

Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on 1 December 2010 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr D Cohen. Mayor. Cllr J Tunnell-Westmacott. Deputy Mayor
Cllr P Bush. Cllr D Cotterill. Cllr A Walker. Cllr A Temple-Bruce. Cllr I Brown.
Cllr J White. Maggie Andrews Town Clerk. John Yeatman Treasurer.

1. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 November be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

It was noted that a new chain saw is required. The Clerk was asked to enquire about chain saw courses for the Lengthman so that the appropriate license can be obtained if necessary.

3. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Royal wedding celebration. After discussion it was decided to appoint one member from several Burford societies to form a sub-committee to organise a tea party for the town. Possible venue Warwick Hall garden. Cllr Brown suggested the church may be available as a venue and will make further enquiries.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr Lofthouse. Cllr Couchman OCC.

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared a personal interest because they represent the Council as a Chairman of the following committees:-

Cllr I Brown – Recreation Ground

Cllr Walker – Planning

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott – Environmental & Cemetery

Cllr Cohen – Traffic Advisory

Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott is receiving a payment of £51.70 for the purchase of extra spring bulbs for the town.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

John Yeatman suggested there were three items that needed possible contingency consideration. The OCC grant for the Lengthman, the grass cutting contract, and the future of the Library. After discussion it was agreed to leave the precept of £49,000. It was noted that the electric wheelbarrow will need to be included in our Insurance. The Clerk to action.

Invoices for payment:

Mrs M Andrews	758. 55
Inland Revenue	330. 86
Mr & Mrs Dadge	91. 00
Petty Cash	30. 00

British Telecom light user scheme (Museum)	13. 50
British Telecom	91. 60
A K Timms	209. 28
Playground Services	148. 00
McCracken & Son 11 th cut	828. 38
Peter Stokes (electronic wheelbarrow for Lengthman)	478. 00
Viking Direct	166. 87
WODC Trade Waste	142. 41
<u>Tolsey payments</u>	
Furniture at work. Replacement table for Tolsey	89. 19
The above were passed for payment.	

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor had officiated at a lower school prize giving event at Burford school.

8. W.O.D.C. REPORT

Cllr Cotterill reported that operating and capital budgets are being prepared. Several scenarios are being examined as the final cuts from central government will not be known for about 4 weeks, although the 'Settlement Date' was supposed to have been 2 December. The District Council needs to agree its budget in January so that Council tax bills can be prepared on time.

The breakdown in the operating budget which included toilet cleaning covers 13 toilet blocks in West Oxfordshire and they cost, on contract approximately £9,000 each to clean and service, two of which are in Burford. Detail about grass cutting, waste management and all other services is given in their 105 page document.

9. O.C.C. REPORT.

The County Council has published proposals regarding the future of the Library and Youth Services. The future number of libraries is a reduction from 43 currently to be cut by 20, to 23. Burford library is one of the 23 surviving units. Location close to the western edge of the County has favoured Burford's retention. Regarding youth services, the County will be concentrating their limited resources on children who already are in trouble or vulnerable, or judged to be likely to get into trouble. Services will be provided from seven major hubs including Witney. Virtually all the remaining services for youth will be offered to communities to take on.

10. EMERGENCY PLAN DEVELOPMENTS.

A list of volunteers is needed together with a register of 'vulnerable' people. It was noted that there would be confidentiality issues. Cllr White is continuing with the draft.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Sophie Carmody-Morgan. Request for Tolsey trading. Sophie was advised that there were no remaining Saturday's left before Christmas.
2. Mrs Napier, offering to buy a seat for the town. The Clerk will reply advising of the cost.
3. Mr Wickson regarding grit bin for Shilton Road.

It was suggested that the residents get together to buy their own, OCC will keep it filled. Burford Council have no extra money in the budget for further grit bins.

4. VIC/Toilets. David Neudegg had replied to our letter clarifying WODC's decision.
5. Volunteer link-Up – request for a donation. Councillors agreed to send £50.
6. Caterton Burns Quiz night. No one was available to attend this event. The Mayor will send a donation.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning.

The following plans were discussed:-

W10/1655. 33 Sheep street. Internal alterations and refurbishment of existing dwelling.

No objection.

W10/1658. 5 & 6 Church Lane. Internal alterations to include one bedroom flat.

No objection.

W10/1696. 6 Burford Hill Mews. Erection of garden shed.

No objection.

W10/1687. 10 The Leaze, Barns Lane. Erection of two storey rear extension and attached garage with study over.

No objection.

W10/1678. 97 High Street. External alterations to include erection of fascia board.

No objection.

W10/1643. Burford Priory. Erection of new gates. The design of the gates are excellent and fitting for the property. The committee felt that the use of western red cedar was not the correct timber choice. Traditionally oak would have been used. If the oak is either kiln dried or properly seasoned this would give the desired appearance in approx. 14-16 months time. It was also noted that western red cedar would not have been used for such a grand building.

Recreation Ground

A working party had tidied up the bonfire and removed debris from the copse. Cllrs Brown and Tunnell-Westmacott will recce the copse area to decide on planting.

Southern Electric. The meter has been wrongly read over some time and a refund of approximately £2,370 is due to the Council.

The Pavilion is in good condition, thanks to the input of the youth leader Erica Henson. A door may be created into the changing rooms so that footballers do not have to come through the youth group's area. Further discussion needed.

The outside tap needs to be installed.

Thames Water has investigated meter use. It may be that other users are on the Council's meter.

Environmental & Cemetery

A huge vote of thanks were minuted to David Buckland for putting gravel on footpaths on The Hill and other areas in the town where necessary, during bad weather conditions. Some bulbs have been planted around the town – more volunteers are needed for planting the remainder. Cllr Westmacott to advise of date.

It was noted that Clematis Cottage still have their recycling and wheelie bins on the footpath. The Clerk to advise WODC in case a different form of collection is needed.

A letter has been sent to a resident on The Hill regarding a skip on the verge, and the use of the footpath for storage of materials. The area will be made good once building work has finished.

It was noted that oak posts, also on The Hill have been put in the wrong place, some of which have already been knocked over by large vehicles.

Bulbs have been planted in the driveway at the Cemetery, thanks to Cllrs Tunnell Westmacott and Lofthouse.

Rural Housing Exception Scheme.

The housing needs survey has shown 23 families now qualifying for housing units in Burford which is causing some discussion regarding the proposed development for 20 units east of Frethern Close. The progression will be to quantify the types of units required, the total number, design the scheme and then apply for planning permission.

Traffic advisory

Cllr Mills had asked if the existing low stone posts, one situated outside the Tolsey and one on the Upton Road, could have the signs 'Cheltenham-Oxford' reinstated.

Councillor Cohen felt it was not prudent to do so because our budget cannot run to further expense at the present time, but it is a good idea for the future.

Cllr Cotterill requested that Councillors consider the LTP3 and let him have any comments as soon as possible.

The A40 pedestrian crossing needs repairing and reflectors added. The Clerk to contact OCC.

Allotments.

Once the weather improves, marking and ploughing the area will commence.

Warwick Hall

Copies of the minutes of a recent meeting were circulated to all Councillors. It was noted that Cllr White had given his apologies but these were not noted in the minutes. An amendment will be made.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Tunnell Westmacott asked if another Councillor would stand on the Museum Committee. Cllr Temple Bruce agreed to do so.

The extra sign for the Recreation ground car park is in hand.

The sign for Frethern Close 'children playing' will not be actioned until April 2011 when the first half of the precept is received.

The Clerk was asked to remind Tony Currell at OCC to add SLOW each end of the centre markings in Barns Lane.

Cllr Cotterill suggested the Council take a page advert in 'Oxfordshire Cotswolds' at a cost of £219. Half page rate to Councils is £145. Council agreed to a page possibly shared with the Chamber of Trade.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm