

**Minutes of the Burford Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on 3 March 2011 at 7.00pm**

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

**1. MINUTES**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 February be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**2. MATTERS ARISING.**

Covered by agenda.

**3. OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Cllr Brown requested that Cllrs view Oxbox, a TV channel for Oxfordshire and consider the whether the Council and Burford festival should have a link.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllrs Cotterill & Lofthouse.

**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

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Invoices for payment:

Mrs M Andrews	593. 70
Inland Revenue	262. 76
Mr & Mrs Dadge	91. 00
Petty Cash	50. 00
AON additional insurance premium for electric	
Wheelbarrow	10. 32
Faringdon Town Council/Youth club donation	20. 00
Witney Football & Rugby club donation	20. 00
(reimbursed)	
Thames Water (Rec 2010-2011 revised invoice)	340. 84
Southern Electric office	392. 46
Southern Electric – Rec	35. 92
Jack Swallow – exterior tap to Pavilion	55. 00
RICOH photocopies rental and copies	82. 38

**Tolsey payments**

Isis Security fire alarm maintenance	246. 00
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It was noted that the annual check needs to be established on a specific annual date.

The above were passed for payment

### **7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor reported that he had presented prizes for short stories, to the lower school budding authors. This was held at the library.

He had met with David Neudegg the joint Executive of Cotswold and West Oxfordshire District Councils, together with Andy Smith Chamber of Trade Chairman. Several town issues were discussed, including bad communications on some issues, including Tourism and the proposed new toilet block. David Neudegg said he was happy to meet with full Council if ever there was a build up of issues needing a response.

### **8. W.O.D.C. REPORT**

Cllr Cotterill reported that at a full council on 23 February the budget was voted through. Council tax bills can now be issued. County Council tax is frozen at £1,161.71 per household. Thames Valley Police is frozen at £154.30 and District Council at £81.63 for band D. Only the Town/Parish tax is subject to variation and the average for the District equates to £57.00 per household.

Burford town is set at £70.69 which compares with £95.63 for Witney, £59.09 for Woodstock, £66.75 for Bampton and £63.11 for Carterton. Freeland however is £84.85 because they are raising money for a new village hall.

Efficiency savings and sharing of resources and managers with Cotswold District Council has enabled £3.5m to be saved from the operation budget over the past three years. It is now down from its high of £14.5m to £11m per annum. No frontline services have been cut and £250,000 is being used from reserves to maintain them this year.

On 25 February WODC Councillors received presentations from Cottsway, Green Square (Oxford Citizens Housing Assoc: and Sovereign Housing. These were to explain how Central government has changed to method of funding affordable and extra care housing from 3 May 2011. At present each scheme is funded by the Community and Local government department according to need and to top up funding obtained locally by the housing association. Each housing association will now have to submit bids for funding their anticipated projects over the next 5 years. These bids need to be submitted to the Department for Communities and local government by 3 May and the Burford scheme will be part of the bid from Cottsway. The housing associations will also have to find more funding from their own resources. The new system will also entail a change of rental calculation for new householders to affordable schemes, so that rents could rise more towards the 80% mark of the local average. At present the calculations used as examples for the presentations look more like an accountant's wishful thinking and not a workable option, so more explanation is required on this subject.

### **9. O.C.C. REPORT.**

No report.

### **10. BURFORD EMERGENCY PLAN DEVELOPMENTS.**

The Plan will be distributed to all on the initial distribution list. Discussion will still be necessary regarding the purchase of fluorescent jackets, flashing lights, road closure signs etc.

Cllr White and Brown will be attending a 'Watermark' meeting in March and will report back.

### **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Community Governance Review. February minutes reported that Shilton Parish Council wish to add the Blue Cross into their boundary. It was decided to ask the Blue Cross what their feelings were. David Cohen to action.
2. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee 4 June 2012 – Beacons. After discussion it was decided to hold an event on the Recreation ground. This matter will be discussed again next year.
3. Abbott Stuart at Mucknell Abbey asked if a small party of Burfordians would like to visit them. Further details required from Abbot Stuart.
4. Advance notice of a temporary road closure, Swan Lane 4 and 5 April 2011, for the installation of a new sewer and mains connection.
5. The matter of the rebuilding of the boundary wall at the recreation Ground and Hunts Close is still under review for final decision.
6. Burford Charity trustees have requested a representative from the Council. Cllr Tunnell-Westmacott agreed to take Clare Baines' place. John Hannah will be asked if he would continue to represent the Council.
7. Fulbrook Parish Council have asked why the bus stop in the Lower High Street was moved. The Clerk will reply to the effect that this was decided in conjunction with W.O.D.C.D. as a better site.

### **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Planning.**

The following plans were discussed:-

- W11/0134. 10 The Leaze. Erection of two storey side rear extension. No objection.
- W11/1749. Wysdom Hall. 115 High Street. Insertion of three rooflights and one dormer to north roof slope. Re-roof with natural blue slates. Integrated photovoltaic to south roof slope. No objection.

#### **Recreation Ground**

An outside tap has now been fitted to the Pavilion.

The rocker frame work in the playground is outstanding.

The outside electric socket on the Pavilion needs a lockable cover. The Clerk to action.

Some problems have occurred regarding the use of facilities by football teams. Cllr Brown will write and confirm to the users what is required of them and for the facilities to be respected.

More discussion is needed on minor improvements to the showers and hot water supply. Cllr Bush to look into improving the current water heater.

The changing rooms and main room have been painted by Erica Henson and the Youth team.

The metal container is being used for other storage as well as Scout and Football equipment. An agreement will be drawn up between the Council and the Scout Group clearly stating what it should be used for since the football teams are storing some of their equipment in the Pavilion, which is unacceptable.

**Environmental & Cemetery**

McCracken the grass cutting contractos, has agreed to maintain a small area in Tanners Lane, four times a year.

The reporting of pot holes is ongoing.

Pavement slabs on the High Street should be replaced this month.

The collapsed wall in Sheep Street is to be repaired by O.C.C. Cllr Mills will liaise with them to try and come to an agreement regarding cost.

A temporary repair will be carried out to the uneven footpath on the corner of Priory Lane and the Cotswold Arms.

The Lengthman had to cancel a chain saw course because of his wife's illness. This will be rescheduled in due course.

The Lengthman is working on the installation of white traffic gates for Witney Street & Sheep Street alerting motorists of the 30mph signs.

The cost of farmer's helping clearing snow is being looked into, mainly for clearing Sheep Street & Witney Street. Action Cllr Brown.

Mr Dalby is yet to respond to our concerns regarding the chestnut tree on the Recreation Ground.

The Cemetery is reported to be in good order. The Lengthman will rebuild the collapsed wall as soon as he can.

Ivy on one of the pillars at the entrance, needs removing.

Some potholes are opening up on the drive way.

**Rural Housing Exception Scheme.**

Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership: stage of development – an undertaking needs survey, site identification/site negotiation/ pre-planningdiscussions/planning submitted/scheme on site. Anticipated units 15-20. Rural exception site at Coles field. A draft layout of 15 units is being amended, following WODC comments. Public consultation end of March.

**Warwick Hall.** No report.

**Traffic.** The erosion on the A40/Oxford Road/pedestrian crossing is still cause for concern. The Clerk will ask OCC for an update on progress.

Cllr Brown is liaising with Matt Timms at OCC regarding skip licenses. It was suggested that a time limit should be imposed and each case looked at. The the Council felt there should be time restrictions.

Cllr Brown – snow clearance/farmers. Under investigation.

**Allotments.** A definitive list of all holders is required for Council records. An invoice will be sent to the holders.

**Royal Wedding celebrations.** Another meeting has been held and plans are going ahead. A request is made for help in moving tables and chairs and making sandwiches.

**13. TOWN AGM.** This will be held in the Warwick Hall on April 21 at 7.00pm. All Chairpersons of committees need to submit reports in good time.

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Bush is investigating the parking of caravans in Frethern Close, liaising with Cottsway.

Cllr Walker is chasing proforma invoices regarding extra signage in Burford which can then be ordered and installed.

The damaged coach parking sign on the High Street will be replaced with a new one.

Action O.C.C

The Crime Prevention Officer will be asked to come and talk to the Council at the May meeting, regarding the feasibility of installing CCTV cameras in Burford.

**14. CHARITY MATTERS.**

Rupert Adler has requested three Friday trading days under the Tolsey for an art exhibition. Council were in agreement.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

