

## BURTLE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Burtle Parish Council was held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

### 43 PRESENT

Councillor R Dallimore (chairman)  
Councillor S Bull (vice chairman)  
Councillor J Hedges  
County Councillor M Martin  
County Councillor H Munt

### 44 APOLOGIES

Councillor N Ponsillo  
Councillor J Porter

### 45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None noted

### 46 DISPENSATIONS

None were sought

### 47 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed and signed.

### 48 MATTERS ARISING

**Highways** Some repairs have been made to the road surface in Mark Road by Sweet's corner although the road surface still remains very uneven. Concern that dip by Hillview in Edington Road has still not been repaired.

**Bow Bridge in Catcott Broad Drove** is still awaiting repair from damage caused by a vehicle in April 2022. Apparent deterioration has been reported to the Bridge department at Somerset Council and they have agreed that its condition has worsened but consider it to still be safe. It is listed for repair when finance and resources allow. Burtle Parish Council will replace the historic plaque that they have restored when repairs are completed. It is hoped that this will be in the near future as a lot of the intricate lettering was carried out by the late Tony Duval.

### 49 FINANCE

**Audit of 2022/23 Accounts** Exemption certificate has been accepted by the External auditor and the accounts are now closed.

### Invoices for Payment

The following payments were agreed:

Mr W Pople <i>Grass cutting at Sandpit July</i>	£ 90.00
Mr W Pople <i>Grass cutting at Sandpit August</i>	£ 90.00
Mrs M Perdue <i>Clerk's Salary 1.4.23-30.9.23</i>	£104.44
Mrs M Perdue <i>Clerk's Salary 1.4.23-30.9.23</i>	£440.00

**Proposed** Cllr R Dallimore

**Seconded** Cllr J Hedges

HSBC has accepted form to close Money Manager account and transfer of funds to Unity Trust Bank.

## **50 PLANNING**

**Applications** - none notified

**Decisions** -

**55/23/00003** Erection of a general purpose agricultural building at Whites Farm, Burtle TA7 8NH

**GRANTED** by Somerset - North, Planning dept

## **51 ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

The horsebox that has been moved from the verge opposite honeysuckle Villa to a plot on SSSI land near to the Stables continues to be lived in. Natural England have replied to say that the matter is being investigated by the local team. No response to date from Somerset – North Enforcement dept.

Natural England has advised that the Enforcement Lead Adviser – Enforcement and Appeals Team, Complex Cases Unit who recently started dealing with the issues in Catcott Broad Drove and Westhay Broad Drove is no longer in this post and the case will be allocated to another officer.

Email has been received from Somerset Councillor Matt Martin explaining that there is no real progress on the enforcement issues as, as is so often the case, there is simply no staffing or financial resources at present. Somerset Council are currently (and have been for the last year), undergoing a strict regime of belt tightening brought on by both the historical and current financial situation, both in Somerset and nationally and it is starting to make its presence felt in our day-to-day lives, in this case as a reduction in the levels of service. He reiterated this message at the meeting.

## **52 TRAFFIC THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND ROAD MARKINGS**

Speed Indicator Device has been erected in Burtle Road for two weeks facing in an Easterly direction and for two weeks facing in a Westerly direction. Data has shown many vehicles exceeding the speed limit. One vehicle was recorded as travelling at 73mph.

It will be rotated between the five locations that have been agreed with the County Traffic Engineer i.e., Burtle Road (Southview Farm), Burtle Road (Sunset Bay Farm), Mark Road, Station Road and Catcott Broad Drove. Thanks to Mr Chris Mockridge who has volunteered to look after the SID for the village.

New pole that Traffic Engineer has required by Sunset Bay Farm, Burtle Road has finally been erected after over a year of delays and excuses. Unfortunately, it has been installed hard up against the hedge in front of Bridgefields rendering it impossible to mount the SID so that it can be seen or operate and impossible for the property owner to maintain their hedge. The Traffic Engineer has apologized for this and has advised that it will be repositioned in a suitable position as a matter of urgency.

## **53 PROVISION OF DOG WASTE BIN**

Dog walkers have recently started to use rubbish bin by the bus shelter for dog waste. This is not a dog waste bin and there is no provision for it to be emptied but despite it becoming full people have continued to pile more bags of dog waste in and around it. Councillors are concerned that it is very unpleasant and a potential health hazard to the children using the shelter while waiting for the school bus. After discussion they agreed purchase a dog waste bin and enter into a contract with Somerset Council to have it emptied on a monthly basis. Clerk to check current prices from Somerset Council Clean Surroundings. In the meantime, a notice will be placed on the rubbish bin asking dog walkers to kindly take their dog waste home for disposal.

**54 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Grit Bins** Email received from Highways dept to advise that they will not supply salt to parishes this year but will fill all the bins as they deem necessary. Last year some bags of salt were provided to place by Black Bull Bridge for use on the bridge and the approach in freezing conditions. This will not be possible this year and Councillors considered providing a bin to place on the verge by the finger post, as the bridge is part in Burtle Parish and part in Mark Parish the clerk was requested to approach Mark PC with a view to sharing the cost. Clerk will also explore prices of bins.

**Somerset Film Project** Email received from Somerset Film who are proposing an archive film project, inspired by the C S John Sparkes film collection. ‘A Village Apart, Villages Together’. Their aim is to work with local residents from Burtle and the surrounding villages in the Children Polden area to explore and add to the social, industrial (agricultural and railway) and environmental (landscape and wildlife) history of their community using still image and film archive, in particular the C S John Sparkes collection. Councillors agreed to write in support of their grant application to Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.

**55 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

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