

Burtle Parish Council Summary – May 2019

This was the Annual meeting and the start of a new four-year term of office.

The election was uncontested with just the five existing councillors nominated. Declaration of acceptance of office forms for the new term were signed before the meeting commenced.

Councillors are: Sandra Bull, Richard Dallimore, Tony Duval, Nathan Ponsillo, Julian Porter.

Cllr R Dallimore was elected as chairman and Cllr T Duval as vice chairman. Cllr N Ponsillo will continue as footpath Liaison Officer. The chairman agreed to the ex officio role of trustee for Burtle Village Hall nomination of the other trustee was deferred until the next meeting.

Those present remembered Derek Loud, who passed away on 4th May. Looking back at the records it was noted that Derek was elected as vice chairman at the inaugural meeting of Burtle Parish Council on 8th April 1981. He was elected Chairman the following year and served the village in that role for many years. Burtle will miss Derek and a letter of condolence will be sent to his family.

Highways Reply has been received from Highways dept re outstanding issues: **Badger damage Robins Lane** - does not warrant action at present to be kept under review. **Road surface Halterpath Drove and Potholes Edington Road** - listed for repair, **Edge erosion Tile House Road** - This mainly to the roadside verge and not currently deemed to be a safety defect. Planned highway safety inspections will continue to be carried out, **Reflectors and Slow signs Redgate, Burtle Road** - to be completed within 8 weeks.

Westhay Broad Drove by the Peatworks Edge potholes are off the carriageway and not currently deemed to be a safety defect. Plans to recycle and resurface this road on both approaches to the Peat works in the current financial year around September. Safety inspections will continue to be carried out in the meantime. The response to PC stated that the lake is on private land, away from the carriageway, and there are no plans to install safety fencing on this route. District Cllr S Kingham has now taken this up with Highways Dept as a road safety issue.

Grass cutting 2019/20 Cllrs unanimously agreed to award the contract to Wayne Pople.

Planning Cllrs were unable to discuss the application to change the use of a plot of land behind Robins Cottage to garden from agricultural as it had only been received that day. An extra meeting will be held on 22nd May to discuss it after details have been published.

Sedgemoor DC have granted permission for a caravan to be sited on the plot of land at by Sunset Bay Farm, Burtle Road while the house is built. The caravan must be removed within two years or within six weeks of occupation of the house whichever is the sooner.

Finance Cllrs unanimously agreed to make a donation of £100 to Burtle Village Hall Committee again this year to allow them, at their discretion, to financially help any groups events beneficial to the village that might have difficulty in paying hall hire charges.

Bus shelter clerk was asked to write to thank Ken and Margaret Bell for painting the bus shelter and John Fiddler for donating the paint.

Speeding Cllrs have received several emails regarding speeding through the village. Data regarding speeds recorded was contained in the report from the Community Speedwatch Coordinator. Traffic speed has always been a problem on the long straight stretches of roads through Burtle. The 30mph speed limit introduced some years ago after many years of lobbying by the Parish Council has helped but unfortunately not everyone complies with speed limits. Traffic speeds were regularly recorded by the SID (Speed Indicator Device) that the Parish Council requested but unfortunately Somerset County Council no longer operates the scheme because of budget cuts. The Parish Council expressed an interest in joining a

similar scheme that would be charged to each Parish Council but Somerset CC decided that this was not financially viable. The police mobile unit visits the village often although not always at the times when the problem is at its worst. The Parish Council did request that visits were timed to coincide with commuter traffic some time ago but this rarely happens. Burtle Parish Council has requested a review of the signage and County Councillor David Huxtable offered to take the matter up with the Traffic Engineer on behalf of the parish and seek their suggestions to help reduce the excessive speed of some vehicles. It was noted that very few Jenkinson's lorries travel through the village. Following the efforts to stop the wood processing at Godwin's site, they all appear to take an alternative route. Some Keedwell lorries have been observed but this is the usual seasonal increase in demand for horticultural garden products.

Village Spring Clean Cllrs are greatly concerned that there have been reports of traffic 'near misses' involving volunteers during the recent Village Spring Clean. No one reported any incidents to the Parish Council on the day and the volunteers involved have not been identified. If there were any incidents on the day Cllrs would like to speak with the person/ persons involved to help them to see whether there are any further safety precautions that could be put in place for next year's event. A risk assessment is always undertaken for the Parish Council Insurers and, of course, the safety of fellow villagers who volunteer to take part in the event for the benefit of the village is paramount.

Next meeting Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.