

BURTLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Several Parishioners were present.

1 PRESENT

Councillor C Pople (chairman)
Councillor A Duval (vice chairman)
Councillor S Bull
Councillor R Dallimore
Councillor J Porter
District Councillor S Kingham

2 APOLOGIES

County Councillor D Huxtable
Mr S Allen, Burtle Village hall Committee
Mrs J Jones, Harvest Home Committee

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman delivered his report copy attached.

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The clerk presented accounts Copy attached.

5 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor S Kingham gave a report copy attached

6 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor D Huxtable report was read copy attached

7 REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Burtle Church – report given copy attached

Burtle Village Hall – attached report was read on behalf of Burtle Village Hall Committee

Garden Club – verbal report given. Annual Flower Show now moved to August Bank Holiday weekend which seems to be very popular with everyone. Garden Club has recently organized dancing lessons in the village hall.

Harvest Home - attached report was read on behalf of Harvest Home Committee

Burtle Babies – verbal report given about the origins of the group and its activities. They are filling a need for local parents of young children at minimal cost.

Police – no reply has been received to invitation to attend

Village Agent – Post is currently vacant but before he left Alex Ward sent a short note saying that he had had very little take up from Burtle.

BAD Players – report was given copy attached

Burtle Book Club – report was given copy attached

Burtle Silver Band – verbal report given. Band would welcome new members and is a very good way for young people to learn to play an instrument. Open evening coming up and list of events where the band will be playing was circulated.

Café Burtle – report given copy attached.

8 DEFIBRILLATOR

The Chairman noted that Mr R Masters had resigned from the duty of making weekly checks on the defibrillator when he moved from the village recently. He gave a vote of thanks to Mr Masters for carrying out the checks.

He went on to introduce Mr Nathan Chard who has volunteered to take over the role. Mr chard gave a short report. He checks the defibrillator weekly and submits a monthly report to SWAT and has just submitted the first of his three monthly updates to the Parish Council. The chairman thanked him for volunteering to take on the role for the good of the village.

9 SPEAKERS

Councillor Duncan McGinty, Leader of Sedgemoor District Council.

Gave a very interesting over view of the activities of Sedgemoor District council and their plans for the future including the development at Hinkley and its impact on the area. Several questions were taken.

Representatives from The Duck, Burtle

The pub which has been open for almost a year and a short overview of the refurbishment and the business to date was given. The owner said that it had been quite a gamble to reopen the pub again but it appeared to be successful and there are further plans for the future.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman thanked the speakers and all those present for attending and there being no further business the chairman closed the formal meeting at 9.45pm

Refreshments were served at the end of the meeting and all those present took advantage of the opportunity for informal discussion.

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

Burtle Parish Council – Chairman’s report 2017

Reflecting over the Parish Council’s activity over the past year it has been pleasing to note that more members of the public have been present at our meetings. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public, everyone is welcome and there is always time allowed for comments from the floor.

Thank you to those of you who have supported us by attending meetings.

A lot of the work that the Parish Council carries on behalf of the village probably goes unnoticed. Here is an overview of some of the things we have achieved in the past year.

Some things that we hope you will have noticed are:

The overgrown withies in Westhay Broad Drove were cut back some 12 months ago in the interests of road safety for all road users. They had been overhanging the highway for some considerable time and, believing them to be on common land, Councillors took the opportunity of a planned road closure for repairs and arranged for them to be cut back from the highway. Subsequently, two people came forward proving ownership of the land and demanded compensation. The matter was placed in the hands of our insurers several months ago and has yet to be resolved.

The roof of the bus shelter by the church was repaired in the summer. The work was carried out by P Bishop, Roofing to a very high standard and at a preferential rate in recognition of family ties with Burtle.

The Parish Council continues to maintain the Sandpit as a focal point of the village. Over the year Councillors have carried out work to make the pedestrian entrance safer and have planted daffodil bulbs provided by Sedgemoor District Council. The Parish Council pays for the grass to be cut regularly.

Last June Burtle Parish Council purchased commemorative medals which were presented to all young people living in the parish to mark Queens 90th Birthday.

The promised interpretation board from the Avalon Marshes project was eventually erected in front of the Village Hall in April last year. Councillors took the opportunity to move the parish notice board at the same time to a safer position further away from the highway.

The Parish Council also organised the annual Village Spring Clean again this year. Thank you to the volunteers who collected the huge amount of rubbish from the verges around the village. Fly tipping is an ongoing problem throughout the year. Incidents are immediately reported to have the rubbish cleared as quickly as possible so as not to encourage others to follow suit. We acknowledge the help of Sedgemoor District Council with the fly tipping and the Cleanup day including the loan of equipment.

In response to complaints from residents about the amount of rubbish that was being blown out of the recycling lorry, we have approached the contractors concerned. A supervisor went out with the crew and as a result they have been reminded that the flaps must be shut down when the lorry is moving. The contractor will continue to monitor the situation.

The Annual refresher for the defibrillator was organised alongside the January Cafe Burtle. Several residents took the opportunity to familiarise themselves with how to use the defibrillator in an emergency.

Burtle Website has been revamped and is maintained by Cllr Richard Dallimore.

Other things that have taken up our time are:

Highways are discussed every month without fail and the Parish Council reports all defects to the relevant departments with varying degrees of success. The repairs that are carried out are usually the result of numerous emails and phone calls usually to the Highways dept. For example we are still trying to have the white lining by the church repainted to an acceptable standard. This work was carried some twelve months ago and flaked off almost immediately. We have been asking for the defective work to be rectified since March 2016! – we will not give up and will continue to pursue the matter until it is done.

Somerset Highways recently launched an on line reporting system for members of the public to report potholes etc. We would urge everyone to use this new facility, full details can be found on the Parish Council page of the Burtle website.

A lot of the damage is caused by HGVs using our narrow roads. Where significant damage has occurred and the identity of the vehicle is known we are actively trying to obtain assurance from Somerset County Council that repair costs will be

recovered from company concerned. Black Bull Bridge and the damage to the verge just over the bridge in River Road are two cases in point.

We are currently in the process of arranging a meeting with Alyn Jones, Interim Director of Economic & Community Infrastructure Operations and David Fothergill, Somerset County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to discuss the state of Highways in Burtle.

A great deal of Parish Council time has been taken up by the nuisance caused to residents of Burtle from the wood chipping operations at the Godwin's peat works site. Our persistence in bringing the matter to the attention of Mendip District Council has eventually had some results in the fact that the company concerned has now been informed that a planning application must be made. Mendip were very loath to take any notice of our complaints in the first instance but we believe that our continued efforts to bring the matter to the attention of many bodies including MPs and the Chief Executive of Mendip District Council may have helped. This is another matter that we will not let go.

Speeding through the village continues to be a problem but despite regular adverts for volunteers at Cafe Burtle and on the website we do not seem to be able to muster enough people willing to form a Community Speedwatch group. Speeds are monitored at two points in the village twice per year and the high readings regularly recorded do help towards occasional visits from the Police speed patrols.

Planning is another regular topic at meetings. Burtle Parish Council has been consulted on ten applications this year. Most were for extensions and/ or alterations to existing properties. An application to convert the Burtle Inn into two residential units was withdrawn by the applicant. The Burtle Inn is still on the Register of Assets of value to the Community.

At the suggestion of our district Councillor Stuart Kingham a Parish meeting was held in October to give residents the opportunity to hear about the provision of Affordable Housing in Sedgemoor and how it tied in with the Local Plan which is currently being reviewed. Because of the lack of facilities it is proposed that Burtle is placed in the new tier 5 in the plan, this means that there would have to be a demonstrated local need for any future development in the parish and it would also have to be fully supported by the local community.

Funding to carry out these activities and to make grants and donations to local groups is received in the form of the Annual precept, a charge that is collected via the council tax on all properties in the parish. With this in mind it is our duty to ensure that the money is spent wisely, using volunteers as much as possible. There was a modest rise to the precept this year of £241, making the total received for the year £3800.00. Although this is calculated at a rise of 8.7%, in reality it means that a Band D household will pay a total of £25.72 over the year, just £2.04 more than last year.

Our aim is to do a lot to improve our village with not very much and I hope this overview gives an insight into the duties that your Parish Councillors regularly undertake on a voluntary basis for the good of our village.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their support over the past year.

ANNUAL REPORT TO BURTLE PC FROM CC DAVID HUXTABLE

This year saw the County Council invest considerable funds into trying to level and repair the Edington Road. This is a continuing problem and familiar to all the moor roads built on peat. The vehicles over these roads are getting larger and cause more damage than ever before.!! I am know the village has been hugely annoyed by the large industrial machinery installed at the Godwins Peat works just over the Parish border. The noise and extra HGVs that this has created has reduced the quality of life for many village residents. As in all planning related matters progress towards a solution has been slow and I share your frustrations. I have tried to work closely with all parties and I know that both the MPs for Wells and Bridgwater have been involved to try and get a speedy solution. The outcome of the planning application will be watched closely by other peat site owners as they all operate under very old planning permissions which are perhaps less specific than modern ones.!! The County Council continues to balance it's books and work towards 2020 when we will have very little direct Government funding. We are now educating more children, looking after more elderly and repairing more roads than ever before. Times are not easy financially, but the County will continue to fulfil its duties and I hope that I have been able to help to help the Parish Council do theirs. As always I would like to thank the Parish for its patience and good humour in dealing with all aspects of local government.!!

Yours Sincerely David

St Philip and St James, Burtle

Following a vacancy period of just about one year, albeit without a vicar since January 2015, we were delighted to welcome Revd. Richard Tweedy and his wife, Jennifer last May, to lead our six churches in the Polden Wheel.

At Burtle we continue to have two regular services most months but over six weeks of summer there is just one service each week rotating round the Polden Wheel churches. Special services at Burtle have included Easter morning worship, Harvest Thanksgiving and Christmas Midnight communion. We also have occasional informal prayer and praise services.

As usual we have organised a variety of social and fund raising events including the ever popular Harvest Supper and Turkey Gobbler, also Cream Teas at Catcott Burtle Farm and a Skittles evening at the Duck and some of the regular Bingo evenings at the Village Hall have been in support of the Church.

Keeping our Church Buildings and Churchyard well maintained is often a challenge, this year we have had the crumbling step into the porch replaced with a new stone, we are also monitoring some recurring damp area in the nave with a view to further investigations as to the cause. Following an insurance inspection we have had an asbestos survey and electrical inspection completed.

Again some of the church yard grass is being left un-mown or less frequently mown to allow wildflowers to grow and encourage other wildlife.

The Churchwardens would like to thank all in Burtle who help with all aspects of church life, especially organists, flowers arrangers, cleaners, grass cutters, supporters of our fund raising events and spring cleaning and churchyard days and not forgetting of course the Parish Council for their grant which helps with necessary maintenance including the purchase of a new strimmer last year.

Churchwardens:

Alison Everett
Josie Masters

Burtle Village Hall

Chairman's Report March 2017

At the AGM in 2016 a new committee was elected. Not only did this include new faces who had never served on the committee before but several members who were new to the village itself. This was most gratifying and demonstrated interest and support for the hall and the village in general. With some old hands, including the return of Tony Spiller as Chairman, providing history and experience, the new committee got down to business.

Committee:

- Chairman – Tony Spiller
- Vice Chairman – Steve Allen
- Booking Secretary – Tracy Fear
- Treasurer – Ginny Rideout
- Secretary/Bar Manager - Jonathan Mansfield-Ross
- Hall Manager – Bill Dean
- Parish Council Rep – Richard Dallimore
- Church Rep – Jane Allen
- Bad Players Rep = Alan Par
- Burtle Babies Rep – Anne Lush
- Committee member – Rachael Nutman

Whilst outwardly things may not have changed, there has been a lot going in the background. During the course of the year we had a major clear-up outside the hall cutting back the hedge and weeds and removing rubbish. The loft area too had a total clear out and re-organisation and now is far less cluttered. This was, in part, prompted by a long overdue fire inspection and HSE risk assessment which highlighted the dangers and hazards in the loft. It has now been agreed that only committee members should be allowed into the loft area and this should be locked in future to reduce risks and prevent unsupervised access.

Our hall manager, Bill Dean, has done a sterling job organising all the paperwork to ensure that all testing and certificates required by law are up to date as well as routine maintenance and has addressed many outstanding jobs and tasks. This overhaul of the regulatory requirements has come at a cost with several disbursements for inspections, testing, and remedial action for the electrics, alarms and fire safety. Paperwork, including revised booking forms, HSE policy and others can be found on the web site and in the hall. Sadly Bill will be leaving the committee in April due to pressure of other work.

The web site has been re-designed and is being maintained by Richard Dallimore. We would ask all those wanting content to be added to the web site to be patient as he is doing this on a voluntary basis when time permits. The site is built using WordPress specifically so that local groups can maintain their own content and we urge them to do so and take responsibility for their own pages.

We have created a tradesmen's register of locals with skills and abilities, both professional and amateur, to call upon to help with the maintenance and planned improvements. It is anticipated that this will help to cover many of the jobs that otherwise would have been contracted out.

Under the direction of Tracy Fear, ably assisted by her partner Mark Scott, the children's Christmas party was once again held for the benefit of children from the village and surrounding area. Thanks to a great deal of effort on their part the event was enjoyed immensely by all attendees and not only covered its costs but actually made a profit!

Café Burtle has continued to be a great success and well attended. Not only does this continue to provide a significant source of revenue but also provides a focal point for locals, new and old of all ages to meet and interact, our thanks to Maureen Perdue and Jenny Duval who work tirelessly every month to make this happen. After Harvest Home the village hall took over the meat raffle for 2 years which also generates income together with the Burtle 100 club which sold over 100 numbers this year. We have also initiated a Grumpy Men's Breakfast on a monthly basis where men can meet and chat on a Sunday morning and enjoy a full English breakfast, read the papers and get a haircut if they wish, our thanks to Ginny Rideout for this suggestion and for obtaining some seed funding to help get this started. The hall is in very good shape overall, some re-decorating and 'odd-jobs' are still required and will be planned for the summer. Our intention is to devote more time to organising some fund raising events in the coming year and to work more closely with other groups on joint events. Financially the hall is still struggling to balance its books. Income from rentals remains fairly static; the historical disparity between rentals paid by some groups still exists but is being addressed. Revenues from the bar have been significantly lower despite opening the bar for most functions. This is due, in part, to the type of function at which the bar was opened and a general reduction in the amount of drink consumed; a problem that seems to affect all pubs and bars these days. With reluctance we have had to increase prices that take effect from 1st March, we are also introducing minimum charges to open the bar to reduce wastage of time and materials on events where takings are extremely low. In the autumn Tony Spiller stepped down as Chairman on health grounds and Steve Allen assumed the role. Our secretary and bar manager, Jonathan Mansfield-Ross, also stepped-down in January due to pressure of work as did our cleaner, Barbara Vowles, after many years of dedication; our thanks and appreciation to both for their contribution. A replacement cleaner has been found but we are still seeking a bar manager if anyone would like to apply. We will have a number of vacancies on the committee as several members, in particular the group representatives, are standing down at the AGM after many years of service, our thanks go to all those that have given their time and energy to help keep the hall running.

Report for Burtle Parish Council meeting on Wednesday April 5th from Burtle Harvest Home Committee

A culmination of 4 years hard work took place on August 6th 2016 in the form of Burtle Harvest Home. Fund raising worries leading up to the event were forgotten in the fun and laughter of the day - even a chance interruption by South West Power to replace the transformer in the field did nothing to spoil things which culminated in the arrival of a huge line of tractors (old and older) supplied by local farmers and arranged by James Cox. Alex Lovell arrived with our Chairman, Steve Allen, in his beautiful sports car, things could only get better, they did and the rest is history. Significant funds were then distributed to Burtle Church, Village Hall, Burtle Babies and Breast Cancer World Challenge as the attached accounts review will show. Some money was held over to enable us to reserve the marquee at 2016 prices. Since then our AGM has brought new members onto the Committee in the form of Tracy Fear, Rita Sainsbury and lately Jayne Murray to replace Lisa Porter and Paul Ham. Chris Mockridge was awarded a glass inscribed tankard in appreciation and thanks for his tireless, brilliant work at each event. Lately we have been busy arranging a Sausage and Mash Supper to be held on Saturday April 22nd 2017. Tickets have been selling well and the event should prove a success. We hope to continue our Plant Raffle which will be held every Cafe Burtle replacing the Meat Raffle which has been handed to Burtle Village Hall funds for the interim. The raffle is a small but important income and the nature of things may change depending on the response from the village. Now we have to look forward to the next four equally tough years to raise nearly £20000 for our 2020 Harvest Home. These are challenging times and we know the difficulties ahead in this cash strapped environment but we strive to work for the benefit of all in our Burtle Community and look forward to an equally successful 2020 Harvest Home

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2017

The Bbc – Burtle book Club

Bbc held its first meeting in The Tom Mogg, as it then was, in 2007.

Over the years we have been obliged to change venue several times, though always staying as close to Burtle as we have been able. The group has always considered the social bonus of meeting in a pub to be an important one.

The Bbc celebrated its 10th birthday in February, and most appropriately we were back in Burtle, sharing a meal at The Duck where we now hold our monthly meetings.

The group is currently 9 readers, and we would be happy to welcome up to 3 more. of show seemed likely to suffer from the same problems

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2017.

BAD Players – Burtle Amateur Dramatic Players.

Very sadly, as you will know, the scheduled 2017 pantomime, which would have been performed last month, never materialised.

After the triumph that was BAD ‘Aladdin’ in 2015, there was considerable enthusiasm amongst the Players, but we found there were simply too few of us.

We searched libraries and websites, ordered reading copy scripts and consulted with everyone involved, but in the end could find no production that we could attempt with such a small potential cast, be they ever so keen. Ideas for an alternative sort It was a great disappointment, and BAD Players was particularly sad not to be able to encourage and develop the talents of the young Players and supporters who were keen to be involved again.

Being part of a BAD show is a huge pleasure, we have a lot of fun, but it is also a serious commitment of time and energy, and there just don’t seem to be enough people in the small community of Burtle who can fit that into their busy lives.

However, BAD Players plan to meet early this summer to review the situation, and decide if a production would be feasible for Spring 2018