

**BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**The Jubilee Reading Room**  
**99, The Causeway, Burwell Cambridge. CB25 0DU**  
**Telephone 01638 743142 E Mail [burwellpc@btconnect.com](mailto:burwellpc@btconnect.com)**

**Chairman: Liz Swift**

**Clerk: Yvonne Rix**

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Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Burwell Parish Council held in The Jubilee Room, 99 The Causeway, Burwell, Cambridge, CB25 0DU at 7.30p.m. on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.

**Present:** Liz Swift (Chair) Richard Adams, Robin Dyos, Jane Hall, Don Harrison, Gus Jones, Joan Lonsdale. Jennifer Moss, Jim Perry, Derek Reader, Gordon Roach, Michael Swift, Paul Webb and Hazel Williams

Also present: District Councillor Lavinia Edwards and one member of the press.

**Apologies for absence:** Mike Smith, Joe Parker and Brenda Wilson.

County Councillor Josh Schuman and District Councillors David Brown and Michael Allan.

Both District Councillors had thanked the Council for their hard work over the past few days and their success in dealing with the issue.

**Declarations of Interests:** There were no declarations of interests.

**01.10.17 Travellers on Margaret Field**

The Chairman informed Council that the travellers who had entered Margaret Field on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 had now moved off the site. ECDC is due to clean the site on Wednesday. Manchetts have placed a concrete bollard in front of the second gate to the field to prevent further access. The bailiffs have secured the main gate with a chain and padlock. Manchetts are also prepared to block off the main entrance to the field should the parish council decide that this is needed. It was acknowledged that better security at Margaret's Field is needed in the future. There is no need for the second gate, the opening could be replanted with hedging and the ditch outside the boundary hedge could be re-instated. Rising bollards could also be erected. Robin Dyos thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all of their hard work since the travellers had arrived.

Prior to asking the bailiffs to go ahead with the eviction, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk checked out other companies who were able to deal with evictions through common law and took legal advice from the Council's Solicitor. It had been decided that Bryan Lecouche Ltd, using common law, was the preferred option to remove the travellers.

***Don Harrison proposed, seconded by Paul Webb that the Council should approve retrospectively the decision to instruct Bryan Lecouche Limited to start the eviction procedure to remove the illegally parked travellers from Margaret Field.***

***Following a unanimous vote Council resolved to approve retrospectively the decision to instruct Bryan Lecouche Limited to start the eviction procedure to remove the illegally parked travellers from Margaret Field.***

The total cost for the removal of the travellers and for clearing up the site is not yet known. Council noted the excellent help received from County Council and District Council Officers, along with the excellent service provided by the bailiffs.

It is not expected to be able to claim any costs in relation to damage from the travellers. The Clerk is currently looking into if any claims can be made through the Council's insurance.

Jim Perry expressed concern that it is his understanding that the police allowed the travellers to enter Margaret Field. The Chairman pointed out that this was hearsay and not a firm fact. She continued by saying that it may be worth asking the Chief Constable or the Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a Parish Council meeting in the future to discuss police procedure when dealing with unlawful encampments. Confirmation was received from Paul Webb that the gates to Margaret Field had been securely locked when he had visited Margaret Field at 2.15 pm on Friday afternoon. District Councillor Lavinia Edwards thanked and congratulated the Parish Council and offered help to clear the site if required.

Michael Swift asked that the extra work carried out by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman should be noted by the Council. This was endorsed by the Council. The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed

Dated: