

Chairman's Report – Burley Parish Council (2025/2026)

Welcome everyone. I will speak briefly to my Annual Report and take questions as we go. This will be followed by short presentations from our VIP guests, who will also take questions. Copies of the full report are available on the Council website.

It is my pleasure to welcome:

Mr Nigel Stone, Executive Director, New Forest National Park
Chief Inspector Scott Johnson, Hampshire Police

Apologies from Mr Richard Burke, Forestry England

Our two NFDC Councillors are unable to attend due to their Council's AGM but have provided a briefing. We also welcome the newly elected County Councillor for Brockenhurst Division (which includes Burley and Bransgore).

A warm welcome as well to our new Parish Clerk, **Mr Alan Youel**. Alan is an experienced Clerk and has recently moved to Sway. I would like to thank **Mrs Shelley Gale** for her two periods of service as Clerk, and **Mrs Susie Kershaw**, who retired.

Highlights of the Past Year

Local Government Reorganisation

As you are aware, NFDC will be abolished in 2028, and Hampshire will be divided into four Unitary Authorities (UAs), which will take over responsibilities currently held by Hampshire County Council and District Councils.

Burley will fall within the **Mid Hampshire Unitary Authority**, based in Winchester. The New Forest will be divided, with the Waterside joining a South West UA alongside Southampton and Eastleigh, while the remainder will form part of Mid Hampshire.

Elections for the new Unitary Authorities will take place next May. Those elected will serve initially as “shadow councillors” for one year. When the new authorities come into effect in 2028, councillors elected in May 2027 will serve until 2031.

It is expected that the Mid Hampshire UA will have approximately 75 councillors, with 16 representing the New Forest area.

The full implications of these changes will become clearer over time—for example, how services such as waste collection will be accessed. The long lease arrangement for the LDDN building between BPC and HCC will also be affected.

Affordable Housing

We are awaiting the awarding of contracts by the New Forest National Park Authority for the development of land sold by Mrs Dixon some years ago.

This remains a priority for the Parish Council, as we currently have a waiting list of 25 families with a connection to Burley. Mr Stone may provide further updates.

The Environment in Burley

We have continued to work with Hampshire Highways to address flooding near the Surgery. Recent work has included drainage improvements and maintenance along the stream near the Fire Station. Councillor John Cook can provide further detail.

Reporting of potholes remains ongoing.

As part of our greening initiatives, we have partnered with NFDC to plant a hedge along the car park, which has been carefully protected from animals. This has been well received, including positive recognition from CPRE. Thanks go to Councillor Michaela Radley for her work on this project.

Councillor Kate Hedge has successfully secured grants for the purchase of a **mobile speed camera**, which we expect to be operational this summer. We hope this will help address speeding concerns within the village. Kate will provide further detail.

Other Key Activities

The Council has considered a number of planning applications in its role as a statutory consultee to the New Forest National Park Authority.

The work of the **Lengthsman**, supervised by Councillor John Vincent, continues to play an important role in maintaining the village. While this has previously been subsidised by Hampshire County Council, we have now made provision for this work to be fully funded by the Parish Council if necessary.

Financial Position

Our financial position remains healthy. This has been supported in part by a strong response to the appeal for maintenance of the War Memorial.

Full financial details are provided in **Appendix 1**.

Parish Council Elections – May 2027

The current term of Burley Parish Council ends in May 2027, when elections will take place.

If you are interested in standing as a councillor, please contact me. We also encourage non-councillors to attend meetings—this is a valuable way to see whether you would like to become involved in serving the community.

Philip Daubeney

Chairman, Burley Parish Council

Appendix 1

Finance Summary 2025–26 for Annual Assembly

Balance of Accounts as at 31st March 2026

Account	Amount (£)
Current Account	2,747.58
Deposit Account	29,796.94
War Memorial Fund	2,468.75
Total Balance	35,013.27

Summary of Year

Description	Amount (£)
Balance brought forward from 2024–25	28,207.18
Receipts (including precept)	32,363.44
Payments	25,557.35
Balance carried forward to 2026–27	35,013.27
