick treatments (which many people now use) include ingredients which were banned on farms as long ago as 2017 because of their toxic effects on bees and insect life. Keir encouraged everyone to ask vets about eco-friendly alternatives and to keep pets out of watercourses if they have recently been treated
- He also reminded everyone that we should "only flush paper, pee and poo down the loo!" and that we should scrape any leftover food or grease and fat from plates and pans into our bins (not into the dishwasher or down the sink).

The BEA group is considering raising the profile of these water quality matters more widely in the new year/spring alongside climate and nature issues.



## **BURITON PARISH COUNCIL**

More information about the community's climate and nature projects can be found on the website via <https://www.buriton.info/climate-and-nature> with all the 'Latest News' stories listed on related pages.

Finally, the BEA team would still welcome a Parish Council representative on the group and at its meetings. When Maggie, Sarah, Lynne and Doug were councillors they all took an active interest in the climate and nature initiative but no-one has yet replaced Laura since she left the village.

## BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

### Correspondence

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Sender</b>
1.10.24	Details of a TJ lorry blocking the road	Sam Rossiter
5.10.24	Tree fallen in the recreation ground	Sarah Stevens
5.10.24	Football on the recreation ground	Tim Mitford
9.10.24	Copy of email to nine HCC Cllrs re Boats	Susan Davenport, East Meon PC
11.10.24	Copy of email to HCC re Boats	Nigel Harrison, Chair of EHAPTC
22.10.24	Suggestion for recreation ground who lives out of the village	Howard Bevis
24.10.24	Informing us that plans have changed and that they will be submitting a planning appeal – Greenway Park Hotel	Nick Whittington, Pegasus Group
11.11.24	Informing us that they are waiting to hear from the Planning Inspectorate as to whether amended plans will be accepted	Nick Whittington Pegasus Group
15.11.24	Request to attend meeting with architects for planning application for Mapledurham House	Stuart Bone, PWP Architects
15.11.24	Replies to questions raised on Greenway Lane development	Karen Wooden, SDNPA
19.11.24	Thanking the PC for donation	Daz Hare, RBL
20.11.24	Copy of email to SDNPA Policy & Resources Committee re BOATS	Susan Davenport, Chair East Meon PC
23.11.24	Request to attend meeting to discuss the proposed development in Kiln Lane	Richard Palmer