

Burtle Parish Council Summary July 2018

Highways The two sink holes in Edington Road, potholes at Robins Lane near to Gear Change and edge potholes in Mark Road opposite Lilac Farm and by the Sandpit have been repaired. Some of the barbed wire at Godwin's site has been removed but some the posts have been bent over and barbed wire remains in some places.

Godwin's site some information received following Freedom of Information request to Mendip for minutes of meetings with South West Wood Products (SWWP). There are no minutes but a copy of detailed letter from SWWP agent has been received and this sets out some of the reasons why they believe that the current use of the site is lawful. One of the main reasons is that they believe there has been a factory on the site since pre-1951 and because of this they can continue with the current activities. Mendip are still awaiting a formal application for a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use (CLEUD). This will give them an opportunity to review the situation and respond although the public consultation and other requirements associated with a planning application will not apply.

Burtle Inn Councillors are extremely disappointed that despite all their efforts to have the once attractive building restored on this prominent corner all the oldest section of the building has been demolished without permission. There have been protracted negotiations over many months to try to ensure that the site was developed in a sympathetic way. There were many versions of the plans for the site and councillors believed that the ones passed in October 2017 would protect the look of the building given the number of conditions applied to the consent by Sedgemoor Planning Officers and were the best outcome for the village.

Both the Senior Planning Officer and the Enforcement Officer at Sedgemoor are aware of the current situation at the Burtle Inn and that work is continuing six days per week. One of the conditions of the planning consent was that nothing was to be demolished and the view of the Planning Officer is that by carrying out the demolition the developers have invalidated the consent.

The Enforcement Officer has notified them that all work must stop as they no longer have any planning permission on the site and that they need to apply for planning permission for the whole site to be able to continue but it appears that the developers have chosen to ignore this advice.

The new application for the whole site is still awaited and will need to go through the normal consultation process. Councillors believe that if any of the work being carried out at present is not given consent in the new application the work will have to be rectified to comply with the new consent.

Speedwatch signs The County Traffic Engineer is not at work at present and, as she has no deputy, Burtle Parish Council has not been able to gain approval for the locations proposed by the Speedwatch Group and obtain permission for the signs to be erected on the County Council posts in those locations.

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