

BURFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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3 Longmeadow, Burford, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, WR15 8DT

BURFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Burford Parish Council held on Thursday, 20 February 2025 at 7.00 pm at Burford Village Hall, Burford, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, WR15 8JX.

PRESENT: Cllrs. B. Thomas (Acting Chair), A. Morris, L. Hickling, J. Yardley and C. Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. G. Long (Clerk)

19/25 APOLOGIES:

Members received and noted apologies for absence from Cllr. S. Kitchen due to a family bereavement.

20/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The Council will receive disclosures of pecuniary and personal interests from Councillors on matters to be considered.

21/25 THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED FOR PUBLIC SESSION:

No members of the public were present.

22/25 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2025.

Members considered the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 9 January 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Yardley and unanimously.

RESOLVED:

The Minutes of the meeting of Burford Parish Council held on 9 January 2025 were confirmed as a true and accurate account of the meeting. The Minutes were duly signed by the Acting Chair as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

23/25 FINANCE.

Members received the bank reconciliation for the period ending 14 February 2025.

The account balances as at 14 February 2025 were confirmed as:

Current Account - £3,205.53

Deposit Account - £32,677.18

It was proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded Cllr. Yardley and unanimously:

RESOLVED:

To confirm and note that the Council's bank accounts had been appropriately reconciled to the period 14 February 2025.

BT

To consider the list of payments as circulated – proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Yardley, all agreed.

Payments List		14 February 2025	
Date	Recipient	Details	Amount £
06/01/2025	Hugo Fox	Website monthly charge	11.99
08/01/2025	YuEnergy	December energy use	33.89
08/01/2025	YuEnergy	December energy use	1,623.62
08/01/2025	Prysmian	Light Testing	2,808.00
07/01/2025	Active Gardens	Deposit on Slide	3,942.00
13/01/2025	MTM Contractors	Grass Cutting	1,044.00
16/01/2025	SALC	Training	35.00
20/01/2025	G Long	Salary January	655.27
20/01/2025	G Long	Clerk Expenses	55.35
05/02/2025	Hugo Fox	Website monthly charge	11.99
08/02/2025	YuEnergy	January energy use	35.71
08/02/2025	YuEnergy	January energy use	1,715.21
09/02/2025	Burford Village Hall	Hall Hire	26.00
03/02/2025	Amazon	Printer Cartridges	46.44
13/02/2025	Land Registry	Land	15.00
Paid out			<u>£12,059.47</u>
(urgent decisions)			

20/02/2025	G Long	Clerk Salary February	655.27
08/03/2025	Hugo Fox (DD)	Website monthly charge	11.99
08/03/2025	YuEnergy (DD)	February energy use	1,317.25
08/03/2025	YuEnergy (DD)	February energy use	32.31
20/03/2025	G Long	Clerk Salary January	655.27
Due for payment			<u>£2,672.09</u>

Income List		14 February 2025	
	Payee	Details	Amount
27/01/2025	HMRC	VAT Refund	1,855.54
10/02/2025	TSB	Interest	41.30
Income			<u>£1,896.84</u>

RESOLVED:

To approve the schedule of payments.

c) Summary of Receipts and Payments to 14 February 2025

RESOLVED:

To note the receipts and payments summary to the period ended 14 February 2025.

24/25 PROGRESS REPORT

- The anticipated date for the slide to be installed is 6 March 2025. A quotation is to be sought to provide a fence similar to the school's fence along the path in front of the village hall to stop balls being kicked against it.
- Although chased, still waiting for a quotation for the repairs/replacement of wooden slats on three benches or replacing the benches with plastic benches.



25/25 RESPONSIBLE AREAS

- a) Playground – an inspection of the playground has been carried out.
- b) Lighting – Prysmian to be instructed to change all high wattage lights to low wattage lights and repair/replace any lights as per the test. Proposed by Cllr. Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Roberts and all agreed.

26/25 EMAIL ADDRESSES

Awaiting for Hugo Fox to advise when gov.uk email address can be changed. It was agreed that all Councillors should be allocated a @gov.uk email address.

27/25 PLANNING

Planning applications granted: 24/04031/FUL The Hackney Stable, Dean Park, Boraston Lane, WR15 8LE single storey extension to form attached garage.

28/25 TRAINING

Clerk attended a zoom course on Year End and Audit. Clerk to attend a zoom course on Local Elections.

29/25 VIRTUAL MEETING – PCC WEST MERCIA POLICE

See Appendix attached.

30/25 NO MOW MAY

It was agreed that a small area of land would be allocated for no mow May, exact patch of land to be identified.

31/25 WEED CONTROL

The exact locations of where the weed control is to be take to be identified.

32/25 PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF CLERK

Clerk to receive written confirmation that the probationary period has been successfully completed.

33/25 BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

It was agreed that no policy was required for bereavement leave.

34/25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) A list of policies to be produced.
- b) The resignation of Cllr. Beaumont was accepted. A Notice of Vacancy has been sent to Shropshire Council and posted on website and notice boards.
- c) Posters advertising the Vacancy for a Councillor to be displayed including on strategic lampposts, garage, Burford House restaurant/garden centre and church.
- d) A problem with drains at the bottom of Clee Hill Road, which had caused flooding, had been notified to a Councillor. On visiting the building site it was confirmed that the flooding had been caused by a water leak under Clee Hill Road which had been repaired by Severn Trent.

32/25 REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

No urgent decisions.

36/25 CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10 April 2025 at 7 pm.

37/25 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed: B Thomas Vice Chair

Date: 10/04/25

APPENDIX

Report on OPCC Focus Group 23 Jan 2025

The topics to be discussed were as follows:-

Responsive policing

For those of you who've been a victim of a crime and called West Mercia Police, from your initial first contact to the end of the criminal justice process, what more could the officer have done to reassure you the crime would be investigated thoroughly and justice served?

Visible policing

How do we improve visibility and engagement, so that the resources we have both within the police and within our community groups work together more effectively?

Accessible policing

According to the quarterly figures from the Confidence Survey for 2024-2025, 92% of those surveyed said they were confident they could access West Mercia Police in an emergency, but what about in a non-emergency situation? (e.g. advice, support, an update on a reported crime)

Fit for purpose estate

West Mercia Police covers a wide and diverse area across the three counties of Shropshire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire with a limited budget... How can the force make better use of its estate to ensure it is more community focussed, whilst at the same time enabling officers and staff to carry out their roles effectively and in a manner that is socially sustainable with minimal environmental impact?

According to the numbers shown on the screen, there were 48 people attending the session (presumably that included staff members), though only a few made comments. Some people recounted their mostly bad experiences with certain police officers, 1 or 2 in embarrassing detail, though there were positive comments too. John Campion suggested that those detailed complaints would be discussed less publicly after the main session finished.

The Chair of Ludlow Town Council said that things had improved since certain changes had been made there and she was keen for that to continue. She even said that the Ludlow PCSOs could police Burford, but that is obviously not a decision she can make!

Apparently, one of the changes made is that when the call-bell is pressed at the police station/office and there is a member of staff inside, then they will respond directly instead of the call being directed to the central call centre. This call re-direction should only happen if no-one is in the Police station/office.

There seemed to be little I could contribute to the first 3 topics, so I concentrated on the final one. (See separate document in which I outlined my comments and

suggestions.) As soon as I reached the second paragraph, John Campion smiled and I realised that our difficulties here in Burford had already reached him, so I commented accordingly. After allowing me to finish, he assured me that the matter was in hand and that changes would be made "soon". After the session, I followed up with an email to the OPCC office requesting a definition of "soon" and received the following reply:-

Dear Lynda,

Thank you for taking the time to attend PCC John Campion's focus group on Thursday. The PCC hopes you found it informative whilst being a good opportunity to share your views and experiences.

Your concerns on the use of resources to police Burford in Shropshire have been noted.

The PCC is focused on ensuring West Mercia Police is maximising its resources and delivering value for taxpayers' money, a key priority within his police and crime plan.

It's clear the current situation in Burford is not delivering on that commitment and that's why the force is currently carrying out a full-scale review of its operational model to ensure that resources are shared across more areas, enabling the force to respond to wherever the demand is.

Thank you once again for getting involved. Your views will help shape a session between the PCC and Chief Constable in February which will be made available for you to watch.

Kind regards,
Amy Miles
Engagement Officer

I have had no further update so I assume the session has not yet taken place.

Fit for Purpose Estate (final topic)

To fulfil this aim I believe that West Mercia Police should ignore the county boundaries within its total area, put all the funding in one pot and then reallocate resources in a more logical fashion, using the centres of population as the hubs for the Community Police Officers, who would cover the areas surrounding their particular hub, irrespective of the inner county boundaries.

I live in Burford, Shropshire, adjacent to and effectively a residential area of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, as well as sharing a boundary with Herefordshire. The Community Police Office for Tenbury is located in Burford (Shropshire) yet Burford's SNT is based at Bridgnorth, 21 miles (and 40 minutes) away. It is not an efficient use of resources that community officers are sent from Bridgnorth instead of using those actually based within the Parish.

I have spoken to officers on the ground who share our frustration at this obvious waste of resources, both human and financial, and although I understand that representations have been made further up the hierarchy, they have apparently been ignored or dismissed by those responsible. I can only assume that this is because it would make accounting to the Local Authorities more difficult and that this is felt to be more important than the needs of the local communities!

I am sure that similar problems are faced by other cross-border communities within West Mercia Police's area and my comments are not meant as a criticism of our SNTs, who are doing their best within a framework which is making their job even more challenging than necessary.

I appeal to John Campion to consider this proposal seriously, which I believe would be more cost effective than the current system. It is surely not beyond the capabilities of senior staff to create and implement a more efficient structure along these suggested lines, or perhaps they could utilise AI to do the job, provided that the correct parameters are utilised.