

Highways – Clerk asked to write to Highways regarding reinstatement of verges where HGVs have come off the road by Godwin’s Peat works. The contractors have just piled soil up on the edge of the tarmac and councillors are concerned that this will easily fall away again. They also believe that reflector posts would help in the spot just over Black Bull Bridge that has just been repaired from where the HGV went off the road last year.

Planning –Burtle Inn Application for change of use, conversion and extension of former Inn to two dwellings, formation of parking was discussed. It was noted that the pub is still on the register of Assets of Community Value and will remain so until September 2018. After debate and listening to the comments of the members of the village present Councillors agreed that, despite the rundown condition of the building, they were unable to support the application. They questioned the accuracy of the location maps and the plans submitted. They also queried whether it was possible to slice a section out of the centre of the building as proposed, especially a parts are known to be built of cob and it was felt that this would destroy an old historic building which had once been very attractive. Councillors also noted that no mention was made of the front area which was a garden but had recently been used as a car park. They thought that it should be restored to garden to make the whole site blend in with other properties in the area and maintain the street scene around the Cross. The car parking arrangements for each house were also queried as there had not been enough room allowed for vehicles to turn on the site.

Glebe Farm Cottage Application for single storey extension to West elevation, replacement of one door and window with folding doors to South elevation. Councillors agreed to support the application as they feel that it is visually more in keeping with the original and the surrounding than the previous proposals. However, they would like reassurance that there will be adequate drainage provision made for the increased runoff water from the larger roof area and the increase in foul water and sewage produced from a three bedroom permanent residence as opposed by the amount produced from a small holiday cottage.

Noise and increase of HGV traffic from Godwin’s site - Mendip Environmental Protection Team has decided to pass responsibility for all complaints about the noise to Sedgemoor District Council as the nuisance is being suffered in Sedgemoor even though it is being caused by a site in Mendip. The Mendip Planning Enforcement team had given the operators seven days to produce evidence that they believe proves that the chipping processing on the site is lawful. Documents have been received which now have to be reviewed by the Mendip team.

Email has been sent to Highways Dept and copied to the Somerset County Council cabinet member for Highways, asking for confirmation that costs to repair damage caused to the highway and verges by HGVs will be recovered from the companies concerned. Liam Gill has replied that it is difficult to trace the owners of the vehicles. Clerk to respond that Burtle PC knows the owners of the vehicles in several instances and has already provided photographic proof to his department.

Extension of Referendum Principles not to be extended to local councils during 2017/18

Councillors were pleased to note this decision as they had written to Government, NALC and Ian Liddell- Grainger opposing the idea as they thought it would be unworkable at Parish Council level.

Burtle Website - Cllr R Dallimore informed the meeting that he has recently overhauled and updated the website.

Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall