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**Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council**

**Thursday 7th November 2024 7.30pm at Briercliffe Community Centre.**

**Present:** Councillors Gordon Lishman, (Chair),Pippa Lishman, Michael McFarlane, Richard Sagar, Roger Frost, Michael Greenwood.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor C Towneley, R Greenwood (Temp Clerk)

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| The Chair, Councillor Gordon Lishman opened and welcomed all to the meeting. | | | |
|  | **Actions by Clerk** | **Cllr Support** | |
| **23/24/0212 Announcements** | | | |
| The Chair informed the meeting that it would be recorded for training and monitoring purposes and to ensure the accuracy of the minutes. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0213 Apologies for absence** | | | |
| Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Libby Lalor and John Marlow |  |  | |
| **23/24/0214 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** | | | |
| Councillors Roger Frost and Richard Sagar declared an interest in all planning applications. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0215 Minutes of the last meeting** | | | |
| There was a duplicate paragraph in the minutes of the last meeting, these were removed and the minutes accepted as a true record. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0216 Matters outstanding from the minutes** |  |  | |
| The donation letters and the allotment letters from 23/24/0201 are outstanding. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0217 Planning Working Group** | | | |
| **COU/2024/0553**|Change of use from day nursery (Use Class E (f)) to a mixed use including day nursery and education facility (Sui Generis) Briercliffe Nursery Briercliffe Road Burnley Lancashire BB10 2HA. There were no objections to this application albeit concerns were raised about parking.  **23/0809/FULL** Rockwood Wedding Venue, the parish council have reiterated and supported objections made by residents and forwarded these to the Planning Inspectorate, under APP/E2340/W/24/3351395  **BESS** – the parish council has been asked to host a meeting between residents and developers when the planning application goes live. It was suggested that the Parish Council also invite a member of Burnley Borough Council’s Planning Department.  Concerns have been raised with Councillors that the BESS application and the Solar Farm off the Oil Road at Widdop are linked. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0218 Communication Working Group** | | | |
| The Christmas Newsletter will be circulated when photos of this week’s events have been added. This will be a special 12-page newsletter. |  |  | |
| **23/24/0219 Contractor Working Group** | | | |
| * The Interim Lengthsman contract has been completed. The Procurement Process for the 2025/26 Lengthsman Contract will start looking at January 2025 for the advert to go live and February 2025 to interview candidates. The interview panel is to be decided in line with the Procurement Policy. * Three quotes for immediate hedging works are to be sought, these are for the Woodland Walk, Duke Street and the Allotments. | RG  RG | PL  PL | |
| **23/24/0220 Allotment and Garage Working Group** | | | |
| 3 Allotments are available.  There has been a recent spate of distressing break-ins, arsons and reports of dogs set on chickens. This has been reported to the Police who have been asked to make regular patrols. PCSO Hudson will support the Parish Council with a LANPAC grant for extra security although match funding will be needed and a budget for this will be set in due course. A request for better fencing around the allotments is also being considered, particularly around the LCC car park on Queen Street.  The paperwork for the Allotment Committee will be started this month with tenants sought to work with the Parish Council |  | | PL | |
| **23/24/0221 Project Working Group** | | | |
| **Remembrance Sunday** at the War Memorial will take place on Sunday 10th November. 10am at Haggate Baptist Church and 11am at the Bowling Green. There will be boards on the green and Joe Green is to provide the speaker hire. Cllr R Frost to order the Wreaths.   * **Christmas Lights:** Cllr M Greenwood will collect the lights from LITE ready for the switch on.   **Christmas Parcels**: a donation request letter is to be sent out to all local businesses requesting donations in cash or kind towards the Christmas Parcels given to residents aged 80 years or over. | RG | | MG  RF  GL  MG |
| **23/24/0222 Policies Working Group** | | | |
| * The review of the Freedom of Information policy is underway. * The bio diversity policy has been circulated for the Council’s consideration, the planning working group are to add relevant information. * The review of Standing Orders is progressing with a draft to be circulated to members in due course. This will include the Co-Option Process/ policy. Two people have expressed an interest in the advertised vacancy and they will be asked to submit a formal application. |  | | MM  RF, RS  GL |
| **23/24/0223 Formally Adjourned for Public Participation** | | | |
| Public Question 1  An email was received asking for the plans for the drainage at George 1Vth Recreation Ground. The Parish Council does not have access to these plans and will advise that Simon Goff at Burnley Council Green Spaces might have access.  Public Question 2  An email was received asking if the Parish Council would write a letter of thanks to the householder who cut back their hedge, it was discussed and decided that a thank you letter would not be sent. | RG | |  |
| **23/24/0224 County Councillor Verbal Report** | | | |
| Cockden Road Closure - Todmorden Road C.Cllr Towneley said that remedial work on the drainage works would take place and then the road would be reopened.  Damage to the footpath step and grass verge at Lane Bottom was reported. A request for information was made.  Stirling Court footpath is open for use, it may be temporarily closed when work commences but this will be short term.  C. Cllr Towneley has spoken to Police about speeding on Halifax Road and the drug use, she has requested more patrols in the area.  BESS – C. Cllr Towneley suggested that concerns should be submitted to planning prior to the application being submitted so that these are registered. Cllr G Lishman agreed to keep the Planning Department informed and said that, following the earlier meeting, it was agreed with the protest group that the meeting would be after submission.  The Chair thanked C. Cllr Towneley for her report. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0224 Borough Council Report** | | | |
| The Borough Councillors report is appended below. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0225 Police Report** |  | |  |
| The Police Report is appended below. |  | |  |
| **23/24/0226 Agreed Formally to reconvene the Parish Council meeting** |  | |  |
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| **23/24/0227 Finance** | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Expenditure** | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Wages |  | S Watson |  | Cheque 1938 | | 488.88 | | Wages |  | S Watson HMRC |  | Cheque 1939 | | 122.20 | | Allotments | | Water Plus |  | Cheque 1940 | | 302.89 | | HR |  | Croner |  | Cheque 1941 | | 386.61 | |  |  | void |  | Cheque 1942 | | 0.00 | | Wages |  | R Greenwood HMRC |  | Cheque 1943 | | 1,176.00 | | Wages |  | R Greenwood HMRC NIC | | Cheque 1944 | | 285.11 | | Wages |  | R Greenwood 6 months | | Cheque 1945 | | 2,459.17 | | Allotment | | Allotment deposit return | | Cheque 1946 | | 100.00 | | Allotment | | Bookers |  | Cheque 1947 | | 63.37 | | Projects |  | Remembrance Wreaths | | Cheque 1948 | | 160.00 | |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5,544.23 | | | | |
| HMRC have contacted the Parish Council with the Office Accounts Reference Number and from this the Parish Council have activated Basics Tool Package for wages.  There have been two requests via HM Courts and Tribunals Services for the Clerk’s underpayment of wages. Now that the Parish Council has Office Accounts number, this has been paid in full with Cheques 1938 and 1939 in line with financial policy.  The budget meeting has been set for the 12th December 2024  The Strategy meeting date has been set for 25th November 2024 | RG | | All | |
| **23/24/0228 Pendle Local Plan 4th Edition.** |  | |  |
| Discussion took place that Pendle is our boundary neighbour only and it was said that Briercliffe could not comment on all general policy matters only boundary matters. Cllr R Frost is to write to Pendle to this effect. Cllr R Sagar suggested that Burnley Boroughs legal team might be accessed for advice. |  | | RF  GL |
| **23/24/0229 Sale of Community Centre Land** |  | |  |
| The Chair and Vice Chair have had a meeting with BAAS. In attendance was Cllr A Kelly. The meeting was positive with the acceptance that the Parish Council has a right to a 15 year lease – there was an offer of a 25 year lease but this came with terms and conditions for which the parish council would need to take legal advice.  BAAS stated that they planned to refurbish the former library for letting but were restricted on the uses of the building.  BAAS asked what the contribution for rent would be and this is on the agenda for the budget meeting. Cllr Kelly has been consulted as to what the Community Centre can afford as a starting figure. From the meeting the following actions are to be taken:   1. The parish council to take legal advice regarding the lease length. 2. The parish council to negotiate an attainable rent price. |  | | GL  GL |
| **23/24/0230 Date of next meetings.** |  | |  |
| December 5th 2024  January 16th 2025  February 6th 2025  March 6th 2025  April 3rd 2025  May 8th 2025 (Annual) |  | |  |

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| **The meeting closed at 21.31hrs .** |

**Borough Councillors’ Report – November 2024**

**Todmorden Road Closure:** **Cllr Maggie Lishman** has written on a number of occasions to the County Council’s Director of Highways about the closure. She recently received an unhelpful reply but will continue to raise the problems which residents face. The Borough Councillors have been raising the state of the road for over 6 years now. The Director of Highways said:

We are aware that the surface has been subject to deterioration for some time. We have been inspecting the road every three months, and arranging minor repairs as necessary to keep the road safe. Unfortunately, a section of the road is now unsafe, and the repairs required are beyond what could be expected from our general highway maintenance budgets. We have also been assessing the road year on year for inclusion in our annual resurfacing programme. We consider a number of factors when doing so. These include: the asset's strategic importance, the number of reported defects, the volume and speed of traffic, and its proximity to major utilities (such as hospitals). Unfortunately, Todmorden Road did not rank high enough to be include in our 2024 / 2025 resurfacing programme, owing to priorities elsewhere. However, we are now working hard to secure funding to complete the necessary work to reopen the road. In the meantime, there is a serviceable, albeit inconvenient diversion in place. The present closure runs until 8 November 2024. However, it is likely that we will have to extend this further before we can complete the works.

We have since learned from a Facebook post that some work is due to start next week.

**Councillor Gordon Lishman** as Chair of the Parish Council and **Councillor Anne Kelly** as Chair of the **Briercliffe Community Centre** charity have been involved in meetings and discussions with BAAS construction Ltd which has bought the land on which the Community Centre is sited. It is accepted that there will be a new lease which will enable the Community Centre to continue. Discussions continue about the proposed lease.

**Walshaw Mill:** **Councillor Anne Kelly** has raised with Burnley Council a number of noise complaints about early morning operations. The Environmental Health Department at the Council has spoken to the owners of the units, and they have assured her they will take measures to reduce the deliveries, stop opening and shutting the shutters and ensure that drivers do not make any other unnecessary noise. They have sent noise diary sheets to complainants so they can evidence the nuisance if the disturbance continues.

**Standen Hall Development:** There continue to be problems about the building work and issues around access by heavy vehicles. **Councillor Maggie Lishman** has lines of communication with the developer which help in working through problems as they arise.

**Oaken Bank:** Work is due to start soon on drainage from the stream running through the park on Standen Hall down to the main road via Oaken Bank. We hope that this will lessen the likelihood of flooding in heavy rain, which is a problem which the Councillors have been raising over several years.

A resident in **Standen Hall** kindly removed most of the paint tipped onto play equipment in the park. The Borough Council’s Greenspaces were quick to finish the job so the equipment is back in use.

**Councillor Maggie Lishman** met protestors against the **Battery Energy Storage System** plan along with the Leader of Burnley Council to discuss their concerns. The Parish Council has been asked to facilitate a public meeting on the issue with both sides present. The Protest Group has agreed that this should take place after the Plan is submitted. The Councillors will meet the Protest Group shortly.

Following **Cllr Maggie Lishman’s** meeting with the County Director of Highways, the line markings at **Haggate** crossroads have been renewed.

**Rockwood wedding venue appeal:** Final submissions regarding the developers appeal have been submitted and included a comprehensive response from the steering group against the development, supported by the Councillors. We have also ensured that Burnley Council’s objections will be part of the Inspector’s casefile. We continue to liaise with the Steering Group and help when we can, including printing leaflets.

**Councillor Anne Kelly** has reported several cases of fly-tipping, which have been promptly cleared by the Council’s Streetscene.

**Councillor Anne Kelly** will lay a wreath from the Borough Councillors at the Remembrance Fay event at the Bowling Green on Sunday and, as usual, will organise the tea and coffee for residents who participate.

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| BRIERCLIFFE AREA 4th October – 4th November 2024 | | | |
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| INCIDENTS REPORTED - 78 | | | |
|  | | |  |
| NO | TYPE OF INCIDENT | LOCATION | DETAILS |
|  | | | |
| 1  6  5 | Burglary  Burglary non dwelling | Harrison Street  Harrison Street Allotments  Balderstone Lane | A number of allotments broken into, items taken, a vehicle within a garage set of fire and animals injured or killed by a dog.  Offender(s) break into waste recycling centre grounds and then break into the porta cabins and steal items. |
| 3 | Criminal damage | Stanbury Drive  Burnley Road Briercliffe  Halifax Road | Unknown person kicks at front door causes damage.  Isolated incident  Damage to hay bales. |
| 1 | Theft | Harrison Street Allotments | Theft of 4 hens from the allotments. |
| 2  0 | Vehicle crime  Theft of vehicle | Camp Street  Halifax Road | Works van broken into and tools taken.  Offender(s) trying car doors. |
| 5 | Nuisance | Briercliffe X2  Balderstone Lane  Queen Street  Burnley Road | Motorbike/quad bike driving at speed through the woods near Netherwood.  People making a mess within the recycling complex.  People riding around on Ebikes. No lights on and at speed  Kids throwing stones at passing vehicles. |
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| Many thanks Jody Hudson PCSO 7738. | | | |