

Burgh Castle Parish Council

Chairman: Brian Swan

Vice Chair: Bob Grimmer

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024 held at Burgh Castle Village Hall

Present: Cllrs B. Swan (Chair), M Greenacre, B. Grimmer, W. Griffiths, J. Hogg, P. Carter, K. Ruddock (Clerk) and six members of the public including County Cllr Smith and Borough Cllrs Carpenter and Murray-Smith.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Public Section

Borough Cllr Carpenter reported he had contacted Anglian Water about the blocked drain located next to the substation near to Mill Road/Butt Lane. Anglian Water have stated the drain falls under NCC responsibility, so the matter has been forwarded onto County Cllr Annison to progress. Borough Cllr Carpenter updated that the situation with the blocked dyke at Ameroo has not progressed any further as there is no direct evidence of the dyke being blocked, unfortunately it looks as though no other action can be taken unless the land in question becomes flooded, the chairman suggested contacting the Enforcing Officer at GYBC.

Cllr Greenacre raised the issue of the two new bus stops that have been installed on the A143 in Fritton outside Cherry Lane Garden Centre. Borough Cllr Murry-Smith added he thought installing the bus stops on either side of the 60mph road was a bad idea. It was generally agreed the bus stops would likely cause a safety hazard, as all passengers will have to cross the busy section of road to access the bus stops/Cherry Lane.

County Cllr Smith reported he and the Chairman had recently attended a site meeting with the new Highways Engineer. During the meeting the Engineer confirmed Butt Lane would be surface dressed but works cannot be programmed in until 2026/27. However, Butt Lane will be closed for traffic outside Charnwood between the 27th and 31st January when some levelling, patching and kerb lifting may also be undertaken. The Engineer will also be arranging a joint meeting for Councillors from Burgh Castle, Fritton with St Olaves and Belton with Browston Parish Council's to discuss any outstanding issues.

With no further business the public section was closed at 7.39pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Titterington. To accept the apology proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Griffiths. All in Favour.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Greenacre – Belton with Browston Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Burgh Castle Village Hall Committee & Burgh Castle Playing Field Committee
Cllr Swan - Village Hall & Playing Field Committee

3. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The minutes from the meeting held on 14th October 2024 had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. With one amendment made to accept as a true and accurate record proposed Cllr Carter, seconded Cllr Grimmer. All in Favour.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- County Cllr Smith reported the multi-agency meeting which will be discussing flooding in the Borough will be held on the 31st January 2025 at the Town Hall.

- The Chairman reported Nalc have added a survey on their recent newsletter concerning the future use of hybrid Council meetings. All members have the opportunity to complete the survey to express their views.

5. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Millfields Footpath

There was no further update on this matter.

Grass Verge next to Roman Fort car park entrance

It was reported the Highways Engineer has agreed the boulders will have to be removed as they are on NCC land and pose a safety hazard.

Butt Lane grass verge wooden posts

County Cllr Smith confirmed the posts will be installed and paid for from his Highways budget in the next financial year (2025-26).

6. BLOCKED DYKE

This item was covered during the public section.

7. PLANNING

06/24/0745/HH 5 Holly Terrace, Church Lane

Demolition of out building and workshop, erection of single storey rear extension

It was agreed to submit no objections subject to neighbours comments for the above planning application.

06/24/0806/PAD Breydon View, Market Road Conversion of existing barn to dwelling

It was agreed to object to the planning application above

The proposed development is outside Borough Wide Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, there is also a lack of infrastructure in this area of the village. The location of the pig pens would mean this would be 'backland development' going well back on to non-residential land. There are no footpaths on either side of this busy, narrow road in either direction for safe walking access to the site for any purpose, the site has no suitable bus service links to local services including schools. The property is well separated from the main 'built up' part of the village and is therefore unsuitable for development purposes and would increase the number of 'isolated' properties. There are concerns about asbestos in the roof and there are concerns about suitability of existing footings for residential usage.

Applications Approved

06/24/0507/HH Homlea, Mill Road Replacement roof following fire damage

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cheque Number	Detail	Amount
BACS	Kate Ruddock salary backdated pay increase from 1 st April 141.12 plus Nov wage 532.80 = £673.92 less tax 134.80	£539.12
BACS	Nina Dockerty wage	£120.12
BACS	HMRC Kate Ruddock tax	£134.80
BACS	Garden Guardian (8 th payment of 9) VAT 125.07	£750.40
BACS	Zurich – insurance policy	£300.00
BACS	Village Voice – advert	£40.00

BACS	Microsoft 365 vat 1.72	£10.32
	Total	£1894.76

Income: £150 Burial Ground

Bank Balance after payments:

Lloyds Current Acc	£ 500.00
Lloyds Instant Access Acc	£ 9,404.30
Lloyds Investment	£10,000.00

	£19,904.30

To propose payment for the above sheet Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Grimmer. All in Favour.

Renewal of Insurance Policy

The 2024/25 policy renewed with Zurich totals the same as previous year £300 due to being the third year of a three-year fixed term.

Notification of Lloyds Bank Charges

All parish council accounts are being moved from treasury to community accounts and therefore the monthly account charge of £4.25 will be applied from the 14th January 2025

Clerks backdated pay increase

It was reported Nalc have now confirmed the increase to all clerks salaries has now been agreed at 3.4% which is to be back dated to the 1st April 2024.

9. PRECEPT 2025-26

Prior to the meeting the clerk had circulated to all members a draft copy of the 2025-26 parish precept which contained an increase of 16%.

Members considered a number of items within the proposed budget including the new subscription to Scribe accounting software and the overall increase compared to the forecasted current year end total. It was agreed to reallocated £150 from the burial ground maintenance line onto the sundry budget line. After further discussion Cllr Greenacre proposed to accept the draft precept including the subscription to Scribe, seconded Cllr Griffiths. All in Favour.

It was agreed that this could be amended later subject to prices for the new Burial Ground /Churchyard contract

Please not a copy of the precept is appended to and does form part of the minutes.

10. SOUTHERN VILLAGES POLICING

The Chairman reported PC Joe Pike has now been appointed as Beat Officer for the Southern Villages.

11. VILLAGE FLOWERBEDS

Following the last advert in the Village Voice no further interest has been received from members of public concerning tending to the village flowerbeds. It was therefore agreed to accept the offer from the resident that has confirmed they would be able to tend to the beds for 9 months of the year.

12. BURIAL GROUND

After discussion it was agreed to increase all burial fees by 15% as none of the pricing has been reviewed for the last two years, proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Carter. All in Favour. The Clerk will notify all funeral directors of the increase following the meeting.

13. GYBC PARISH LIAISON

The Chairman reported he and Cllr Titterington attended last month's Parish Liaison meeting. The meeting was very informative, and updates were provided about a number of issues.

A new outside contractor is now helping the planning department with forms and errors. The issue concerning litter bin emptying was caused due to staff shortages and record keeping which has now been resolved. It was also agreed all Parish Councils can now submit a maximum of three questions for future meetings

14. PARISH PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

The Clerk reported the Highways Engineer has confirmed the "No thorough Road" signage doesn't meet criteria to be funded by PPS, if PC wish to purchase the sign at full cost it will cost approx. £300 to install, sign foundation, pole. County Cllr Smith confirmed he would be able to fund the installation of the new sign on Church Road using his Highways budget.

15. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING & ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th December 7.30pm at Burgh Castle Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm