

BURMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Year 2022, page 4

MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY ANNUAL MEETING

on Tuesday 31st May 2022 following the Annual Parish Meeting in All Saints Church, Burmarsh

Present: Cllr. Mrs. P. Argar (Chairman) and Cllrs. B. Ashdown, A. Burgess, Mrs. L. Cottington, D. Wimble & clerk J. Rich

1. **Election of Chairman** – Cllr. Mrs. P. Argar was elected as Chairman for this municipal year and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. **Election of Vice Chairman** – Cllr. Denis Wimble was elected Vice Chairman.
3. **Appointment of external representatives:**
 - (A) Kent Association of Local Councils: Cllr. Burgess
 - (B) Romney Marsh Forum: Cllr. Mrs. Argar
 - (C) Romney Marsh Area Internal Drainage Board: Cllr. Wimble
4. **Minutes** - minutes of the last meeting on 26th April 2022 were agreed and signed.
5. **Financial matters**
 - (A) noted receipt of precept payment for 2022-23 by F&HDC of £4,354
 - (B) approved payment of £175.82 to BHIB for annual insurance premium under long term agreement until 1st June 2024
 - (C) approved payment of £384 inc. VAT to M. Coleman for grass cutting for April & May, the May invoice received subsequently
 - (D) approved payment of £238.80 inc. VAT to Aubergine 262 Ltd for website hosting & support 2022-23
 - (E) Cllr. Mrs Cottington hopes to recover unrepresented cheque no. 000205 then a new payment will be made
 - (F) received the report of the Independent Internal Auditor for 2021-22
 - (G) noted that good practice is to consider changing auditors periodically and agreed to continue the appointment of Mr. Kevin Funnell as the Independent Internal Auditor for 2022-23
 - (H) approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22
 - (I) approved the Accounting Statements for 2021-22
 - (J) agreed to complete a Certificate of Exemption from external audit for 2021-22
 - (K) agreed a period for the exercise of public rights of inspection of the accounts from Monday 6th June to Friday 15th July 2022
6. **Planning**
 - (A) considered planning application no. 22/0705/FH/PA, Chapel Cottage Farm, Eastbridge Road, for proposed change of use of agricultural storage building to dwelling and resolved to make no comment. Cllr. Ashdown declared an interest and took no part in the decision.
 - (B) considered outline planning application no. Y19/0257/FH for Otterpool Park and noted that the plan will enable the district to meet government house building targets for many years. The parish council agreed to continue to object, expressing particular concern that there appear to be no plans to increase the already inadequate hospital provision in the area despite the significant increase in population that will be created by this new town. Fears were also identified about the air quality of homes built close to the M20, especially as Operation Brock will often cause stationery traffic.
7. **Footpath** – Cllr. Burgess raised concerns about Footpath HM166 between Sankey Farm and Bridge Cottage, which is not being kept clear of crops by the new owner and is likely to become more used by visitors to the new campsite. The clerk will raise a report with the Kent C. C. Public Rights of Way team.
8. **Defibrillator** – the Chairman will investigate Mr Goodier's request that attention be given to routine cleaning of the defibrillator kiosk.

9. Church Hall – the Chairman reported on progress, including the well supported recent fund raising event and further donations. The next meeting of the committee in June will start to move ahead in seeking funds now that community support has been confirmed.

10. External Meetings – Cllr. Wimble reported on a recent meeting of the F&GP Committee of the RM Area Internal Drainage Board and the difficulties of awarding contracts and the tendering process in the current uncertain economic climate. Cllr. Burgess reported that the Shepway Area Committee of the KALC is planning to return to physical meetings, which may make it more difficult for him to attend.

11. Correspondence - noted correspondence received

12. Any Other Business

(A) Cllrs Ashdown and Mrs. Argar raised concerns from residents about the dangerous speed of agricultural equipment along Shearway and Church Road. The clerk will write to Goddards.

(B) The Chairman identified problems with the Church Road drains, which have not been cleared for some time, risking flooding. The clerk will raise with the appropriate agency.

(C) Members confirmed their understanding that police are aware of the abandoned car in Thorndike Road and understood that it may take some time before it is removed.

13. Next Meeting – Tuesday 9th August