

BURTON ON THE WOLDS, COTES AND PRESTWOLD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Burton on the Wolds, Cotes and Prestwold held on 4th May 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

Cllr A Carr (Chairman), Cllr R Shields (Vice-Chairman), Cllr W Best, Cllr L Cooper, Cllr A Lawrence, Cllr K Hibbins, Cllr E Wardle, Cllr M Windsor.

Apologies

None.

In attendance

Mrs S Massey (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Alan Carr gave the following report:

You will notice that this report covers a two year period as the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 2020 was cancelled. This resulted from the outbreak and spread of the COVID-19 virus which caused the world wide pandemic leading to unprecedented changes to normal life for everyone. The impact of this was felt throughout the parish as the peaks and troughs of the restrictions occurred. Meetings for the past year have been held "virtually" and words like lockdown, social distancing, masks, bubbles, self -isolating, were in common use and accepted as normal. A volunteer group was set up by the Parish Council (PC) to offer assistance to self-isolating residents and this was very effective and much appreciated. Following the extensive vaccination programme it is now hoped that the end to the restrictions is in sight.

Changes to the Parish Council were minimal during the period. The vacancy to represent Prestwold was initially filled by the co-option of Kenneth Green in July 2019 but he subsequently resigned in November 2019. Andy Lawrence was then co-opted to fill the vacancy in March 2020 bringing the council up to full strength again.

Despite the various restrictions the PC has been very busy, with planning issues occupying a considerable amount of time and effort. It has been said many times that the planning system in this country is not fit for purpose but trying to change it is a matter for parliament and there does not seem to be a will to do so. At our local borough level the Head of Planning and Regeneration confirmed to us at a PC meeting that the legislation is geared in favour of applicants and not towards objectors. Applicants have the right to appeal against decisions, objectors do not.

The protracted application to build 70 houses on farmland off Melton Road has been especially controversial and to date remains unresolved. Additional problems have arisen from the failure of Charnwood Borough Council to review its local plan in a timely manner which has resulted in there being no five year housing supply, which is a government requirement. In simple terms this enables developers to expect applications which would

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normally be refused, to be approved. This council has written many letters of objection and protest to the Housing Minister and others but to no avail. The borough council generally blame the government legislation but recent and past replies from HMG continue to quote "localism" and suggest that borough councils underestimate their own power to reject non-compliant applications!

Another bizarre outcome was the application being passed to convert offices on the Hawker Business Park into 91 flats without prior approval, as a result of past legislation primarily intended for city centres. This has recently become even more bizarre as the developer has proposed withdrawing the proposal for the flats and building 100 houses instead.

After public consultation in the autumn of 2019 the Neighbourhood Plan was finally signed off by the appointed examiner in April 2020, when it should have gone to referendum for approval by residents, but this was postponed until May 2021 because of COVID-19 restrictions. If approved, it would have given our villages protection from unwanted developments, as the only site identified for a modest number of new houses was the chicken farm in Sowters Lane. A belated application for this site has recently been submitted but it seems it may be too late to count against the other developments.

The maintenance and enhancement of the Plantation has continued with help from an expanding group of volunteers. A significant number of diseased and other unwanted trees have been felled and new planting has continued. The wood has provided an interesting walk for many residents taking their daily exercise during the pandemic but this has resulted in significant extra wear and tear, especially on the paths. The Playing Field Association continued to develop the amenity at Towles Field which celebrated its 50th anniversary in December 2020. A "junior" sized pitch was set up for a newly based junior football team and the tennis club administration has been updated and simplified.

Local traffic diversions caused considerable damage to our roads in 2019 and Melton/Loughborough Road had significant repairs in November 2020. Speeding vehicles and the number and size of HGVs continue to be a major cause of concern to residents, especially pedestrians, in BOTW.

The Lion's Mouth Fountain was cleaned professionally in October 2019 and surprisingly, despite previous concerns, it has continued to flow without anticipated intervention.

Bunting was displayed on 8th May 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE DAY, the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Following changes and retirements on the original committee, it was decided that the Parish Councillors would take on the role as the Village Hall Management Committee and this seems to be working well.

As always I should like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and work throughout the past two years. Also our Borough Councillor and County Councillor both of whom regularly attend our meetings and liaise with their respective councils on our behalf.

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Finally I would like to thank our Clerk, Stephanie Massey, for her efficiency, enthusiasm and help, especially at a very difficult time for all of us.

3. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2020-21 (unaudited)

The unaudited annual statement of accounts for 2020-21 was presented. The balance at the end of the year was £63,279.47 including £2,342.66 Plantation funds, £36,623.93 Hubbard Road land management funds and £4,680.00 Finding Fitness funds.

4. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.17

These minutes are a true and accurate record _____ Date _____
Cllr A. Carr, Chairman

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Burton on the Wolds, Cotes & Prestwold Parish Council

2020-2021 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (unaudited)

Summary of receipts and payments account

RECEIPTS	Budget	2020-2021	2019-2020	Difference
Precept	£30,000.00	£30,000.00	£28,000.00	£2,000.00
Allotment Rent	£300.00	£300.00	£250.00	£50.00
Burial Ground	£400.00	£896.00	£108.90	£787.10
Plantation	£500.00	£185.00	£107.00	£78.00
Bank Interest	£250.00	£258.56	£33.98	£224.58
LCC for cutting of verges	£889.90	£889.90	£889.90	£0.00
Solar panel feed in tariff	£1,000.00	£692.94	£634.52	£58.42
VAT refund	£3,500.00	£2,136.47	£6,832.20	£4,695.73
Other income	£3,000.00	£6,009.24	£140.41	£5,868.83
Blank	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Blank	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£39,839.90	£41,368.11	£36,996.91	£4,371.20

PAYMENTS	Budget	2020-2021	2019-2020	Difference
Clerk's Expenses	£240.00	£240.00	£240.00	£0.00
Office Accommodation	£360.00	£360.00	£360.00	£0.00
General Administration	£2,000.00	£1,895.79	£1,307.66	£588.13
Insurance	£1,800.00	£1,588.74	£1,543.92	£44.82
Audit	£600.00	£490.00	£820.00	£-330.00
Memberships	£600.00	£598.52	£641.48	£-42.96
Training	£150.00	£140.00	£0.00	£140.00
Election Costs	£200.00	£0.00	£130.41	£-130.41
PFA inc. grant	£3,625.00	£3,971.46	£4,147.24	£-175.78
Pavilion	£2,500.00	£471.80	£2,192.11	£-1,720.31
Village Hall	£1,000.00	£672.03	£963.05	£-291.02
Plantation	£1,500.00	£834.39	£1,741.80	£-907.41
Open Spaces & Footpaths	£1,500.00	£1,324.21	£1,306.80	£17.41
Hubbard Road inc grounds maint.	£3,500.00	£3,568.46	£2,524.00	£1,044.46
Burial Ground inc grounds maint.	£1,300.00	£1,398.51	£1,385.84	£12.67
Towles Fields inc grounds maint.	£1,800.00	£1,782.83	£1,779.60	£3.23
Defibrillator	£100.00	£0.00	£45.60	£-45.60
Gardening Club	£250.00	£250.00	£250.00	£0.00
Maintenance of assets	£1,500.00	£177.21	£197.88	£-20.67
Village Amenities	£1,500.00	£539.90	£529.16	£10.74
Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00	£0.00	£10,235.64	£-10,235.64
Lion's Mouth Fountain	£1,000.00	£35.00	£1,130.70	£-1,095.70
Remembrance Day	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Finding Fitness Grant	£0.00	£0.00	£4,492.80	£-4,492.80
Hubbard Rd play area, safety surface	£5,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Hubbard Road Play area groundworks	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Melton Road verge fencing	£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Blank	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Contingency	£10,000.00	£2,370.00	£1,098.00	£1,272.00
TOTAL	£55,275.00	£33,282.40	£48,928.16	£-15,645.76

Surplus/deficit for year	£8,085.71	£-11,931.25	£20,016.96
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BANK RECONCILIATION

	2020-2021	2019-2020	
Cash in hand brought forward from prev. year	£55,193.76	£67,125.01	£-11,931.25
Add receipts during year	£41,368.11	£36,996.91	£4,371.20
Sub-total	£96,561.87	£104,121.92	£-7,560.05

Less payments during year	£33,282.40	£48,928.16	£-15,645.76
Cash in hand carried forward	£63,279.47	£55,193.76	£8,085.71

Represented by:

Current account	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Reserve account	£14,088.04	£732.33	£13,355.71
Bonus Saver account	£5,617.11	£7,614.78	£-1,997.67
Loughborough Building Society account	£42,598.81	£45,846.65	£-3,247.84
TOTAL	£63,303.96	£55,193.76	£8,110.20
Less unrepresented cheques	£24.49	£0.00	£24.49
Adjusted bank balance	£63,279.47	£55,193.76	£8,085.71