

Burgh Castle Parish Council

Chairman: Brian Swan

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 at Burgh Castle Village Hall

Present: Parish Cllrs: B. Swan (Chairman), B. Grimmer (Vice Chair), M. Greenacre, W. Griffiths, J. Hogg, S. Titterington, K. Ruddock (Clerk) and four members of the public including Borough Cllr Murray-Smith.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES FROM 2024 APM

To accept the minutes from the meeting held on the 12th May 2024 proposed Cllr Griffiths, seconded Cllr Hogg. All in Favour.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Here we are reporting at the end of another year, let's start with some good news, during the year, the Parish Council funded our second defibrillator, this one has been placed outside Welcome Pit, special thanks to those who helped with the cost, including users of the Village Hall with a raffle and especially Folkes who have allowed us to have the unit outside their site and covered, the, not cheap, installation costs including supply of mains electricity.

The improvements to our bus service finally arrived, weekdays we now have a 30 minute service with more busses on Sundays and evenings as well, it is unfortunate the never ending roadworks (currently for two weeks on Butt Lane) have resulted in many days without any service to the majority of the village, I have asked but there is nothing that can be done about this.

Our new County Highways engineer seems to be doing a much improved job, He is about to fit new bollards outside the flats, there is a good repour between him and local councils, he even attended a joint local councils meeting at the end of last year and following work in Belton this year he has promised considerable resurfacing for Burgh Castle in the Summer of 2026.

Sadly the Parish Council has had little contact the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, we are still getting issues with cars parking on Butt lane and at the Church triangle for users of the fort site, also there has been little contact with the various camp sites, our County Councillor is still trying to get the Millfield footpath tidied, hopefully something will be happening soon thanks to you Carl.

I am delighted to report that the Belton, Browston, Burgh Castle, Fritton and St Olaves Neighbourhood Plan past its final hurdles last month when formally accepted into the Borough Council and Broads Authorities planning policy systems, Thanks to everyone who voted 'For' in the recent referendum and a special 'Thank you' to Ken Botwright of Belton for leading us on the steering committee, I have no hesitation in saying that without his seemingly unending work there would never have been a 'plan'.

On the Parish Council sadly Pauline Carter left us during the year as she has moved from the area, my thanks to her, all the other five councillors, Borough Councillors Ivan Murray-Smith and Graham Carpenter and County Councillor Carl Smith for their work, help and support during the year, also especial thanks to our clerk, Kate Ruddock, who has kept us up to date during the year especially with a few extra jobs that have fallen her way, one not so pleasant and causing considerable on going issues- thank you Kate.

Our Parish Church, with a small bend of worshipers, is now embarking on a fund-raising campaign to do a further stage of restoration work, planning for this is going ahead now and I must not forget to say Thank you and a happy retirement to the Rev Rosie Bunn who retired from her ministry the end of April.

The Village Hall and Playing Field are still progressing to a fully integrated joint organisation, the committee are continually waiting for others to act before we can move forward.

In closing let's hope for a more settled year with less roadworks (unless it's to improve the surface!) and to remind anybody interested that we do still have a vacancy on this Council that we are permitted to fill by co-option

4. BURGH CASTLE VILLAGE HALL – TO RECEIVE ACCOUNTS

Cllr Greenacre reported the village hall accounts year end balance remains healthy which is mostly due to the funds that have been raised throughout the year at the village hall tea rooms, the balance being £29,374.78. Income from private hire remains very limited.

Please note a copy of the year end accounts is appended to the minutes.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following matters were raised:

A member of public voiced disappointment that she felt parishioners and parish council objections had not been supported by County Cllr Smith at NCC concerning Folkes Plant and Aggregates.

Some days during the month of April up to 17 to 20 eight-wheel lorries per hour been driven from the site through the village for a period of four weeks.

That member of public voiced concern that the main function room within the Village Hall is not available to be hired by residents. In past years the hall has been hired by parishioners for lunch clubs, family celebrations and play groups, however with the main room now full of bric a brac this is now not possible. Concern was also raised about the general condition of Church Loke, the Roman Fort "lookout bench" which is now rotten and has deteriorated, and the pavements in the village which are now in a poor condition due to the heavy traffic such as lorries and caravans which pass through the village.

The Chairman reported the smaller room within the village hall is always available and can be hired by residents. Cllr Greenacre added the only group which now hires the room are the Brownies, no enquiries have been received from other groups wanting to hire the facilities. During discussion it was generally agreed it is very difficult to get volunteers to help organise and run local events and clubs in the village. Concerning the village maintenance items, the parish council will report the condition of the pavements to NCC Highways and notify Norfolk Archaeological Trust about the condition of the lookout bench.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 7.24pm