

Burton on the Wolds, Cotes and Prestwold Parish Council

2021-2022 Annual Report

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year started with meetings still being held virtually towards the end of the COVID-19 restrictions which had caused so many changes to normal life. This was followed by our first face to face meeting in June being held in the semi outside venue of the Prestwold Hall Barns, in order to comply with the changing legislation. Normality had resumed by the time of the next meeting in August.

There have been no changes to the composition of the Parish Council this year but it was with great sadness that in May we learnt of the death of Rachael Saunders, who had been a councillor for 29 years before retiring in 2016. As well as being a councillor Rachael was still an active member of the PFA and the Plantation Management Committee. She had great energy and enthusiasm for the village and will be sorely missed.

As has been the case for the past few years planning matters have dominated the business of the council this year with decisions being made which will change the village of Burton on the Wolds forever.

Permission was granted in controversial circumstances for the building of 70 properties on farmland off Melton Road. This followed an initial rejection of the application by the Plans Committee, which after input from the Charnwood planning and legal teams decided to vote again on the same motion. Two members announced that they wished to change their vote and this resulted in approval of the application which appeared to observers to be completely undemocratic. The council complained formally about this through several stages of the complaints procedure but were not permitted to proceed to the Local Government Ombudsman and following a related appeal to a Planning Inspector on a different matter, approval of the application was confirmed.

The Wolds Villages Neighbourhood Plan was put to a referendum vote in May and was approved by residents, but unfortunately after this it was established that it carries no weight regarding housing numbers. Indeed it was confirmed at a full Borough Council meeting in January that being below the 5 year housing supply takes precedence over all other arguments. This sorry episode was then followed with outline permission being given for up to 60 dwellings on the Sturdee Poultry Farm site in Sowters Lane. Finally another attempt was begun to seek permission for up to 56 dwellings in Loughborough Road on a site where several previous applications had failed. At this time the application has not yet gone to Committee as discussion continues on road safety issues.

The upshot of this means that together with permission previously granted we could eventually have 286 additional homes in Burton, an increase of 67%. Such unprecedented plans will probably lead to the need to reinforce the electricity, gas, water, sewage and communication systems as well as overloading schools, roads, health facilities, etc.

This council has written to government ministers, planning officers and borough councillors but we have not been able to get anyone to set aside the incoherent and illogical planning rule referenced to the lack of a 5 year plan, which allows houses to be built in places that would otherwise be deemed unacceptable and unsustainable.

On a happier note the Plantation continues to bring pleasure to many and is managed and maintained by a dedicated and growing group of volunteers. The necessary felling of diseased or wind damaged trees continues and a paling fence is now in place around most of the wood. Also, the bridges have been replaced with a culvert system which will need far less maintenance.

Speeding traffic through Burton continues to cause concern and the number of ever larger HGVs is causing considerable damage to our roads despite the efforts of the County highways department to keep up with the repairs.

The Police have only attended the occasional meeting in the past year despite promises to attend regularly and we still await a sensible campaign of speed monitoring at appropriate times.

As it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 it was particularly disappointing that despite many attempts in the past year we were unable to get any volunteers to help organise an appropriate event.

The management of the village hall continues to be carried out by parish councillors supplemented by user representatives and a new flexible bank account has made this task easier.

All the normal everyday issues and problems continue to be managed by our enthusiastic and efficient Parish Clerk, Stephanie Massey. In addition to Stephanie I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and work throughout the year, which involves much more than just attending monthly meetings. I also record my thanks to our County and Borough councillors who regularly attend our meetings and help us to resolve problems.

Let us hope that the national and international problems which are currently affecting our lives can be resolved this year in a just manner.

Alan Carr
Chairman
Burton on the Wolds, Cotes and Prestwold Parish Council

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2021-2022 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (unaudited)

Summary of receipts and payments account

RECEIPTS	Budget	2021-2022	2020-2021	Difference
Precept	£31,500.00	£31,500.00	£30,000.00	£1,500.00
Allotment Rent	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
Burial Ground	£200.00	£0.00	£896.00	£896.00
Plantation	£450.00	£1,900.00	£185.00	£1,715.00
Bank Interest	£250.00	£245.55	£258.56	£13.01
LCC for cutting of verges	£900.00	£889.90	£889.90	£0.00
Solar panel feed in tariff	£800.00	£662.52	£692.94	£30.42
VAT refund	£2,500.00	£4,805.16	£2,136.47	£2,668.69
Other income	£1,500.00	£9,621.34	£6,009.24	£3,612.10
TOTAL	£38,400.00	£49,924.47	£41,368.11	£8,556.36

PAYMENTS	Budget	2021-2022	2020-2021	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	£1,349.69	£1,895.79	-£546.10
Insurance	£1,600.00	£1,634.90	£1,588.74	£46.16
Audit	£600.00	£500.00	£490.00	£10.00
Memberships	£600.00	£643.89	£598.52	£45.37
Training	£200.00	£25.00	£140.00	-£115.00
Election Costs	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
PFA inc. grant	£4,188.00	£4,119.25	£3,971.46	£147.79
Pavilion	£1,500.00	£242.11	£471.80	-£229.69
Village Hall	£1,400.00	£1,185.93	£672.03	£513.90
Plantation	£1,500.00	£3,779.53	£834.39	£2,945.14
Open Spaces & Footpaths	£1,600.00	£1,515.72	£1,324.21	£191.51
Hubbard Road inc grounds maint.	£3,000.00	£1,890.12	£3,568.46	-£1,678.34
Burial Ground inc grounds maint.	£1,500.00	£1,491.57	£1,398.51	£93.06
Towles Fields inc grounds maint.	£1,800.00	£1,758.36	£1,782.83	-£24.47
Defibrillator	£100.00	£369.60	£0.00	£369.60
Gardening Club	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	-£250.00
Maintenance of assets	£1,500.00	£2,143.80	£177.21	£1,966.59
Village Amenities	£1,500.00	£540.08	£539.90	£0.18
Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Lion's Mouth Fountain	£0.00	£0.00	£35.00	-£35.00
Remembrance Day	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Finding Fitness Grant	£0.00	£5,747.99	£0.00	£5,747.99
Hubbard Rd play area, safety surface	£0.00	£1,785.60	£0.00	£1,785.60
Hubbard Road Play area groundworks	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Melton Road verge fencing	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Contingency	£10,000.00	£2,658.07	£2,370.00	£288.07
TOTAL	£46,438.00	£44,611.91	£33,282.40	£11,329.51

Surplus/deficit for year	£5,312.56	£8,085.71	-£2,773.15
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BANK RECONCILIATION

Cash in hand brought forward from prev. year	£63,279.43	£55,193.76	£8,085.67
Add receipts during year	£49,924.47	£41,368.11	£8,556.36
Sub-total	£113,203.90	£96,561.87	£16,642.03

Less payments during year	£44,611.91	£33,282.40	£11,329.51
Cash in hand carried forward	£68,591.99	£63,279.47	£5,312.52

Represented by:

Current account	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Reserve account	£19,132.61	£14,088.00	£5,044.61
Bonus Saver account	£5,617.68	£5,617.11	£0.57
Loughborough Building Society account	£42,841.70	£42,598.81	£242.89
TOTAL	£68,591.99	£63,303.92	£5,288.07
Less unrepresented cheques	£0.00	£24.49	-£24.49
Adjusted bank balance	£68,591.99	£63,279.43	£5,312.56