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**Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council**

**Thursday 14th August 2025 at 5pm at Briercliffe Community Centre.**

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

**In Attendance:** C. Cllr Mark Poulton, Borough Cllr Maggie Lishman six members of the public., R Greenwood (Clerk)

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| The Chair opened and welcomed all to the meeting. | | | |
|  | **Actions by Clerk** | **Cllr Support** | |
| **24/25/0387 Apologies for absence** | | | |
| Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Halstead and PCSO Hudson |  |  | |
| **24/25/0388 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** | | | |
| Cllr Roger Frost declared an interest in Planning  Cllr Michael Greenwood declared an interest in the Livery Policy. |  |  | |
| **24/25/0389 Minutes of the last two Parish Council Meetings.** |  |  | |
| The minutes of the meeting held 12thJune 2025 and July 10th were accepted and signed as a true record. |  |  | |
| **24/25/0390 Matters outstanding from the previous Minutes** | | | |
| There were no matters outstanding. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0391 County Councillor Report.** |  | |  |
| The report is tabled below. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0392 Planning Working Group.** |  | |  |
| The application regarding the land next to Cocoabana has been rejected by Burnley Planning Department, this due to the vision splays.  There is still no formal planning application for the solar wind farm at Widdop,  The application at Rockwood has been rejected by Pendle Borough Council  Proctor Cote Farm - Cllr Frost spoke to Burnley Planning Department regarding the concerns regarding the footpath next to this farm.  There is no planning application for the Waste Transfer system at Heasandford. Please see the Borough Councillors report for further details on this. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0393 Communication Working Group** |  | |  |
| The newsletters are being delivered to homes around the parish.  The deadline for article submission is 10th November. If anyone wishes to submit articles, please contact either Cllr Pippa Lishman or the Clerk. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0394 Allotment and Garage Working Group** |  | |  |
| • Rent - reminded and most received, final ‘demands’ to be processed  • Waiting lists – lots of interest and requests for applications recently  Allotments - Total of 13 waiting (4 on hold) including 5 out of area - 2 livery, 6 gardens and 3 pens  Garages – 3 waiting – inc 1 out of area (all want council structures – not currently available)  • 3 Terminations / Deposit info – only one deposit to be returned. Allocations - 3 new offers – 2 Garden, 1 Pens  **Vacant plots**  Allotments –  Garages – 12 vacant plots on Harrison St, 1 Council wooden garage on Harrison St – repairs required to let  **Garages**  The Lengthsman is going to start creosoting all the woodwork on the turning circle garages and painting anti-vandal paint around the edge of the roofs on the garages as well.  Additional grass cutting request around all vacant plots to improve overall visual as been unkept and un tenanted for some time to get on top of back log and possibly encourage tenants and generate further income  **Other info**  Request to all tenants to close gate when entering and leaving at all times, to enhance security. ‘Close the gate signs have been purchased and installed by volunteers.  Car access plots and instance of someone sleeping in car, which is uninsured has been reported to the police and is being monitored by residents.  Allotment tenant BBQ social is on 16th August to coincide with National Allotments Week which is11th – 17th August and this year is all about ‘Allotments & Wellbeing- celebrating the vital role these green spaces play in supporting healthier lives, stronger communities, and connection to nature.’  **Livery policy** – 1 tenant currently signed up to livery, to request to resign new agreement. 2 other available areas, 1 signed an allotment agreement – to be reassigned, and 3rd to agree.  **Volunteer work Completed**  Repaired a gate  Still to do;  Clear dead Hedge and clearing brambles and waste for parking  Vehicle gate to be changed to Pedestrian gate  Gates to be made and installed  Fence post to be renewed mid fence  Fencing near new parking and tap to be established  Fencing grant for £20k applied for awaiting to confirm, this is for posts, netting and mainly labour.  We will be looking for volunteers and tenants to assist in clearing edges where work will be undertaken if confirmed. – Community fund – national lottery. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0395 Projects Working Group** |  | |  |
| Project Garages – one project under consideration is to tidy up the area around the garages. Targeting Harrison Street garages and the Turning Circle garages. Cllr Halstead will contact members of the public who might want to join in with this.  Project The Kings Orchard – the parish council was successful in its application. The Orchard will be for 24 fruit trees to be planted in August. The Chair is to sign the paperwork and Cllr Frost will link us with Tree’s for Burnley to work in partnership.  Project Garden Competition – this has gone live with posters on the website and will be on the notice boards. Volunteer judges are needed  **Containers,**  There has been interest 2 containers from residents wishing to have containers on the turning circle garage area. Consideration was given to containers on Harrison Street garage area.  The clerk to write to a garage owner who appears to be running a business out of the garage.  **Preferred contractor scheme.**  The parish council is to create a preferred contactor list in conjunction with the financial policy. This is to be for regular works.  **Livery Policy**  Cllr M Greenwood left the room for the livery discussion.  The draft livery policy was circulated to members of the parish council, the draft will be forwarded to the standing tenants, as they will need to sign this too.  There will be a price increase for the livery and this will need to be agreed before any new tenant signed up. This will be presented at the September meeting.  This livery policy will be covered by the waiting list rules, ie those in the local area take priority over those out of the area. The tenancy policies will also cover complaints and disputes. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0395 Project Working Group** |  | |  |
| **Orchard Project** - there is one further signature needed to process the paperwork. The 24 trees will be purchased and planted between September and December 2025.  Volunteers are sought for this and Cllr Frost will be liaising with Burnley Trees and Cllr P Lishman with the Green Spaces Community Engagement Team.  **Woodland Walk Committee** This consists of Cllrs, Halstead, Frost and Greenwood. They will be seeking funding for the improvement of the woodland walk including tree care and path repair.  **Harrison Street Garages** - there is a need to develop the garage colony and improve the area around this site. Cllr Frost is to produce a working proposal for the September meeting with the details of how this will go forward. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0396 Borough Council Report.** |  | |  |
| The Borough Council report is tabled below. |  | |  |
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| **24/25/0397 Staffing Working Group** |  | |  |
| There is to be a review of the Clerks performance this month, this in line with the contract of employment. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0398 Police Report** |  | |  |
| The Police Report is tabled below. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0399 Community Centre Report.** |  | |  |
| Officers from the parish council and the chair of Briercliffe Community Centre Association have met with a solicitor that specialises in Commercial Leases. The parish council has been given a summary of advice which, when confirmed, will be for the parish council to negotiate and agree a 25-year lease with BAAS. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0400 Bowling Memorial Bowling Green** |  | |  |
| The parish council has requested a new electric meter for the Bowling Green due to receiving a legal notice to do so.  Cllr P Lishman has worked with members to look at funding opportunities for the greensman and for the improvement of the gardens.  Consideration was given to the Parish Lengthsman undertaking some of the winter work when the scheduled Lengthsman work slows. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0401 Briercliffe Gala** |  | |  |
| There was a request that the Parish Council give more notice for the lease, insurance checks for the 2026 Gala.  The Clerk to write to the Gala Committee regarding these and the Gala Committee’s policy on donations. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0402 Clerks Report.** |  | |  |
| Allotment and Garage - the majority of the clerk’s time has been taken up with the allotment and garages this month, including rent collection and processing paperwork into Scribe.  Following concerns regarding Scribe, and the allocation of receipts and payments to ‘Council owned’ garages, when some are not, only the land under is council owned. The clerk has been working to ensure that the correct allocations are used on Scribe  Visits to the bank 7 - Cllr P Lishman has been working to get the account ending 833 online to prevent these visits.  Bowling Green as mentioned in the bowling green report.  Archiving and scanning of historic files, we have had two interested volunteers who are interested in local history.  FP1203081 – reported overgrown footpath  National Allotment Society, there has been a meeting with the legal team which the parish council has been advised that a Section 8 to be completed.  The Parish Council is paying HMRC penalties via.Gov Gateway, the clerk has asked for a quote from KM Solutions n of £250 + vat, there are 9 penalties that have been appealed going back to 2021. It was proposed that the quote from KM Solutions be accepted, proposed MG seconded MM and AIF. **It was resolved to engage K M Solutions at the cost of £250 plus VAT.** |  | |  |
| **24/25/0403 Accounts for payment.** |  | |  |
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| **24/25/0404 Public Questions.** |  | |  |
| **Public Question 1** a report of the ginnel at the top of Oakenbank, is very overgrown and that rats have been seen. This has been logged on Love Clean Streets.  **Public Question 2** two residents have contacted concerned about the smell and rodents resulting from the Waste Transfer Station on Widow Hill Road, and requesting that the parish council object. Borough Councillor Kelly has contacted the resident advising that there is no planning application in yet. Please see the Borough Council report (tabled below) for more information on this.  **Public Question 3** a complaint was received that residents would like to attend the parish council meetings but do not want to sit through the meeting before being able to air their views. The Chair has said if this is the case he can take the questions earlier in the proceedings but needs to be aware beforehand. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0405 Dates of the next meeting.** |  | |  |
| Dates of meetings in 2025 /26   * Sept 11th 2025 * Oct 2nd  2025 * Nov 6th 2025 * Dec 4th  2025 * Jan 8th  2026 * Feb 5th 2026 * Mar 5th 2026 * Apr 2th 2026 * May 14th  2026 (and Annual meeting; first meeting after elections) |  | |  |

**County Councillors Report.**

**Highways**

No immediate local work planned

Cockden, marked out for repairs, proposed work of patching being discussed, pushing for a full resurface have planned meetings firstly with Highways depot Burnley Friday 22nd of August, second meeting at Cocken with Cabinet member Warren Goldsworthy and director for Lancashire highways Matt Townsend September 8th.

Potholes at Haggate crossroads approved for repair

Written to highways and asked they investigate placing (SPIDs) speed indicator devices or (VMS) variable message signs around Burnley Road/Nelson Road and Halifax Road Briercliffe

Written to highways and asked for traffic calming measures to be considered for Halifax Road.

Asked Briercliffe village be considered for a 20mph zone, this may be rejected because of the 60mph down to 20mph, its likely it would need to be a staggered speed reduction.

**Planning**

Below, first paragraph planning refused from Burnley borough due to LCC concerns on entrance splays

**“**Part 1 Particulars of Application: FUL/2025/0294 received 1st May 2025 Proposal: Stage 2 Technical Details Consent for 1 dwelling with access from Halifax Road (following the grant of Stage 1 Permission in Principle PIP/2023/0648). Location: Land Between Hill Farm and Copucobana, Halifax Road, Briercliffe. Part 2 Particulars of Decision: The Council gives notice under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) that Planning Permission has been Refused for the carrying out of the development referred to in Part 1 above for the following reasons: 1. The proposed access would not provide sufficient visibility splays, with protected trees unacceptably obscuring views of the highway. As such the scheme fails to provide a safe means of access and would have an unacceptable impact on highway safety contrary to Policy IC1 of Burnley’s Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.” Thanks for supporting this objection.

LCC scrutiny for transport, economic growth and transport have been asked to look at a local government and social care ombudsman recommendation decision for handling of definitive map modification orders. Even if resource was doubled it would take 15-20 years to clear the backlog without going into war and peace the current process is being investigated, can it be streamlined and still meet all its legal and statutory obligations.

Milton street discussed at the last meeting, firstly thank you for the follow up information, Weeding has been completed by BC and the path at the back of the club has been cut back, still to be considered/actioned- Land between the wall Maytree and Milton street top path requires trees cutting and area strimming who's remit does the area fall under? Overgrown yard, currently in discussion with Burnley council properties once the landowner is determined BC will engage and ask the owner to cut back the trees and growth and cease using the land for any unauthorised business use, no response BC will issue a section notice and subsequent fine.

**Crime/Anti-social behaviour**

Speeding and anti-social vehicle use being the main issues reported, Burnley and Padiham police have carried out two evening speeding events during the last monthly period, extra patrols have been done to monitor anti-social behaviour and suspected criminal activity around the picnic area

I cannot stress enough the need to report every incident, data used to target resource, no reports -it would be extremely difficult persuading the police to support the area with speeding prevention and reaction resource.

**A.O.B**

Have agreed to donate a sum of £300 paid through county councillors grant grant funding towards the community bowling club for gardening equipment or plants to finish the work around the cenotaph area.

Judging of best front garden flower show will take place tomorrow afternoon

**Borough Councillors’ Report**

1. The most substantial issue in the last month has been the recent furore about the proposed Waste Transfer Station on the Heasandford Industrial Estate. Following an inflammatory and inaccurate leaflet to some homes about a “waste dump”, a number of residents have reasonably expressed concern. The proposal is to establish a site for a centre which would enable waste from Burnley bin collections to be transferred from Burnley to the LCC facility near Preston. This is as result of the impending closure of the landfill site at Huncoat near Accrington and the need for waste collected by Burnley Council to be transferred to LCC which has the responsibility for disposal.

The proposed site is 500 yards from the nearest residential area; it will be in an enclosed building with air-filtered extractors, and will be cleared each working day. Scare stories about rats, smells and substantially increased traffic are inaccurate

The Borough Council Executive has proposed the arrangement, which will now be subject to the normal process of consultation for planning permission.

2. There have been an unusual number of missed bin collections in the last few months as a result of parked cars and vans obstructing access for the refuse vehicles. When that happens the Council makes arrangements for a further attempt to collect and details are put on the Council’s website. Residents are urged to take care about where they park particularly on bin collection days.

3. We have been investigating the state of the ginnel between Tarvin Close and Sandiway Drive. Both local authorities disclaim responsibility but we are following up in the light of case law which suggests that there is local authority responsibility.

4. One case of neglect of a dog has been referred to the Council and the RSPCA.

5. We are continuing to talk with the Standen Hall developers about the problems their building work has caused and the need to address the issues so that they can be better managed for the next stage of the development.

6. As a reminder, the Councillors have access to the Ward Opportunities Fund which can give small grants to local initiatives and we ask anyone interested to get in touch before the cash runs out.

**Police Report**

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| BRIERCLIFFE AREA 7th July – 13th August 2025 | | | |
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| INCIDENTS REPORTED - 112 | | | |
|  | | | |
| NO | TYPE OF INCIDENT | LOCATION | DETAILS |
|  | | | |
| 0  1 | Burglary  Burglary non dwelling | Todmorden Road | Out building broken into – items taken |
| 2 | Criminal damage | Briercliffe Road  Standenhall Drive | Smashed window  Machinery being damaged |
| 1 | Theft | Lydgate | Lead flashing stolen |
| 6  1 | Vehicle crime  Theft of vehicle | Talbot Drive  Shore Avenue  Lydgate x4  Stirling Court | Offender trying car door, car locked so offender moves on.  Offender trying car doors.  Offender gains entry into vehicle or tries vehicle handles.  Isolated matter. |
| 8 | Nuisance | Halifax Road  Halifax Road 5  Queen Street  Balderstone Lane | Males with ballons possibly inhaling laughing gas.  Cars driving in excessive speed.  Someone egging a vehicle  Trespassers on the waste site |
|  | | | |
| A person was arrested on Lydgate for theft from vehicle. A resident contacts the Police stating they have seen a person trying car doors, Police make to the area and arrest someone.    Many thanks Jody Hudson PCSO 7738. | | | |
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