

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Burwell Parish Council held at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, High Street, Burwell, CB25 0HD.

Present: Liz Swift (Chair), Lea Dodds, Gus Jones, Linda Kitching, Clive Leach, Jenny Moss, Jim Perry, Michael Swift, Geraldine Tate, Paul Webb, Brenda Wilson, and Ian Woodroofe.

Also present: 2 members of the public.

FC/26032024/01 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Charlie Milner, Helen McMenamin-Smith, and Chris O'Neil.

FC/26032024/02 Declarations of any interests known to Councillors

Geraldine Tate declared an interest in the planning application for 27 North Street.

FC/26032024/03 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2024.

Following a request for an amendment to the minutes to be made regarding the Climate and Ecology Bill changing the wording from 'lost momentum within parliament' to 'gained momentum within parliament', the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Paul Webb and seconded by Ian Woodroofe.

FC/26032024/04 Public Forum

No matters were raised.

FC/26032024/05 Planning Applications

The following planning applications was considered: -

24/00262/FUL 27 North Street

Installation of a summer house

No objection

FC/26032024/06 Planning decisions from District Council

The following decisions were noted:

22/01460/VAR East Anglia Grid Storage One Ltd Weirs Drove - Approval

Variation of conditions 1 (Approved Plans & Documents), 9(Noise Verification Report), 10(Noise Management Plan), 12(Scheme for the Soft Landscaping for the Lifetime of the Development) & 20(Scheme of Fire Hydrants or Sprinkler System or Other means of Fire Suppression) of previously approve 20/01645/VAR for Variation of condition 1 (Approved plans) of previously approved 17/02205/FUL for Development of a 49.9 MW battery storage facility, bridge and associated infrastructure.

24/00118/AGN 116 Low Road – Confirmation Permitted Development

Agricultural storage building

FC/26032024/07 Notifications from EDCDC of approved work to trees

The following were noted:

24/00131/TRE 62 Mill Lane

T1 Sycamore – Crown reduction by up to 5m back to previous pruning points

24/00111/TRE Scoutbush 129a North Street

T1 Ash – Fell to ground level due to proximity to structures and risk of damage.

G2 Group of Plums – Fell to ground level due to proximity to structures and risk of damage.

24/00112/TRE 129 North Street

T1 Drummonds Maple – Reduce in height by approximately 2 metres and reduce in length by approximately 1 -1.5 metres lateral branches overhanging the rear garden of 129A.

T2 Red Leaf Norway Maple – Reduce in height by approximately 2 metres and reduce in length by approximately 1 -1.5 metres lateral branches overhanging the rear garden of 129A.

T3 Lime – Reduce in length by approximately 1 -1.5 metres lateral branches overhanging the rear garden of 129A.

FC/26032024/08 Urgent Matters for Consideration

1.Approval of Payments to the following:

Lea Dodds brought to the attention of the Council the high energy bills and that this was due to energy costs being at a high rate at the time of negotiation. The Council is tied into the contracts with no way out. This will mean that the Council will need to accept these charges for the remaining two years of the contract. Looking at costs at this level for the Gardiner Memorial Hall, hire charges for the hall will not cover the cost and the Council should look at ways of reducing usage such as reducing the heating temperature, not heating the toilets, and ensuring doors are closed. It was agreed that this could be a discussion for another meeting. Paul Webb explained that when the hall was refurbished, the design was done to reduce the amount of energy used and that this has been achieved and that Phase 2 may include a battery storage unit to make greater use of the energy from the solar panels. Ian Woodrooffe reminded all that he is currently in discussions with Sharman and Grimwade regarding the energy currently being used in comparison with the model drawn up by Sharman and Grimwade during the initial stages of the refurbishment. The Clerk reported that having applied to Octopus for the Feed in Tariff she had heard nothing back from them. She continued to inform the Council that posts on the SLCC Forum had indicated that other parish councils are faced with the same issues. The solar panels have reduced the amount of energy being used from the grid. It was agreed that all payments should be made. Proposed by Jenny Moss and seconded by Clive Leach.

Payee	Description	Amount inc Vat
CAPALC	Membership/DPO Scheme	£1,118.40
Paul Webb	Mileage - Meeting @ Wicken	£6.75
Burwell Day Centre	Donation approved 12.3.24	£500.00
Huws Gray	Maintenance Supplies	£247.44
Landmark Toilet Solution	Toilet Margaret Field	£100.00
Sharp	Photocopier Contract	£42.86
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Fees	£8.10
Lloyds Bank	Stamps £46.45, Batteries £23.95 (GMH), Maintenance Supplies £29.33, Other £6.00	£105.73
BT	Phone Account/Internet	£608.58
WAVE	Recreation Ground	£85.85
WAVE	Jubilee Reading Room	£57.73
WAVE	Cemetery (amended bill requested)	£125.03
WAVE	Allotment (amended bill requested)	£192.71
WAVE	Gardiner Memorial Hall	£72.21
Corona Energy	Mandeville Hall	£138.13
Engie	Mandeville Hall Gas	£519.41
Engie	Jubilee Reading Room Gas	£365.49
Engie	Cemetery Chapel	£15.22
Engie	Gardiner Memorial Hall (includes VAT at 20%)	£1,659.11
Engie	Allotments (with Ombudsman)	£483.07
Engie	Jubilee Reading Room	£113.18
Engie	Pavilion/Rec Floodlighting	£560.36
Engie	Public Toilet	£25.81
2024/25 Year Approval		
ECDC	Mandeville Hall Rates	£7,609.75
ECDC	Cemetery Rates	£1,815.48
ECDC	Jubilee Reading Room	£461.08
ECDC	Gardiner Memorial Hall	£2,190.11
	Total	£19,227.59

2. Consideration of a quotation to seed the football pitches at Margaret Field

Lea Dodds questioned if the damage to the grass had been caused by weedkiller deliberately applied to random areas, why the grass had not started to regrow. It was thought that the weedkiller had also killed the roots and with the ground being muddy, growth had been prevented. A quotation had been received from Mr Groundsman. He will charge £625.00 to seed the pitch areas or £700.00 to seed all areas damaged.

Council resolved that the quotation from Mr Groundsman to seed all damaged areas in the sum of £700 plus VAT.

Proposed by Michael Swift and seconded by Paul Webb.

3. Consideration of quotations for grass cutting at Margaret Field

The Council considered two quotations for the grass cutting at Margaret Field. The Council agreed to accept the cheapest quotation from Mr Groundsman.

4. Cambridgeshire County Council Weed Control Regime

Further to the previous meeting the County Council is requesting comments regarding their revised Weed Control Regime by the 2nd April 2024. This does not allow time for the matter to be discussed at the next Climate Change Forum. It was generally felt by the Council that they would prefer chemicals not to be used for weed control within the village. Some concern was raised about the way the chemicals had been sprayed in the past.

Council agreed that a response would be forwarded to the County Council saying that as a Council, we would prefer for chemicals not to be used for weed control in the village. Proposed by Brenda Wilson and seconded by Jenny Moss.

Brenda Wilson raised concern about the hedge near the zebra crossing on the High Street, Newmarket Road junction.

5. Parish Council Vacancy - Consideration of applications and Co-option to Council

Richard Jenkins gave a brief resumé on why he would like to become a parish councillor. Unfortunately, the other two applicants, Isabel Cooper and Elizabeth Brunton had been unable to attend the meeting. The first vote took place and Isabel Cooper, having received the least votes, was eliminated. A further vote then took place between Richard Jenkins and Elizabeth Brunton. Both candidates received 6 votes each. Michael Swift suggested that Richard Jenkins and Elizabeth Brunton are invited to the next Council meeting and the vote taken again. It was agreed to do this.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Signed

Dated