

BURTLE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Burtle Parish Council was held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.30pm in Burtle Village Hall.

111 PRESENT

Councillor R Dallimore (chairman)
Councillor A Duval (vice chairman)
Councillor S Bull
Councillor Nathan Ponsillo
District Councillor S Kingham
County Councillor David Huxtable (*arrived at 7.55pm*)

112 APOLOGIES

Councillor J Porter

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

114 DISPENSATIONS

None were sought

115 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st November 2017 were agreed and signed as correct.

116 MATTERS ARISING

Highways – Councillors were pleased to learn that the large dip that has developed where the road has subsided between the entrances to Godwin's Peat works is due to be patched and levelled within the next few weeks. Reports of a dip in the road at Goose Lane but it is believed that this is in Chilton Polden Parish.

Drainage – nothing to report

Catcott Broad Drove – Reports have been received regarding a horse box parked opposite Honeysuckle Villa. It would appear that it is being lived in and an electric cable is stretched across the road each night to deliver power to the occupants. There is concern about the safety of this practice for both the occupants of the horse box and people having to cross the cable. Matter has been reported to Enforcement Officer who is investigating the situation.

Bus Shelter – resurfacing of the area in front of the shelter is ongoing.

Laptop for Clerk – Suitable software to be purchased before grant application can be made.

Sign on Sandpit and Finger Posts – Cllrs thanked Cllr N Ponsillo for repairing the Sandpit sign. Working party to be arranged to carry out the work to the finger posts in the new year.

Road signs – Reply received from Sedgemoor Traffic Engineer stating that pinch point at Red Gate does not meet the visibility criteria for priority signs because of the bend in the road. She did suggest slow signs in the road. Cllrs agreed that these should be requested together with reflector posts on the bridge.

Footpath sign - damaged fingerpost at far end of Robins lane has been reported to Rights of Way dept. ref: 46531

Daffodil Bulbs – free bulbs have been received from Sedgemoor Cllr A Duval to plant some under Burtle signs in Mark Road and Edington Road and Cllr S Bull will plant some under Burtle sign by First and Last

Defibrillator – new pads have been received. Annual Awareness training will take place alongside Café Burtle on 10th February 2018

117 PLANNING

Applications – none notified

Decisions – none notified

2017/1838/VRC Application to vary condition 3 of planning permission 085439/001 (erection of replacement factory building) to enable the building to be used for the storage, processing and manufacturing of horticultural products and wood products for animal bedding and biomass at E J Godwin Peat Industries Limited, Burtle Road, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9TT
The application has been withdrawn by the applicants following advice from the officer that it would be recommended for refusal on the various environmental, ecological, amenity and highway issues raised. Despite being a consultee Burtle Parish Council was notified of this development and found out purely by chance.

118 FINANCE

No invoices have been received for payment.

Bank Mandate HSBC has confirmed that all is in order and the new mandate listing all current councilors has been activated.

Precept 2018/19 correspondence regarding this has been circulated . Clerk to produce budget statements for next meeting.

119 TREES WESTHAY BROAD DROVE

Correspondence has been received from Zurich Insurance advising that the claim has been settled in the sum of £5250.00.

120 NOISE AND INCREASE IN HGV TRAFFIC FROM PEAT WORKS

Cllrs are extremely disappointed to learn that South West Wood Products are preparing a revised application following advice that the last one would have been recommended for refusal in its current form, due to the various environmental, ecological, amenity and highway issues. Cllrs have been advised by Mendip that enforcement action will not be taken while they are preparing the new application. It was agreed to write to the Mendip Planning Officer to ask them to set a time limit for the new application as the unauthorised activities on the site have already been going on for two years. Cllrs also agreed to pursue the protection of the oak trees that are being killed by the piles of chippings and logs etc that are being piled up around them. *Copy of email sent to Mendip planning dept is attached. This email has been copied to other consultees and both MPs.*

It has been noted that the construction of the pond to the east of the site has been recommenced. The bank on the western side seems to be unusually high and is causing water to pool around the oak trees. Clerk to write to Somerset Planning dept to ask if this is all in line with agreed after use for this area.

121 CORRESPONDENCE

Power cut in the Village - Western Power Distribution has advised that the lengthy power cut on Saturday 18th November is believed to have been caused by a third party damaging the high voltage poles. They are writing to all customers affected asking them to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police.

SID latest reports show an improvement with lower speeds recorded. Marked increase in traffic volume on day that M5 was closed.

Further email received stating that SIDs will no longer be funded as current devices are becoming old and there are no funds to replace them. If there is sufficient interest there may be schemes for parishes to fund them in future. Clerk asked to write to express an interest in such schemes.

Mendip Community Transport have made a request for a grant. Clerk to request numbers of people from Burtle who use their services.

122 ITEMS OF INTEREST

Winter Salt Allocation – has been collected by Cllr A Duval and is currently being stored on his premises at Green Drove by Cllr N Ponsillo. Both bins are currently full.

Clean up day – All agreed that date needs to be set for 2018. Clerk to contact Church wardens for dates of services in March to avoid clashes.

Annual Parish Meeting – date to be set at next meeting. Ideas needed for speakers. Mr David Eccles from Hinkley suggested.

123 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed.....Date.....

Email sent to Anna Clark BSc (Hons) PGCertTP MA MRTPI, Principal Economic Growth Planner, Mendip district Council on 18th December 2017:

Dear Ms Clark,

Thank you for your reply regarding withdrawal of planning application 2017/1838/VRC, addressed to myself and County Councillor David Huxtable.

Councillors discussed the above application at their last meeting. They were surprised that, as a consultee, Burtle Parish Council had not been notified that the application had eventually been withdrawn following your advice.

Councillors were also extremely disappointed that the matter does not appear to be progressing some two years since they first brought it to the attention of Mendip District Council.

Environmental and infrastructure damage continues unchecked and it would appear that activity on the site is actually increasing. Piles of logs, sawdust etc are now spread amongst the oak trees in the south eastern area. If the mature trees have not already been killed they will not survive for long in the current conditions. The oak trees to the east of the illicit chipping plant are now standing in water, and further road repairs will shortly need to be made.

Councillors noted that "Godwin's Peatworks" has been an agenda item at every meeting for the past two years, and yet your e-mail of 15th November 2017 gives no indication that any decision is in sight. Previous correspondence with Tom Boyle, Mendip Planning Enforcement Officer, informed us in January 2017 that the operators had been given seven days to provide documentation supporting their claim that the operations were lawful or to submit a planning application. This deadline, along with most others, was missed, and the application was 'promised' by 19th May. Again this did not materialise and we were advised 'the anticipated timescale had been extended at their end due to problems with certain aspects of the application that they had contracted out'. The application was eventually received on 12th July and after a further four months it was withdrawn following advice that it would be unsuccessful.

Almost 12 months have now passed since Godwin's were first told that an application would need to be made for SWWP's wood chipping activities, yet it still appears that delays continue and no deadline has been given for a further submission. Councillors would be grateful if you would confirm that the applicants have been asked to submit detailed impact assessments with their next application, since many consultees and other interested bodies amongst the more than seventy objectors to the application lodged in July 2017 stressed that such assessments would be essential in determining the case.

Councillors would also be grateful if you would specify what you mean by 'an unreasonable delay' before enforcement action is taken.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Maureen Perdue
Clerk to Burtle Parish Council
01278 722395