

**Burrough Green Annual Village Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Annual Village meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017**  
**At 7.00pm in the Reading Rooms, Bradley Road, Burrough Green**

**Councillors present:**

Cllr. Jo Batting (JB), Cllr. Greg Way (GW), Cllr. Ken Simpson (KS), Cllr. Angela Harris (AH), Cllr. Mark Penhaligan (MP) & Cllr. Ansa Khan (AK).

**Also Present:**

Vicky Bright - Clerk, Cllr. Alan Sharp - ECDC, PC John Bailey – Police, Lucy Talbot – PCC, Carla Nicholson – Reading Rooms & Speed Watch, Julie Bampton – Ellesmere Centre.

1 The Chairman, Councillor Jo Batting, welcomed everyone.

**Apologies:**

Cllr. M. Shuter – CCC.

2 **Resolved AVM17/05/2.01**

The minutes of the last Village Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 were proposed as a true record and the Minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. Jo Batting.

**Annual reports follow:**

3 **EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr. Alan Sharp made the following report to the meeting;

- The problem of the Travellers in Green Lane is being addressed by the Enforcement Officer, George Hay.
- The Budget has balanced for the third year, is frozen.
- Cinema in Ely has recently opened.
- Improving Sports provision in the District.
- Restructuring of Committee's went to Full Council this week, the Local Authority Trading Co. is to take on responsibilities from the Council, including the waste contract.
- By 2020 there will be no direct funding from central government, Districts will keep business rates, but will need to increase income.
- There will be a shareholders Committee to hold the Executive to account (transparency and accountability).
- Devolution will see the District taking on more responsibility, such as Highways.

4 **CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr. Matthew Shuter sent his apologies.

5 **PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM**

Cllr. Jo Batting, Chair made the following report to the meeting;

There have been 6 meetings this year, discussing regular council matters such as road safety, planning applications, financial considerations, district council reports, footpaths and local assets.

This year has seen a major effort in trying to control the speed of traffic through the village with the continued use of Speed Watch and the recent purchase of our own VAS. We have collected some very interesting data, which will be presented later by Carla Nicholson. Our thanks go to Carla and members of the Speed Watch Team, for their continued efforts in all weathers.

We have been maintaining the village assets by carrying out the following work;

- The damage to the rear of the brick bus shelter has been repaired and is now as good as new, but will probably need further upkeep in the next few years.
- The broken bench on the village green has been replaced with a new one.
- The bus shelter on top road has been cleaned.
- The map board has been re-stained and a new map inserted.

Funding has been approved for a village defibrillator and we are in conversation with the school as a possible central site for it.

The play area continues to be a major asset to the village, run by its own committee, with annual fundraising for upkeep costs and improvements as required. It is inspected annually by RoSPA, as well as having monthly risk assessments, as required by Health & Safety legislation.

The Village pub, still listed as a community asset, has been going from strength to strength over the past year, and is now a

thriving part of the village. Our thanks go to Ellie and James for all their hard work and their commitment to the village and community.

We had another visit from travellers again this Spring, (and now), which brought with it some anti-social and intimidating behaviour towards the villagers. The County Council were contacted, and an enforcement notice was served. A court order banning a return for the next 2 years was also served. We are in conversation with the landowner and Council about putting in removable gates, so that vehicular access is still possible for anything smaller than 6ft, but only the landowner can access with any larger vehicle.

The flooding along Green Lane was bad again this year and contact from the Parish Council with the landowner did not produce the hoped for results, so again, the Flooding Agency and Byways Enforcement Officer have helped us by enforcing proper maintenance of the ditches to prevent further flooding.

We are very lucky to have such a beautiful village and green, and we continue to have Les Field cutting the grass and keeping it looking so good. The annual litter pick took place in April, carried out by members of the Parish Council, and with some help from some of the villagers.

My thanks again go to all my fellow Councillors, for their continued time and energy given in support of the village and its interests. We have a good balance of skills and expertise within the council, and hope to continue to use them effectively to deal with and resolve matters arising within the village community.

6

#### **CAMBS POLICE – SNT**

PC John Bailey is the local Officer for Burrough Green. He reported that the team are leaning towards Neighbourhood Policing. He is responsible for 28 villages, including Burrough Green. Over the last 12 months there have been low crime rates in Burrough Green, with 1 theft and 1 break in at a shed. There have been some reports of RTA's and domestics. He is aware that speeding is an issue and speed checks are done regularly and is on the list for the Summer. Pc Bailey advised he will be visiting the Travellers tomorrow to introduce himself. Any problems or issues by residents should be directed to PC John bailey on 101.

7

#### **READING ROOMS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Carla Nicholson gave the following report to the meeting;

At the AGM in June last year Marilyn Field stepped down as chair of the Reading Room after 35 years of dedicated service to the community, although she remains as Treasurer for which the committee are very grateful. Sheena has remained as secretary and I volunteered to be chair alongside Joanne Harrison as vice chair.

Events have been organised to include a children's disco, family bingo and a family fun day. We also held a Christmas raffle in the village, all of which have been well supported, particularly by the families of the children at the school. A recent development has been the idea of village coffee mornings, the first one of which was held on May Day and we managed to draw in some new people from the village and raise some much needed funds.

We experienced some bad luck over the winter when we had a major water leak in the gentlemen's toilets which went undetected, resulting in a bill of over £500. This has clearly had a big impact on funds and as yet we have been unable to fix the broken urinal.

Bookings to hire the hall are very low, so income from that area is minimal, despite adverts in the Village Voice and promotion of the facilities during other events. I have placed an article in April's Village Voice to appeal for support and new ideas for the future of the facility. Response from the community has been poor.

A summary of the accounts is as follows:

Income for 2016/17 has fallen to £2931 from £3326 in the previous year; expenses are up to £3311 for 2016/17 from £2707 in the previous year. Therefore, we have made a loss in the last financial year of £380, compared to a profit of £619 in the previous year. We have a bank balance of £1400, due to funds being carried over from previous years.

In summary, the Reading Room is struggling. Costs are increasing and bookings are decreasing, resulting in the need for increased fundraising year on year. We have an active committee, but support from the village is vital for the future of the Reading Room.

Julie Bampton, Ellesmere Centre agreed to forward any bookings to the Reading Room, which the Ellesmere Centre cannot accommodate.

The Parish Council are to look into ways to help, the Clerk is to discuss Marketing suggestions with the Committee.

8

#### **BURROUGH GREEN PLAYGROUP**

None.

9

### VILLAGE VOICE NEWSLETTER

The Clerk read out a report on behalf of Trish Bull;

Village Voice has again been published monthly for the last year, and thanks to the distributors in your village, has been delivered to every house in your parish.

The printing costs for all the 12 issues in the four parishes in 2016 amounted to £1479.

Advertising revenue for 2016 brought in £1160 with additional support from the four village councils of £345; in 2017 we just about broke even. With a carried forward amount of £1000.69 we are able to maintain a sensible balance and cover the increased cost of printing in 2017 due to higher paper costs.

I therefore don't feel it necessary this year to increase the amount paid towards the Village Voice running costs for 2017, but would appreciate your annual contribution of £125.

10

### BURROUGH GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Clerk read out a report on behalf of Keith Archer, Head Teacher;

2016 saw another successful year, measured by the levels attained by our Year 6 leavers. The publication of the school league tables in December underlined the sustained high achievement of our school. Out of the 21,225 primary schools in England we were 1,235th for the proportion of our leavers who achieved the expected standards in reading, writing and maths, placing us in the top 6% of all schools. We were 284th for the proportion of leavers working at the higher standard in all three subjects, placing us in the top 2% of all schools in England. The outcomes for our Year 2 children were also above national norms and our youngest children in Reception achieved the highest levels of attainment ever recorded at BGS.

Such achievements do not come easily, and this has been the culmination of 6 years of year-on-year improvement. However, with such small groups of children involved, I have to point out that the results are statistically insignificant. What is of more importance to us is that we pass on children who are ambitious for themselves, confident, but modest and ready for the next steps in their learning. We pride ourselves on the values at the heart of what we do (courage, love, patience, determination, forgiveness, nurture, confidence, aspiration, respect and teamwork) and think they are the vital ingredients in equipping children for success in life. The values, and the people involved who demonstrate them, are what make the school special, not the tests. This year we added another value, belief, to those already mentioned. This value epitomised the life and work of Frances Dow, who was Chair of our PTA and inspiration behind our successful running club, before her untimely death. She never gave up, approached challenges with confidence and didn't let the children get away with giving up either. It is a fitting addition to the moral compass of the school.

You may have heard that pressure on school budgets is becoming intolerable. Although we have again set a balanced budget, I can see difficulties on the horizon, though a proposed new national funding formula. Although modelling of this new formula suggests we will just about break even whilst numbers remain high, the suggestion that the lump sum element of £150,000 will be reduced to £110,000, could create a potentially critical situation for small schools like ours. With accelerating services costs (doubling in some cases last year) the 'balance' in our budget will disappear very quickly, and since we are at capacity we cannot hope to increase pupil numbers in any meaningful way, which will leave us vulnerable to severe cut backs.

The new formula assumes that 'popular' schools will continue to grow which will benefit them, because greater weighting will be attached to the pupil element of the formula (although the funding each pupil has attracted this year is lower than ever before). However, if you are small, isolated, cannot grow much and are subject to fluctuating populations there is a problem looming, unless the government changes its plans and listens to the chorus of concern from across the country. Governments have not typically proved themselves to be good listeners.

However, the value for money provided by public services is often overlooked. Our academic success is just one part of the provision we make for children to succeed in ways that develop all their talents. For example:

- We recently triumphed again at the Cambridgeshire Primary Cross-Country Championships. For the 7<sup>th</sup> year running we came home as Small School Champions. This year, for the first time, we won both the Girls' and Boys' title. The girls finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 109 teams and boys in 15<sup>th</sup> place out of 134 teams. The Running Club remains the most popular club in school, regularly involving about a third of all pupils.
- We lost our Tag Rugby Champion status in the Linton Cluster of schools, but finished a strong second.
- Our Netball B team won their local league and finished a creditable 6<sup>th</sup> out of 16 in the South Cambs finals. Our A team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the local league and a brilliant 3<sup>rd</sup> in the South Cambs finals, amongst 13 other teams.
- We have maintained our record of winning awards in the Cambridgeshire Young People's Film Festival every year since we first entered in 2011. Last year we won the Foundation Stage category with an epic Cecil B DeMille-style

retelling of Noah and the Flood.

- We have explored the idea of the 'Enabling Classroom' through our improvement work this year, looking at ways we can reduce barriers to learning and help all pupils become fully engaged in what they have to do. As a result we have made resources more freely available so children can select for themselves the tools that help them most; we have made sure they understand that we value effort above all else, for this is what drives the mastery of skills and knowledge; we have taken a fresh look at the way we approach reading to encourage all children to find material they love, creating more avid and enthusiastic readers, and we have investigated ways we can improve the positive mental health and well-being of everyone through, nurture groups, mentoring and teaching ways of coping with stressful situations.

The challenge to increase pupil numbers has been successful this year, as we are currently 'full' at 111 pupils, an increase of 9 over expected numbers. We anticipate at least 17 pupils starting with us in September, which may rise to 20 if expected appeals bear fruit.

There will be some significant changes to personnel this year, as I move on to other things, and one of our youngest teachers takes up a position in a larger school. Change certainly can be challenging, but we have tried to build something that is greater than its individual parts and I hope you will continue to offer your support to those who replace us. We remain proud to serve you in the communities of Burrough Green and Brinkley, and value all the support we receive from you, often in ways unseen. Keep up the good work!

11

### **SPEED WATCH GROUP**

Carla Nicholson gave the following report;

Speedwatch in the village has been stepped back at the beginning of this year due to poor weather and the purchase and installation of the VAS. It was agreed that we would be able to target speeders more effectively once we had obtained the data from the VAS. This has just been received and reviewed. I will restart Speedwatch now it's a bit warmer and the target times and locations have been established.

The data represents the first five weeks of operation from 15/04/17 – 21/05/17.

The VAS has been the following locations:

15/04 – 29/04 B1061 opposite Wyck Farm monitoring traffic from Haverhill direction.

29/04 – 14/05 B1061 outside the Bull monitoring traffic from Newmarket direction.

14/05 – 21/05/17 B1061 beyond Wyck Farm monitoring traffic from Haverhill direction.

In total 56,402 vehicles passed the sign with 85% travelling no faster than 38mph, but an average of 52% of vehicles are travelling over 30mph.

However, the maximum speed recorded was on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 06:44 at 80mph.

13,282 vehicles passed the sign at 40mph or above (24%), 2 vehicles have been recorded at 75mph, 9 doing 70mph and 22 doing 65mph.

Peak time for traffic volume is between 8 and 9am and 5 and 6pm. Traffic noticeably slows down at school drop off and pick up times.

On Guineas Day at Newmarket, I moved the VAS during the day to track the flow of traffic and speeds before and after racing. The VAS detected 1,599 vehicles that day. After racing between 5 and 8pm 70% of vehicles were speeding, one vehicle was recorded at 18:00 doing 70mph.

I will continue to move the sign every two weeks, but I now believe there is a strong case for having a permanent sign located outside the Bull opposite the school as the data shows that vehicles coming into the village from the north end are travelling more quickly than from Haverhill. This is probably due to the road being long and straight as opposed to the slight bends that lead into the village from the south.

I would like to thank Mark Penhaligan for doing the download and analysis of the data.

12

### **CRICKET CLUB REPORT**

The Clerk read out a report on behalf of the Chair, Mark Batting;

The 2016 season started with the club reduced to one team. It had not been an easy decision, but it became clear in 2015 that we would struggle to run one side let alone two.

2016 started in much the same way that 2015 ended, with a chronic shortage of players. We played around 6 games, but ended up paying more fines to the CCA than we collected in subscriptions. During June it was apparent that we were fighting a losing battle and we withdrew from the league, but continued to play fixtures when we had players. It would be fair to say that by the end of the season we had 6 core players, with another 10 maybes'.

We decided not to enter the league in 2017 for obvious reasons, but Adiel Khan decided to see if it was possible to run a mid-

week team. At the time of writing we have not been able to field an 11 and if we fail this week then Adiel will give up the unequal struggle.

On the positive side Adiel has started with Weston Colville and under 8's coaching session (All Stars), for which he has received sponsorship and considerable interest. It will take place most Thursday's, on the Green from 4pm, with the first session on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

At the end of the year we will need to make a decision as to what to do with the club, the Pavilion and Square.

13

### **ELLESMERE CENTRE**

Julie Bampton, Ellesmere Centre gave the following report to the meeting;

It is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to present a summary of our many achievements over the last year, much of which has only been possible thanks to the long-term, sterling efforts assigned to grant applications by staff and trustees, as well as generous donations from Parish Councils. Much of our work focusses on meeting current and future needs, achieving a more environmentally friendly footprint, increasing sources of revenue and improving the services we provide.

#### **Recently completed projects:**

**LED lighting** throughout the buildings.

Versatile, economical, dimmable lighting in key areas and motion activated lighting in relevant rooms and corridors.

#### **Solar**

Installation of an additional 10kW Solar photovoltaic panels taking potential output to 20kW. Intended to be cost saving and income generating, which with our first 10kW system was and is generating revenues close to £1200 per annum. Very recently we have authority to export all we generate from the full 20kW system, thereby reducing electricity costs and increasing feed-in tariff payments.

#### **Infra-Red heating and roof insulation**

New heaters and improved insulation have been installed in both the Sports Hall and Squash Court. Advantageous in that it eliminates wastage of energy trying to heat large, cold areas, while providing a "contact" heating form, which makes users feel comfortable and warm. It is energy efficient, ultra-clean and economical.

#### **Small Hall.**

Ceiling renovation with repanelled and plastered ceilings.

#### **Improvements, decoration and established the gym area.**

A small dual function area serving as the squash gallery and fitness area.

#### **Air-Source Heat Pumps and 500 litre reservoir water-tank**

This is our most recently completely project and the major stage of plans to improve heating efficiency throughout. We have two ASHP's separately serving hot water and central heating. The 500 litre water buffer tank is a back-up heat source to complement the efficiency of the AHSP's, particular at start-up during winter months. It is free because it is linked to our solar energy supply to heat the water during the day. The 500L heat source means the air-source heat pumps are not overly stressed and heat the centre quickly using less energy. The actual system function is relatively simple and includes quite complex metering capability, so we are currently in a learning phase while we establish exactly how efficient the system is. The system has enabled removal of the ancient boiler in the small hall, reduced dependence on and cost of Calor gas and had an immediate impact on the general ambiance of the centre.

#### **New doors.**

Probable the only benefit of the two break-in events, we think aimed at the Post Office and Shop, has been that we have replaced our near derelict front doors and the rear, fire escape door in the Small Hall, funded by insurance. Thanks to a really charitable and community spirited gesture by the local group, "Now Wash Your Hands", using the centre to perform for free, more than enough was raised to cover our £600.00 insurance excesses.

#### **OPERATIONAL EVENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS:**

**Boot camp** proves to be a continued success and a potential nuisance.

#### **Open Mic nights.**

Continue to reach new heights of popularity with widespread reputation. Performers are now coming from far afield and the evenings are one of our most successful fund raising events.

### **Beauty Parlour refurbishment**

The attic area has been transformed into a very impressive facility. This provides another regular source of revenue.

### **Dog Grooming.**

An extra source of revenue, already popular, and an additional source to attract users to the centre

### **Cricket Nets**

Another grant purchase installed in the Sports Hall, almost immediately successful and already in use during 3 or 4 days and evenings each week.

### **Tennis coaching**

Newly established coaching sessions with the courts pre-booked for more than 20 hours per week.

### **Finances**

More than one year ago trustees decided to terminate one atypical employment contract and to re-assess the cost of annual reporting. Both led to significant cost reductions and elimination of grant associated bonus payments. Without increasing costs we currently benefit from lower accounting costs, using an alternative professional accountancy, and have re-assigned salary to increased office and cleaning hours as usage increases. For a long time, we have lacked adequate analysis of routine revenues and the accounting changes will enable gathering of more useful usage/revenue data.

Status, all accounts, net of all commitments, as of April 2016: £19,721

Status, all accounts, net of all commitments, as of April 2017: £33,200

### **FUTURE PLANS:**

#### **Re-roofing and Roof insulation**

We have quotations and are seeking grants for total re-roofing to include insulation to the current standard. Our grant applications aim at replacing guttering and down pipes

#### **Resolution of the drainage problems**

We hope this will be achieved when guttering and downpipes are renewed.

### **Storage**

With increased usage our storage requirements are increasing and in part for health and safety reasons we need convenient storage adjacent to the Sports Hall for easy transfer of heavy items. This plan will include a wider doorway from the storage area to the hall and removing a wall to combine both storage spaces.

### **Bar area improvements**

Plans to improve secure storage of alcohols in the bar area and create more space to improve efficiency at busy times.

### **Office reorganisation**

This will be a similar project, opening the office into the adjacent computer room so as to use the space more effectively and dramatically improve office working conditions.

### **Porch installation**

Our plans include a front door porch area.

### **Sinking fund / MUGA maintenance**

Very recently we have accepted the need for proper care of the MUGA area and appointed a company to clean and re-sand the surface twice per year. This is based on increased usage and consequent revenues from which we will now increase payments to the fund for its upkeep.

14

### **BURROUGH GREEN VILLAGE WEBSITE**

The Clerk reported the following on behalf of Rachel Lewis;

If anyone wants to create a Parish Council Website, I am happy to put a link to it. Otherwise I am ok to continue adding essential info as requested.

15

### **ST AUGUSTINE'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT**

Lucy Talbot gave the following report;

We have been well supported during last year by visiting clergy in the absence of our own incumbent and are happy to report that Nikki Mann has been successfully appointed into the Priest in Charge position and is due to start her new role as half-

time incumbent in September 2017.

Liz Gibson and Josephine Roberts continue to play the organ for us and Anthea Kenna continues to support Burrough Green Primary School and has successfully started a school choir. The choir has sung at church services; the first appearance was at the carol service led by Peter Talbot in December. Peter also led the Christmas and Easter services which encompassed the usual and now traditional egg hunt for the children.

We had another shortfall of finance this year of approximately £550. Lucy Talbot, Church Warden, has delivered a letter to villagers to set out the financial situation and try to encourage support for the church which is an ancient building and community resource attended by almost everyone at some point during their lives in Burrough Green. The parish ministry share for 2018, will be approximately £6,125, the insurance £1100 and there are other costs, for example heating. Help is urgently sought from the local community and all contributions are greatly appreciated.

Last year we approached the parish council to see if there was a possibility of a contribution to the church insurance as occurs in the other parishes within the united benefice. We were awarded £250 as a contribution for 2016 and we were very grateful for this assistance. It is hoped that the parish council will be able to assist again this year.

Volunteers donated and planted 1000 daffodil bulbs in the churchyard in the autumn which blossomed in the spring making the churchyard more welcoming to visitors. A sign has been donated to direct visitors to the chancel door to access the church which is open every day and a new carpet has been donated for the chancel. Several members of our community including members of the PCC, are involved with Messy church which currently takes place in the reading room. It is hoped that this event encourages young families to attend the family service.

With regards to the church building project, the Diocese Advisory Committee approved the proposed works to install a new electric supply, heating, a toilet and a small kitchen area. Companies have been approached to tender for the works and to enable a faculty application to be made. Much fundraising will be required but it is hoped that the electrical supply will be upgraded by U.K. Power. The rest of the work would follow as funds allow.

We are most grateful to all those who are involved in maintaining our churchyard including grass cutting, together with those who assist with the various cleaning and flower rotas and daily opening and closing of the church. There are many other tasks that get quietly undertaken and thank you to all of the community who contribute to the running of our church which is open every day of the year and is an important village resource and a beautiful historical building.

**Public Forum:**

- It was suggested to link the Village website with other villages, such as Stetchworth & Dullingham.
- The suggestion of a second permanent VAS unit outside the pub, opposite the school was discussed.
- A resident asked for clarification on how the Precept request was calculated. The Clerk explained that it was based on the projected budget for the forthcoming financial year and the expected projected annual expenditure.
- It was suggested that the Data from the VAS be sent to the Police (PC John Bailey) and also Cllr. Alan Sharp at ECDC in order for the data to be used for further traffic calming proposals.

The meeting closed at 8:11pm

Signed: *Jo Batting*

Date: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018