

**Minutes of the meeting of Burghill Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009  
7.30pm in the Simpson Hall**

**Chair:** Mary Reynolds

**Present:** Rosemary Lloyd, Catherine Lloyd, David Bishop, Ian Watkins, Bernie Green, Mark Howells, Pat Groves, Antoinette Powell

**Absent:** Glen Davies, Alan Stokes

**In attendance:** Ward Councillor Sally Robertson, Clerk Melanie Preedy, 5 parishioners

**1. To accept apologies for absence** – Roger Davies, Sue Lunn, Dilys Price

**2. To receive declarations of interest** – Antoinette Powell declared a personal interest in agenda item 11c); Pat Groves declared a personal interest in agenda item 12c); Mark Howells declared a personal interest in agenda item 14 b).

**3. To receive verbal reports from:**

a) PC Epton/D Wall – a brief update provided by CSO Wall was read out in their absence.

**4. Guest Speaker - Michelle Morgan**, Customer Services Manager at Amey. Michelle gave a brief overview of the scheme highlighting that 74 parishes are currently on the lengthsman scheme, with a total annual budget of £180,000. Burghill has 20.1km of suitable roads giving a total budget of £2277. The Parish Council will be in charge of how to spend this money and it will not affect other routine maintenance carried out by Herefordshire Council. The scheme must be applied for now, and if approved by Cabinet in January will start in April 2010. An administrator would have to be appointed who will be paid 10% of the allocated grant. The duties of the lengthsman include clearing gulleys and ditches, cutting verges and hedges, litter and storm debris removal and cleaning signage. The main problems with the scheme arise from poor management and co-ordination. After 3 years the allocated budget reduces by 10% to £90/km. The choice of contractor would be up to the Parish Council, similarly the type of equipment the contractor used would depend upon the needs of the parish. *Michelle Morgan was thanked for her time and left the meeting at 7.50pm.*

**5. To receive verbal report from Ward Councillor Sally Robertson.** Councillor Robertson explained that the transfer of the Copse Playing Field is still going through, however there had been some problems with the planning application for the pavilion. Unfortunately, a new planning application would need to be submitted as the floor area of the proposed pavilion has changed. If the Parish Council submitted the application it would be half of the cost than if the Copse Leisure Trust submitted the application. There had been a meeting with a Herefordshire Council Highway Officer and other interested parties to discuss the proposed pathway from the Bell Inn to Bird Pool. Residents would like to complete the path themselves, but Herefordshire Council will be sending out a Technician and Planning Officer to look at the feasibility of the project. A resident approach Councillor Robertson to request a new litter bin at Portway. The Youth club workshop had been a great success and the Parish Council were thanked for their support. The film should be shown in the Simpson Hall during half term, where those involved will be presented with a certificate from the Chairman of Herefordshire Council. A request was made to Councillor Robertson that speed limit signs be placed along the access lane at Tillington Common. Improvements in the speed of traffic had been noticed since the

introduction of the new speed limit at Portway on the A4110, but Councillor Robertson and PC Epton hope to carry out further speed checks on vehicles. Councillor Robertson would check the position of the 30 mph sign as it may impair visibility when exiting Burlton Lane on the A4110.

**6. Public participation session** – the following points were raised:

- Footpath from the Chapel to St. Donats Farm very overgrown. **This was noted by R Lloyd.**
- The speed of vehicles and level of noise had improved at Portway, however some speeding was still occurring. A suggestion was made for painted spacers on the road to determine the speed of vehicles. **Councillor Robertson explained that further speed checks would be carried out.**
- A parishioner had complained that the speed limit was too slow when heading up Bewdley Bank towards Canon Pyon.

**7. Minutes of the meeting held on July 8<sup>th</sup> 2009** - accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**8. To consider applying for lengthsman scheme.** Councillors discussed what had been explained by Michelle Morgan. **Resolved:** Parish Council to apply for scheme. Clerk to be appointed as administrator and complete the application form.

**9. To appoint emergency co-ordinator for the parish.**

**Resolved:** Councillor Robertson volunteered for the role providing there were no problems with Herefordshire Council.

*B Green and M Howells joined the meeting.*

**10. Councillor vacancy.** Three letters of application were received and read by Councillors. A secret ballot was taken. **Resolved:** Alister Walshe co-opted as a new councillor. Clerk to write letters thanking the other candidates for their interest.

**11. Highways and Footpaths**

a) to report any Highway defects to clerk – the following defects were reported:

- Gulley cover keeps flying off 100 yards past the school.
- Drain cover opposite Dew Cottage is missing
- Directional sign at the Bell Inn still not replaced.
- Potholes on Badnage Lane (Tillington Road end).

It was suggested that the Parish Council are informed of Road Traffic Accidents, in order to know the parish danger spots. PACT meeting would be ideal forum to raise such issues.

A parishioner had requested that the hedge opposite the school should be cut back. **Resolved:** clerk to send letter to landowner.

b) to confirm new contractor under P3 scheme. **Resolved:** Mark Howells nominated as contractor for the P3 scheme.

c) to discuss visibility at the junction on to the Canon Pyon Road. Fencing had been erected near the junction from Burlton Lane on to the A4110. **Resolved:** Councillor Robertson to contact Steve Thompson and also to raise the position of the 30mph. speed limit sign which is impairing visibility.

M Reynolds reiterated that residents had proposed a pathway from the Bell Inn to the bus stop and had asked for donations in the Parish magazine. A local family had wanted the Parish Council to hold the donated money and was not aware that the Parish Council was not involved. **Resolved:** Clerk to send letter thanking family for their interest in the project. The litter bin request at Portway was discussed. **Resolved:** Clerk to obtain quotes.

## 12. Finance

a) The following invoices were approved;

Payee	Particulars	Amount
M. Preedy	Expenses, office rent	£78.64
B. Green	P3 expenses	£8.50
Simpson Hall Management Committee	Hire of hall – 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	£21.00
Mazars	External Audit	£155.25

b) the following payments were ratified:

npower - £54.53, electricity for the Copse  
Welsh water - £51.23, water for the Copse

c) to consider donation request from Herefordshire Citizens Advice Bureaux.

**Resolved:** donate £75 to CAB, amount to be precepted in the future.

The suggestion made by Councillor Robertson that the Parish Council could apply for the planning application for the pavilion at the Copse was discussed. **Resolved:** Parish Council to apply for the planning application using the money held for the Copse by the Parish Council.

## 13. Planning

a) **Resolved:** Planning sheet noted

b) **Resolved:** Working group 1 (Antoinette Powell) appointed.

## 14. Commons

a) The Horse Chestnut trees at Tillington Common and the possibility of them becoming diseased was discussed. **Resolved:** I Watkins to ask his contact for his independent, professional opinion on the trees.

b) Two letters had been received from parishioners requesting that the perimeter of the Common be strimmed. **Resolved:** Clerk to seek quotes for the work and advertise in the Parish magazine and notice boards. Chairman, vice-chairman and clerk to approve quote.

A letter from a parishioner regarding the access lane at Tillington Common was read out.

**Resolved:** place on agenda for discussion at next meeting. Speeding on access lane also to be placed on next agenda.

## 15. Herefordshire Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Society

Hereford City Council are hoping to acquire some land at Stretton Sugwas for use by the allotment society and will be asking neighbouring parishes to contribute. Town clerk will be writing to Parish Councils in due course. **Resolved:** wait for letter before any further discussions.

**16. Correspondence**

a) **Resolved:** Correspondence sheet noted. M Reynolds and R Lloyd to attend PACT meeting. M Reynolds and Clerk to attend Planning training with HALC. Letter from resident read out regarding placing fencing on the verge through the village. It was suggested that the Highways Officer could be asked whether feasible when looking at junction from Burlton Lane, item to be placed on next agenda.

**17. Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

*Meeting closed at 9.30pm*

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date