

BURTLE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Burtle Parish Council was held on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7.30pm in Burtle Village Hall.

137 PRESENT

Councillor R Dallimore (chairman)
Councillor A Duval (vice chairman)
Councillor Nathan Ponsillo
Councillor J Porter
Councillor S Bull (*arrived at 7.45pm*)

138 APOLOGIES

District Councillor S Kingham
County Councillor David Huxtable

139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

140 DISPENSATIONS

None were sought

141 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd January 2018 were agreed and signed as correct.

142 MATTERS ARISING

Highways – Cllrs were pleased to learn that repairs to Edington Road and Catcott Road are planned for May this year. Repairs to road by Peat works have been completed. Clerk asked to write to Highways regarding missing reflectors and general state of the road by Sweet's Corner where another car has recently gone into the ditch. Cllrs are also concerned about the barbed wire which has been erected right on the Highway at the peat works and the fact that the scaffolding at the Burtle Inn is right on the Highway and partially obscuring the post box.

Drainage – work has been completed up to the pond in Robin's Lane

Catcott Broad Drove – Cllrs have received reports that the cable is still being laid over the road to supply electricity to the occupants of the horsebox despite the occupants having confirmed to Highways Dept that they have discontinued the practice. Report to Highways

Bus Shelter – resurfacing of the area in front of the shelter is ongoing. Wood work on side of shelter needs attention.

Sign on Sandpit and Finger Posts – Cllrs agreed to research new signs for Sandpit as old ones have both rotted at the base.

Road signs – Replacement reflector signs at Redgate have been requested but awaiting consultation with local farmers regarding the suggested SLOW signs.

Defibrillator – Annual Awareness training will take place alongside Café Burtle on 10th February 2018. Clerk has produced posters and it has been advertised in Burtle Newsletter.

Mendip Community Transport – Requested leaflets have been received and clerk will display at Café Burtle.

Clean up day – 4th March 2018. Arrangements all in place and event has been advertised.

Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 4th April 2018. Clerk to invite local groups to give a report and to invite Mr David Eccles or another representative from EDF as guest speaker.

SIDs – emails have been received giving draft details about self funding of SIDs after March 2018. Await further information

Water pressure - Reply has been received from Wessex Water to say no known problems in Burtle and any villagers experiencing low water pressure should contact them direct on 0345 600 4600

143 PLANNING

Applications – none notified

Decisions – none notified

E-consultations will be in operation with immediate effect and all future planning applications will only be notified to Burtle Parish Council by email.

144 FINANCE

Precept 2018/19 precept of £4,100 has been requested.

Letter has been received from Friends of Burtle Church detailing work recently carried out, further repairs required and requesting a donation. Cllrs unanimously agreed to give a donation of £200 towards the upkeep of the churchyard and to consider any further requests once quotes for work have been received.

Email has been received from Burtle Babies requesting a further donation. Cllrs unanimously agreed to reply that they will consider any request in the next financial year.

The following cheques were signed:

Burtle Village Hall (<i>rent for hall 1.4.17- 31.3.18</i>)	£216.00
Friends of Burtle Church (<i>towards upkeep of churchyard</i>)	£200.00

Proposed: Cllr R Dallimore

Seconded: Cllr A Duval

Transparency Code grant application to cover cost of purchase cost of laptop, software and scanner was agreed Total £551.64.

Proposed: Cllr R Dallimore

Seconded: Cllr A Duval

145 NOISE AND INCREASE IN HGV TRAFFIC FROM PEAT WORKS

Cllrs were surprised to learn that following talks between Mendip Planners and South West Wood Products(Chipmonks), they are intending to submit an application for A CLEUD (certificate of Lawfulness for existing use or development) Cllrs felt this to be totally inappropriate as they had the previous submission had recognised the fact that there was no planning permission for the activities currently being carried out on the site. They feel that this is a retrograde step and the situation is back to where it started some two years ago. As agreed at the previous meeting a strongly worded email setting out the views of Burtle Parish Council has been sent to the Planning Department stating this and setting out six questions that they wish to have answered. *Copy attached*

As there appears to have been no official notification from Mendip an email has been sent to all neighbouring Parish Councils and bodies who made objections to the previous application to alert them to the fact that the Section 73 application had been withdrawn and that CLUED was now being considered.

Somerset CC Planning Dept has confirmed that the pond is being constructed in accordance with the agreed after use plans.

Meare Parish Council have recently written to the Mendip Landscape officer about the oak trees and he has replied that he has been investigating the matter since Burtle PC wrote to him in April last year and is currently researching old Tree Preservation Orders in the area.

The Environment Agency has replied that they can find no evidence of pollution from the site. The chairman noted thanks to Cllr A Duval for all his work involved in this matter.

146 CORRESPONDENCE

Library Closures - notice of public consultations re proposed closures has been circulated
Joint Parishes Cluster Meeting – Agenda for meeting on 6.3.18 has been circulated
Councillor Training – Clerk to forward details to Cllr N Ponsillo

147 ITEMS OF INTEREST

CIL update Clerk attended this event which was very helpful in explaining the new system. Presentation notes will be forwarded to Cllrs when received.
MP – it is understood that Burtle MP , Ian Liddell- Grainger is planning to attend Café Burtle on 10th February.
Auction sign at Burtle Inn Clerk to write to Jenner Property Services to request that large sign advertising auction that took place last November is taken down

148 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

149 ACTIONS FROM MEETING

Action	Assigned to	To be actioned by	Actions Taken
Concerns about scaffolding at Burtle Inn on highway and over post box. Concerns re barbed wire at Godwin’s site Clerk to report to Highways Also highlight another car in rhyme on Sweets Corner and need missing reflectors	Clerk	Mar 2018	
Electric cable is still being laid across Catcott Broad Drove Clerk report to Highways	Clerk	Mar 2018	
Cllrs to check with local farmers if new SLOW signs to be applied on the road at the narrow pass on the outskirts of Burtle would disturb animals passing over them. C/F from Feb	Cllrs	Mar 2018	
APM- Clerk to write to local groups to invite them to give report	Clerk	Mar 2018	
APM- Invite rep from EDF (Mr Eccles) to be guest speaker	Clerk	Mar 2018	
Investigate repairs needed to bus shelter	Cllrs	Mar 2018	
Research new signs for Sandpit	Cllrs	Mar 2018	
Write to Jenner to request auction sign taken down	Clerk	Mar 2018	

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

From: Burtle PC [<mailto:burtlepc@gmail.com>]

Sent: 05 February 2018 11:22

To: 'Clark, Anna'

Cc: 'David Huxtable - Councillor'; 'Councillor Stuart Kingham'; 'Noel, Graham - Cllr'; ianliddellgranger@hotmail.co.uk; james.heapey.mp@parliament.uk; 'Simon Nash'; 'Clarke, Simon (NE)'; 'Sheila Brown'

Subject: Wood chipping processes at Godwin's site Westhay

Dear Ms Clark,

Thank you for your email of 9th January, advising Burtle Parish Council of the latest position regarding wood chipping at the SWWP/Godwin's South site at Westhay. As Parish Clerk, I have forwarded it to my Councillors, who are grateful that they are being kept up to date.

Councillors have now reviewed the Parish's long correspondence file. To summarise:

- Letters show that they received the first complaints, about noise and increase in HGV traffic, in October 2015.
- This was followed by a number of highways incidents, lorries being unable to negotiate the narrow local roads without damaging verges or ending up in ditches.
- On 4th January 2017 Mendip asked SWWP to provide evidence, within seven days, that their wood chipping activities on the site were lawful.
- Mendip was, presumably, not convinced by the information presented, and Mr Boyle advised us that he had written to them on 28th February 2017 setting out the position of the Council in respect of the machinery currently being used on site and Mendip's assessment that it required planning consent in its own right.
- After 164 days, application 2017/1838/VRC was made on 10th July 2017.
- You subsequently confirmed that this application had been withdrawn on 13th November 2017, before it had been determined, following your advice that it would probably not be approved. You said then that 'the applicant was working up a more comprehensive scheme' but gave no details. Councillors presumed that this would take the form of a significantly amended planning application, in order to address the many environmental impact issues raised in the original consultation period by official consultees and numerous others.
- We understand from your latest correspondence that you have had internal meetings and discussions with the applicant's agent. We understand that the agent has submitted new information and now intends to apply for a CLUED. Councillors are intrigued to learn what new information has been produced suggesting that there is no longer the need for any formal planning application. Councillors are concerned that it seems as if the situation is back exactly where it was about a year ago, with a 'baseline position', as you put it, still not clear and the site still potentially operating unlawfully.
- Councillors are of the opinion that the applicant is simply trying to buy time, and has made no attempt whatsoever to address any of the environmental or infrastructure problems raised by the vast majority of the consultees and public who commented on application 2017/1838/VRC.
- Councillors are at a loss to see how a CLUED for the South site could possibly legitimise the processes currently being undertaken by SWWP. The chipping and drying machinery have been installed from late 2015 onwards, and are outside the designated horticultural storage building – a change of conditions application for this building has not been pursued. Councillors are not aware that the hard standing areas around the building have ever been used for the bulk stockpiling of any loose

products prior to Chipmunks' occupation of the site. Councillors are not aware of any mechanical manufacturing processes on the site prior Chipmonks' occupation.

- It would appear that this part of the site continues to be used for purposes that have never been authorised by any permissions. The mounds of chippings, hardcore etc are, in fact, increasing steadily. I attach photos of the site taken on 27th January 2017 to illustrate the current situation.

Reviewing the consultees' comments on application 2017/1838/VRC, Councillors would like clarification on a number of points:

1. Natural England stressed the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment. Has this been undertaken?
2. The Environmental Protection Team noted the requirement for a Pollution Control Permit because of wood dust emissions. Is such a permit in force?
3. Somerset Wildlife Trust also raised these issues, and requested further consultation because of the site's close proximity to established protected designated wildlife sites. Are you able to confirm that these consultations have been made?
4. SCC Transport Development Group's response stated that a minimum requirement would be a Transport Statement to enable the Highway Authority to fully consider the planning application. Are you able to confirm that this has been undertaken?
5. As far as the oak trees on the site are concerned, Mr Walsh has informed us that he has been investigating the existence of TPOs in the area. Councillors understand that enquiries are still on-going and would like to know when you anticipate some definitive decisions from him.
6. Many respondents drew attention to the potential hazards of the dust, noise and light pollution emitting from the site. Have impartial impact assessments now been carried out?
7. Councillors would be pleased if you would confirm that the many problems raised by those who responded to Application 2017/1838/VRC will be taken into consideration when determining any CLUED application.
8. In your email of 15th November 2017 you state that 'We will publicise the application in the usual way once received.' Are you able to confirm that this will be the case if a CLUED application is received?

I look forward to receiving answers to the above questions in the near future. It may be helpful for you to know that the next meeting of Burtle Parish Council will be on Wednesday 7th February.

Regards

Maureen Perdue
Clerk to Burtle Parish Council
01278 722395