

Burley Parish Annual Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held on Monday 27th April, 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall: to be signed at the Annual Assembly 2016.

Present: Mr Philip Daubeney (Chair), Parish Councillors: Mrs Jane Kendall, Mr Robert Clarke, Mr Neal Martin, Mr Peter Russell and Mrs Val Thorpe; also present were Cllr Keith Mans (HCC), Cllr John Penwarden (NFDC), Mr Bruce Rothnie of the Forestry Commission, Mr Steve Avery from NFNPA, a representative from the local press & 46 local government electors.

1. Apologies Mrs J Kuhle & Dr P G Goodwin (via notes not seen until post meeting)

2. Minutes of the last meeting Copies of the Minutes were distributed to all. The full minutes were agreed & signed.

3. Matters Arising The Chairman stated that the issue of bicycle bells is included in the new Cycling Charter available on NFNPA website; various pothole issues have been resolved during the year and this is continuing. Other matters arising are covered by the Chairman's report.

4. Chairman's Report The Chairman reported that there were 5 nominations for the 6 seats available on Burley Parish Council and that those nominations were from the current Councillors, with the exception of Cllr V Thorpe who will not be standing. The Chairman thanked Cllr Thorpe for her work during 2 terms of office. He said that a sixth Councillor would be sought for co-option.

The Chairman gave a summary of BPC's Objectives set at the beginning of the term of office, the achievements and those still outstanding. The Chairman spoke of litter picks, the Lengthsman, drain repairs, verge clearance, working with Bournemouth airport and the consideration of planning applications in relation to conservation and improvement to the village. With regard to road safety the Chairman thanked Mr Mark Kirtley for the donation of land enabling the new pavement outside the cycle shop; the extension to the 30mph zone; improved parking safety at the primary school; pothole repairs; cycle racks and the Cycling Charter. The Chairman said an updated Emergency Plan was now in place with the help of coordinator Tony Bracey.

A receipts and payments summary for the year with comparisons to 2013-14 was circulated to all. The Chairman outlined the grants and donations that had been considered and given to local charities during the year giving LDDN and the WW1 vigil as examples. The Chairman also outlined successful projects such as the defibrillator, jubilee clock and garden patches at Lanfranco House. Other projects that are being pursued include: a children's play area, affordable housing and improved broadband.

Mr Steve Cody (elector) asked for clarification of the current situation regarding superfast broadband for the village. The Chairman said Openreach are trying to find suitable locations for 2 new cabinets within 50m of the existing cabinets. The first location proposal at The Cross was deemed unsuitable by the Verderers. 2 alternative sites are being investigated and the Chairman said BPC will meet again with Openreach and all other involved parties to follow this up. The 2nd site is being investigated on private property at Mill Lane. Mr Cody said that approval for projects requiring discussion with the freeholder at Wathen Bartlett (Burley Club) can be given by 2 trustees. The Chairman went on to say that a supplementary box would also be needed at Burley Street in the future.

The Chairman said that new objectives will be set in May with the new Council.

Jean MacMillan (elector) asked whether the issue of cycling on pavements had been investigated. Cllr Martin said that he had raised the issue with HCC and the police who said the culprits would need to be caught before anything could be done. Cllr Martin said he had asked about signage for the pavements to make it clear cycling was prohibited but it was thought that this would set a precedent. Ms MacMillan asked if it was legal for children to ride on pavements and Cllr Martin confirmed that the police had said no one has a right to ride on pavements. He suggested that this issue needed to be managed within the village and that anyone seen riding on a pavement be politely asked to stop.

John Cooke (elector) asked if there would be a public consultation regarding a children's play area. Cllr Martin confirmed HCC are aware of the potential project and discussions have been held with the primary school. There will be many issues to resolve before going ahead, including health and safety and security; currently BPC is looking at the feasibility of the project. A consultative process will happen following this and it is hoped that local children will be involved.

A member of the public asked if the proposed area was in school grounds. This was confirmed and it was said that there would be school access only during term time, school hours and public access outside of these times.

Dionis Macnair reported that the speed camera van recently present around Burley was being funded by the Commoners Defence Association.

Chris Parker (elector) asked if pinch points had been considered to slow traffic by the school. It was thought that this may present its own problems but Cllr Martin agreed to follow this up. (NM)

5. Securing the future of Burley Heritage Cllr Russell reported that DVDs funded by a lottery grant had been completed & archived at Winchester and are also available at the British National Film Library. A previous exhibition found more people to interview and funds from HCC funded more DVDs. These will be on show in June at the next exhibition; a WW1 vigil DVD was also made. Cllr Russell said throughout the 6 year project artefacts had been donated by villagers. The BLH project will finish after the exhibition on 6/7th June which will be held in the Village Hall. He confirmed BPC will always insure the artefacts and that these will be kept in the village.

Cllr Russell said the new Council will call a meeting in June to discuss whether the village wants a Charitable Trust to look at the vision of a Heritage Centre. Cllr Russell thanked everyone who had helped with the BLH project and artefact donations. The Chairman thanked Cllr Russell for his work on the project.

6. Report from the Forestry Commission Bruce Rothnie, the new Deputy Surveyor, summarised recent work done by the Forestry Commission in and around Burley. This includes: controlled burning, clearance of verges for road safety, Holly pollarding, reinstating road side ditches to prevent vehicles on the forest. Ongoing projects include: refreshing of cycle route surfaces; car park maintenance to refresh signage, gateways and dragon's teeth at the end of the summer; fence repair at Burley New Inclosure; bracken cutting at roadsides for improved visibility of animals; pulling ragwort in July & August and wetland restoration at Harvestslade which is due to start in August and last for 4-6 weeks. Mr Rothnie suggested organising an event through BPC for residents to observe what is being done at Harvestslade when the works are in progress as some concern was expressed during the planning process.

Mr Rothnie said he would like Parish views on further pine removal from the Cranesmoor area and would welcome input before final plans are put together.

David Stewart (elector) asked how the prospective major damage of forest tracks by the very lengthy required movement of hoggins during the Harvestslade project had been assessed and whether any strengthening work would be needed. Mr Rothnie said the work is due to be carried out in August in the driest part of year; the machinery is low pressure and equivalent sites in the forest have had similar work done and these areas have repaired. He said that the route from the A31 had been planned to avoid local traffic through the village and that the situation will be monitored as it goes along.

An elector queried the amount of fallen timber in the forest and whether this might cause disease as well as looking unsightly. Another elector mentioned Beechwood Lane where 9 trees have fallen, were cut and pushed back but not removed. Mr Rothnie said fallen debris is vital for the ecology of the forest and the amount of deadwood in the forest is monitored. 2 other electors mentioned specific sites at Castle Hill Lane and beech woods at Bisterne. Mr Rothnie suggested meeting up outside of the meeting to look at specific sites together.

7 Report from the NFNPA. Steve Avery, executive director of NFNPA, highlighted key activities during the last year including: the NFNPA management plan which is now 5 years old; this will be reviewed and updated with programmes of work for the future. A 3 month consultation was held last year and there will be a further consultation in May for 6 weeks, after which the new document will be adopted in July.

Mr Avery said the Core strategy will also be reviewed and updated, taking into account new planning laws including affordable planning leverage.

Other highlights included:

- The NFNPA will introduce a new design award to celebrate good design
- It is hoped that more land for affordable housing will be available through developer's contributions and land donations.
- The NFNPA has bid for an "Our past our future" £3 million fund from the lottery, for conservation purposes.
- A Litter campaign is planned to do more to prevent littering.
- A new bus route will run from Moors Valley to Hythe stopping at Burley from 24th May to 31st October.

Local elections will affect the NFNPA as 12 of its 22 members come from constituent members, 4 are appointed by Parish Councils. The SW Quadrant has a vacancy; the election is being run by HALC on 16th July.

Dionis Macnair raised the issue of considering proportions and colours of smaller Clough cottages and outbuildings during planning. Mr Avery suggested BPC look again at developing a Village Design Statement.

8. Report from HCC The Chairman thanked Cllr Mans for grants given over the last year. Cllr Mans outlined his responsibilities including being deputy leader of HCC and lead member for children's services. He thanked Burley residents for taking such an interest in their village and said BPC supported the village well.

Cllr Mans said the County's Precept has again been frozen without restricting front line services. As the central government grant has reduced year by year this has been done by combining back room services and reducing employees by 2000 via voluntary redundancy. He outlined the selling of services outside of the County e.g. IOW children services.

Cllr Mans said:

- HCC are providing the money to ensure Broadband is provided in rural areas and they try to facilitate the process.
- Cllr Mans congratulated Cllr Martin on his work with the Cycling Charter and organisations.
- that he is behind the play area project and will support it when it comes to County for agreement.
- He confirmed his devolved budget is £8000/year to allocate as is appropriate in the division and encouraged organisations to come forward directly or through the PC if funding is required.

9. Report from New Forest District Council Cllr John Penwarden outlined the past 12 months at NFDC:

- the Community Alarm Service is now in house and running 24/7 for 2000 people.
- NFDC has directly funded the purchase of 39 affordable housing properties.
- NFDC are extending the Nightstop project to Nightstop Plus for the over 24s.
- The Brand New Forest card has been a successful project.
- There has been no change in Council Tax reduction from last year.
- NFDC and NFNPA have combined departments for trees and listed buildings.
- Food and hygiene ratings of restaurants are at 3 and above with good hygiene for 92% of 600 premises.
- The Kerb side glass collection scheme is successful.

10. Any Other Business

- Cllr Thorpe thanked all public for their support and her fellow Councillors.
- Jeanne Wilde (elector) said the Jubilee tree was not looking very healthy and asked if it can be protected. The Chairman said he would take it up with the FC as no guard or plaque had previously been allowed. (PD)
- Roger Hutchings said a Nepal disaster fund had been launched and donations can be made at the Post Office. He added that Hampshire Highways are to rebuild the Bournemouth spur road and a 7 mile contraflow with 40mph speed limit will be in place. He requested BPC liaise with HCC to prevent Burley becoming a consequent rat run. (NM)
- An elector asked if funding was in place for the potential play area; the Chairman replied that funding was not currently held but BPC is confident it can be sourced.
- An elector thanked BPC for all the good work throughout the year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12pm.