

BURTLE PARISH COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of Burtle Parish Council was held on Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 7.30pm in Burtle Village Hall.

28 PRESENT

Councillor R Dallimore (chairman)
Councillor A Duval (vice chairman)
Councillor N Ponsillo
Councillor J Porter
District Councillor Stuart Kingham

29 APOLOGIES

Councillor S Bull
County Councillor David Huxtable

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

District Cllr S Kingham declared an interest in planning matters as he sits on Sedgemoor District Planning Committee.

31 DISPENSATIONS

None were sought

32 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meetings held on 8th May and 22nd May 2019 were agreed and signed as correct.

33 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

These were reviewed and progress noted

34 MATTERS ARISING

Highways – Cllrs were pleased to note that repairs to the road surface in Halterpath Drove and potholes Edington Road have been carried out.

Westhay Road by the Peatworks District Cllr S Kingham has taken this up with Highways Dept as a road safety issue and the matter is under enquiry.

Drainage – nothing to report

CIL nothing to report re payments for Burtle Inn development.

Allegation regarding actions of a Councillor – Following serious allegations made by a parishioner about the conduct of a Burtle Parish Councillor the clerk has taken advice from both SALC and the Monitoring Officer at Sedgemoor District Council. They have both assured the clerk that Burtle PC are correct in their belief that predetermination can only take place if the Councillor is actually present and takes part in the debate. This was not the case in this situation. The Monitoring Officer has also confirmed that predetermination does not form part of the Code of Conduct. Sedgemoor DC solicitor will let the clerk have confirmation of this in writing. Cllrs were pleased to learn that their interpretation of the facts is correct.

35 PLANNING

District Councillor Kingham left the room

Applications –

55/19/00004 Erection of a single storey extension to rear (North) elevation on site of existing single storey (to be demolished) and covered walk way at Fairview, Burtle Road, Burtle

This application was discussed and Cllrs unanimously agreed to support the application. They felt that it was in keeping with the original and were pleased to note that matching materials are to be used.

55/19/00005 Retrospective application for the erection of a front wall with down lights at site of Burtle School, Mark Road, Burtle

The application was discussed and Councillors unanimously agreed to object to the application. Their opinion of the suitability of this wall with integral lighting has not altered since the original application retrospective application 55/18/00008 and the many amendments. The following points were noted:

- *The site is in a prominent position in the village at the crossroads with two main roads and there has been comment amongst villagers that the developments so far do not blend well with the surroundings. The building was the old village school and of a particular style which was sympathetic to the adjacent grade 2 listed church and the surrounding village churchyard enhancing the visual aspect of this corner in a traditional rural area.*
- *The newly built walls of reconstituted stone are still not acceptable to Councillors as they are totally out of keeping with the original building. This boundary is also now part of the redesigned front of the building and the reconstituted blocks have been used in this location to the detriment of the character of the building.*
- *The new wall has been fitted with lights which are lit at night. Apart from the aesthetic considerations of this bland new wall, Cllrs are concerned that it could be a road traffic hazard. To suddenly come across these little pools of light on an otherwise dark corner they feel that they could easily be mistaken for a parked vehicle.*
- *It is very difficult to ascertain the proposed height of the wall from the plan submitted but the one currently in situ is higher than the one demolished.*
- *It is disappointing that the assurances that the walls, newly built without the benefit of planning permission, were to be demolished and rebuilt as the originals, to the same height and with no lighting (Email from MS Rasch dated 26.2.19 and Mr Noon 22.3.19 refers) but now the applicant is seeking retrospective permission to retain those new walls complete with lighting.*

55/19/00003 change of use of land from agricultural to residential at Robins Cottage, Robins Lane, Burtle

Email received from Planning Officer to enquire whether Cllrs have any further comments as the application has been substantially altered. The changes could not be discussed at this meeting as not received in time to advertise but Cllrs unanimously agreed that in view of a further email from the planning officer dated 5.6.19 explaining the situation, they would let their original response stand and no further meeting would be necessary.

Decisions – none notified

District Cllr S Kingham returned to the room

36 FINANCE

The following documents were agreed and signed:

- a. Formal approval of Financial statement 2018/19
- b. Formal approval of Annual Governance Statement 2018/19
- c. Formal approval of Accounting Statements for 2018/19.
- d. Completion of Exemption Certificate 2018/19

Proposed: Cllr R Dallimore

Seconded: Cllr J Porter

Insurance Renewal the renewal documents for 2019/20 were discussed at this point. Cllrs unanimously agreed to renew the policy with Zurich Insurance.

Proposed: Cllr J Porter

Seconded: Cllr N Ponsillo

Invoices for payment

The following cheques were signed:

Zurich Insurance 2019/20	£309.12
R Young Audit expenses 2018/19	£ 10.00
Sedgemoor DC Election expenses	£100.00

Proposed: Cllr A Duval

Seconded: Cllr R Dallimore

37 SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Permission has been received from all those who have recently sent emails to the Parish Council about speeding concerns to forward them on to County Councillor David Huxtable. He is taking the matter up with Traffic Management and is liaising with the Burtle Community Speedwatch group. Cllrs reviewed information about an automatic number plate recognition system for speeding vehicles and advertising booklet about Village Gateways. Clerk was asked to obtain prices for the Gateways from Glasdon.

38 CORRESPONDENCE

None received

39 ITEMS OF INTEREST

Land at Westhay Broad Drove – Concerns have been raised to Cllrs about the fencing that has been erected right on the edge of the highway on part of the strip of land between First & Last and Black Ditch Rhyne. There are two strands of barbed wire on the top and it could be a safety hazard for cyclists and horse riders. Clerk to contact Highways and Natural England as the land is believed to be a SSSI.

Parish Boundary between Burtle and Mark – Owners of Riverlea have raised the fact that because of the line that the boundary is takes by Black Bull Bridge their property is officially in Mark parish although they are much nearer to Burtle and because of their allegiance to this parish they have asked if it can be changed. Clerk to reply that Parish Boundaries are set by act of parliament and at the last review Burtle Parish Council did write to the Boundaries Commission pointing out this anomaly and requesting a change but unfortunately this was not done. Clerk asked to let the owners of Riverlea know the situation.

40 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.

41 ACTIONS FROM MEETING

Action	Assigned to	To be actioned by	Actions Taken
Seek written confirmation re allegation about Councillor	Clerk	asap	
Write to Natural England and Highways re land at West hay Road	Clerk	July 2019	
Write to owners of Riverlea re boundary	Clerk	July 2019	
Request prices from Glasdon re price of Village Gateways	Clerk	July 2019	

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