

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 11th July 2019, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

Present: Mr T Ansell (Chairman), Mr I Macfarlane, , Miss M Cresser, Dr R Longton, Mr D Kellaway, Mrs C Jackson-Doerge, , Mr G Harris, Mr I Morrin, Mrs L sharp, Mrs J Ansell, Mrs A Hales, Ms A May, Mr P Lawrence, Mrs T Hipwell, Mr B Neilson (arrived 8.08pm), Mr D Godwin, Ms A Gallagher, Mr N Morse,

In Attendance: Clerk to the Parish Council, Village Hall Manager, 1 member of the public

Apologies:

Open Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting by reiterating that questions from parishioners were at his discretion and that a total of 15 minutes would be allocated accordingly. The chairman, to ensure fairness for all residents in attendance, stated that a maximum time of 3 minutes was allocated to each individual. The session would close after 15 minutes to ensure all remaining business upon the agenda could be transacted. Residents were reminded that upon closure of the question time, they were in attendance in an observational capacity only and to not cause a disturbance. The following questions were presented:

A local resident attended the meeting to ask the following statement and subsequent questions: "I note from the Agenda that item 11 is listed as "to give consideration to declaring a climate emergency".

I believe the use of the term emergency is sensationalist and potentially dangerous as it could detract attention from genuine emergencies should they occur. In my mind an emergency situation required an immediate and often drastic emergency response. So, I would like to know what immediate emergency action the council will be taking should a climate emergency be declared?

Secondly; I note from the Councillor's register of interests for those courteousness enough to accept representations from the public in person, that all councillors live within the close Burghfield Common and Village areas. Will the council therefore make the commitment, should they decide we are indeed in a climate emergency, that councillors will walk to all future council and committee meetings unless en-route to or from another location?"

The Chairman advised the local resident that a written response would be provided in relation to the questions posed.

066. To receive members apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: Mrs C Jackson-Doerge, Mr C Greaves

067. To receive any written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interest dispensations from Members

There were no items upon the agenda that necessitated a member to present a written request for dispensations for a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

068. Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 June 2019 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

069. Clerks update

The repairs to the Skate park have been completed.

The Community sports Day proved very successful. Thanks were expressed to those members who assisted on the day. Mrs A Hales expressed how lovely it was to see so many members of the community there, specifically those helping and giving back.

070. Chairman's Report

The presiding Chairman, Mr T Ansell, reminded all councillors to submit their bios for the website as soon as possible. The photographer is to also attend the September meeting to photograph the members who are absent. Councillors were reminded to regularly check their parish council email addresses for their council specific correspondence.

The Chairman advised of his attendance at both the Community Sports Day and the Community lunch at St. Mary's church. Thanks were expressed to Miss M Cresser for her assistance.

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071. District Council Report

A written report was presented to members having been prepared by District Cllr G Bridgeman. (*A copy will be held in the minute book*)

Dr R Longton provided a further verbal update to members. Members noted that responsibility for determining the areas to be covered by the DEPZ zones around AWE establishments is to pass from ONR to WBC. Concerns were expressed as to whether the relevant officers at WBC have sufficient knowledge of the likely impact of possible incidents at the AWE sites on the surrounding neighbourhood. It was also questioned whether WBC decisions might be influenced by planning aspirations as well public safety considerations. A copy of the relevant documentation is to be requested from WBC and circulated to members. Mr I Morrin requested a copy of the Housing allocation document from WBC to assist the NDP group.

072. Village Hall

The Village Hall Manager forwarded a report highlighting the activities at the hall during the previous month and presented the schedule of payments for June 2019, which are appended to the minutes.

073. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 13 June and the 27 June 2019 approve the recommendations therein

The minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held on 13 June and the 27 June 2019 were received and the proceedings endorsed and adopted.

074. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Community Hub Committee held on 27 June 2019 and approve the recommendations therein

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Hub Committee held on 27 June 2019 were received and the proceedings endorsed and adopted.

075. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Finance Committee held on 6 June 2019 and approve the recommendations there in

The minutes of the meeting of the Governance & Finance Committee held on 6 June 2019 were received and the proceedings endorsed and adopted.

076. To receive brief verbal reports from Parish Council Representatives attending meetings of Outside Bodies to which they have been appointed

Dr R Longton & Mr G Harris advised of their attendance at the BMNAG meeting. Concerns were raised in relation to the crime figures presented. A representative from the local police is to be asked to attend a future meeting. A request for the BMNAG group to investigate the numbers quoted was also presented to ensure information provided remains factual.

077. To receive the proposal from Cllr May requesting members give consideration to "Declaring a Climate Emergency"

Members present gave consideration to the proposal previously circulated and submitted by Cllr May. Ms May began by reading her proposal in full to those present. Mr D Kellaway requested to speak, providing a detailed verbal report to members in which specific points relating to climate change, and the declaration of an emergency were raised.

The following questions and concerns in relation to the proposal from Ms May were raised by members present:

- *A request for clarification as to what "Declaring a Climate Emergency" actually means?*
- *The parish council is non-political, yet the proposal is from a very political standpoint*
- *Until West Berks Council have determined their own strategy for implementation at a District level, the parish council is unable to show either their support or how they could be implemented at a parish level*
- *The parish council should support the education of parishioners in how they can make a difference*
- *The parish council already has practical strategies in place within the council structure for further investigation and development of an overall implementation plan for the parish.*

Following a lengthy debate, the proposal from Ms May requesting members support the "Declaring a Climate Emergency" was put to the vote. Proposed by Ms May, seconded by Mrs A Hales and **resolved** by 13 votes **AGAINST** to not accept the proposal.

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078. To receive the proposal from Cllr Kellaway requesting that members give consideration to the relevant committees upon the parish council being tasked with examining ways in which the parish's environmental impact could be reduced

Members present gave consideration to the proposal submitted by Cllr Kellaway.

Mr D Kellaway provided further information to members present by way of a verbal report. Concerns were raised by Ms May believing the proposal to be restrictive. Following a debate regarding the merits of the proposal, Mr D Kellaway proposed the following:

"I propose Burghfield Parish Council tasks the relevant committees to examine ways in which the Parish's environmental impact can be reduced, including consideration of the following recommendations set out in this document (document attached)". The Allotment sub-committee and the NDP group are to also ensure an agenda item specifically relating to Climate change as part of the proposal. Powers were delegated to the NDP group for the incorporation of further questions within their questionnaire specifically relating to climate change.

Proposed by Mr I Macfarlane, seconded by Ms L Sharp, and **resolved** unanimously with 14 votes in **FAVOUR** of the proposal. Ms A May & Mrs A Hales both abstained from voting.

079. Financial Matters:

i. Accounts Reconciliation as at 30 June 2019.

The accounts reconciliation statements for the month ending 30 June 2019 were received and noted and are appended to the minutes.

ii. Accounts for Payment.

Resolved that the items for payment shown on the list attached to the minutes be authorised for payment, such sums to be debited to the account of the Parish Council.

080. To give consideration to the suitability of projects being proposed by members to be eligible to receive grant funding via a Members Bid

Members submitted the following suggestions for potential funding by way of a members bid. Upon further information being obtained, and specific prices being obtained, the various suggestions are to be considered in further detail:

- Improvements to the provision of water at the allotments
- Solar panels on parish buildings
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Enhanced planting within the parish, specifically bulbs and flowers

081. To receive an update regarding ASB or policing issues within the parish and determine any action required

Members present expressed their concerns regarding the crime figures within both Burghfield and the surrounding area. The exact figures are to be obtained to ensure clarity, with a request for the Inspector to attend a meeting for questions. An article is to be included within the next newsletter reminding people as to when to use the 101 number and 999.

Cllr Harris alerted members to recent burglaries within the locality of Bunces Lane. An article reminding residents to report any suspicious behaviour is to be included within the next newsletter.

082. Matters for Future Discussion

Parish questionnaire for the younger generation within the parish

Mrs Hales requested the item of a Christmas tree on Auclum Green be considered by the Community Committee.

Mrs Hales requested that the overhanging vegetation on the football pitch on the Common Recreation ground is considered by the Community Committee

Mrs A Hales requested that the Infrastructure committee give consideration for additional cones to be installed at subsequent Box Cart Bash events.

083. Clerks items for information

The Clerk advised members of the meeting schedule for July:

Community Hub Committee	-	18 th July @ 7.00pm
Planning Committee	-	25 th July @ 6.30pm
Community Committee	-	25 th July @ 7.45pm

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.20pm.