

# Burley Parish Annual Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held on Monday 24th April, 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall: to be signed at the Annual Assembly 2018.

**Present:** Mr Philip Daubeney (Chair), Parish Councillors: Mr Peter Russell, Mr Robert Clarke, Mr Neal Martin, Mrs V Johnstone, Mrs J Kendall; also present were: the Clerk, Mr Steve Avery from NFNPA, Mr Bruce Rothnie (Forestry Commission), Cllr K Mans (HCC), Cllr R Frampton (NFDC), Mr Tony Bracey (Emergency Plan Coordinator) & 30 local government electors.

**Copies of the Agenda, minutes of the Annual Assembly 2016, draft annual accounts summary 2016-17 and a summary report from Cllr K Mans (HCC) were circulated to electors.**

**1. Apologies** None

**2. Minutes of the last meeting** The full minutes from the Annual Assembly 2016 were agreed & signed.

**3. Matters Arising** The Chairman reported that:

- The Jubilee Tree now has a guard; if tree does not recover well it will be replaced.
- A new noticeboard has been put up at Burley Street and the village centre noticeboard repaired.
- Parking at the primary school – a gate across the track was deemed not practical; road safety is under control.
- Anti-social behaviour is being monitored by NFDC and Police at Vereley car park; Scout hut users have not observed any other complaints.
- Karen Donaldson resigned as BPC Councillor and Mrs Jane Kendall has been co-opted. Dr Ian Mason-Smith experience is hoped to be used in a non-Councillor capacity.

**4. Chairman's Report** See attached report. An elector asked the reasons why trees were felled in Pound Lane. The Chairman said that BPC visited the trees with the Forestry Commission to see the disease on those trees later felled. BPC will seek re-planting; currently this is against Natural England's advice as natural regeneration is preferred. A second phase of felling is due in autumn for other dangerous trees. Cllr Clarke explained that yellow discs on trees mean they are being monitored and their details recorded. The trees felled were dangerous; their trunks taken to Wood's Corner where it is possible to observe the rot. Public safety must come first. It was suggested that at the next round of inspection a visit to tree sites could be organised with FC.

Roger Hutchings explained the current position of the village Post Office service: the PO is changing contracts for its small offices resulting in reduced income; Roger confirmed he will retire. The PO is not allowed to close PO branches without actively seeking a replacement. If a new PO is appointed, setting this up will take at least 6 months. Charles Mormon confirmed that he is also due to retire; hopefully the shop will be taken over by someone who will also provide a PO outlet. Facilities should be at least equal to what currently stands. An elector said in a village she previously lived in the local shop was run by volunteers where a PO was also opened 3 mornings a week and shared with a neighbouring village.

An elector said that on 6<sup>th</sup> April in the afternoon her phone and internet went off until Monday, this was when the new SFBB cabinet was installed.

An elector said it was good to hear that bus shelters were going to be repainted however there are virtually no buses. 6 months of the year open top tourist buses run but no season ticket arrangements for residents are available. Cllr Mans agreed to take this issue up. (KM) Steve Avery (NFNPA) said the buses are self-financing and routes have been extended therefore bringing more finance in via visitors. Mr Avery agreed to feedback to the NFNPA and will investigate if it is in financial interest to introduce this. (SA)

An elector asked about the interest on BPC bank accounts.

An elector said vehicle speeds in Bisterne Close are too fast. The Chairman said BPC is seeking "20 is plenty" through the village. An elector identified some private school buses as speeding in Bisterne Close. A traffic survey was suggested by Cllr Clarke and Cllr Martin suggested talking to the schools concerned. The Chairman also mentioned that BPC is considering purchasing a Speed Indicator Device.

An elector raised the issue of people lost while looking for the White Buck. The Chairman said that BPC is seeking a meeting with the area manager of the White Buck as signage is required on what is private land. The White Buck has applied for brown tourist signage.

**5. Report from the Forestry Commission** Bruce Rothnie reported on recent activities of the FC and how tree safety is assessed. Mr Rothnie thanked BPC for the litter picking efforts. He also reported that anti-social behaviour (such as that at Vereley) is a problem around the forest. In relation to tree felling in Pound Lane, Mr Rothnie suggested the FC can investigate regeneration along Pound Lane with BPC. Mr Rothnie said that Dur Hill Inclosure is intended to be reverted fully to a heathland habitat; therefore pine trees have been felled (which are also carrying disease). A group of Scots pine by the railway is being retained at present. An elector asked what is being done for the future of broadleaf woodland, Beech wood specifically. Mr Rothnie said that woods are open to grazing animals; Natural England (the Forestry Commission's regulator) has criteria of how to assess if Pasture Woodland is regenerating: to be regenerating 1 tree must be seen to be regenerating within a 5 minute walk. Regeneration tends to occur around thorn trees and in brambles where animals do not graze. He added that regeneration occurs over a very long life cycle. The elector asked why on the track up to Turf Croft birch trees were cut down. Mr Rothnie said the FC manages birch regeneration as they seed freely, to protect heathland. An elector asked how the incidence of sycamore is reduced on the forest. Mr Rothnie said that 5 years ago the FC would have been trying to eradicate sycamore but due to climate change a proportion of sycamore may be allowed in inclosures. This is because the drought tolerance of species and plant diseases is affected by climate change and diversifying the species mix is now encouraged; however the New Forest habitat is an important habitat for specific species. Sycamores will be kept inside inclosures as it is poisonous to horses.

**6. Report from the NFNPA** Mr Steve Avery said: planning application numbers are increasing; a Local Plan review has been held and a consultation happened last autumn; hopefully an agreement to purchase land for affordable housing in the village will be signed in the next 2 weeks (Cllr Russell said thank you to Mrs Irene Dixon for the opportunity to purchase the land.); a Welcome Home leaflet is now available for new residents. An elector raised a specific planning application query: he is a neighbour and he did not receive any notification of the application and some demolition seems to have occurred. Cllr Clarke said that there was no mention of demolition in the application; Cllr Clarke has visited site: BPC will look into this with NFNPA (RC).

**7. Report from New Forest District Council** Cllr Richard Frampton said: NFDC Councillors are available to assist BPC when asked; NFDC's Central Government grant has been cut year on year resulting in many changes, however front line services remain a priority e.g. weekly refuse collection; fly tipping is increasing; NFDC's biggest undertaking for the future is production of a new local plan: 10,000 houses to be built over the next 20 years around the NFNPA. An elector asked if the text reminder system for glass collection is now working as he had received collection reminders on the wrong day.

**8. Report from HCC** Cllr Mans said: HCC has also had reduction in central government grant cut: however all libraries remain open, waste disposal sites remain open and the school improvement programme is still in place; flood protection is still a priority; his devolved budget has been maintained. Cllr Mans said that he will continue to push for "20 is plenty" and will raise the issue of open top bus season tickets at the next NFNPA meeting.

**9. Any Other Business** Tony Bracey spoke about the Emergency Plan. He said that the Emergency Services advise Parishes to have an Emergency Plan in place; where there is a wide spread emergency the vulnerable in the village need support (while the emergency services are elsewhere). The emergency plan includes a list of helpers and a priority register of those needing help in emergency. Burley has more than 30 helpers with their own areas to over-see, each has a copy of the Plan with useful telephone numbers. The last Emergency Plan was issued in January 2015; in January 2017 a review was initiated, to be finished by autumn 2017. Mr Bracey is looking for 8 additional helpers to replace volunteers who have had to step down since the initial Plan was published. An elector asked what happens if all phones go down: Mr Bracey said that analogue phones still work otherwise it would be a case of going door to door. The Chairman said thanks to Mr Bracey for all his hard work on the Plan.

Jeanne Wilde thanked BPC for all their work over the last year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.