

# **Burgh Castle Parish Council**

Chairman: Brian Swan Vice Chairman: Bob Grimmer

## **Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 remotely using Zoom**

**Present:** Cllrs B. Swan (Chair), B Grimmer (Vice Chair), M Greenacre, J. Hogg, W. Griffiths, P. Carter, K. Ruddock (Clerk) and four members of the public including County Cllr Smith and Borough Cllrs Myers and Cameron.

*The public section commenced at 7.30pm*

### **PUBLIC SECTION**

Borough Cllr Myers reported there are covid business support schemes available from the Borough Council which can now be applied for. Business rate relief is due to end in April.

### **1. UPDATE ON BURGH CASTLE FORT**

Natalie Butler from the Norfolk Archaeological Trust was present at the meeting to outline new proposals by the Trust to introduce car parking fees at the Roman Fort. The Trust own and manage ten sites around Norfolk. The Trust now need to urgently raise funds to be able to protect the sites and to ensure they remain fully open for members of the public to visit. Previous funding received from the Government has now been phased out, the annual income to maintain the Fort is £6000, however only £2000 of income is expected next year. The Trust are wanting to improve the management of the car park by introducing a car parking fee. It is thought this would discourage fly tipping and anti social behaviour. The Trust have approached Napier Parking Ltd, the company use cameras that recognise vehicle registration numbers, they have been assured by Napier that each case where a fine is going to be issued is looked at by a person and not simply automatically generated by the system. The following charges have been put forward these being:

£1.00 - To park for up to one hour

£3.00 – To park for up three hours

£5.00 – To park all day up until 8.00pm

It has been suggested that frequent users of the site could purchase an annual membership from the Trust for £20. The Trust feels another advantage would be the car park would no longer need to be closed by the caretaker, any visitors that leave their cars in the car park after 8pm will automatically receive a fine.

All Parish Councillors voiced many concerns about the proposals. It was felt visitors to the site simply would not pay to use the car park, they would instead park on other roads neighbouring the Fort that do not contain parking restrictions such as Butt Lane, High Road and the Church Triangle. It was agreed the scheme would be very unfair to the residents that live on the roads next to the Fort, and the Parish Council would like the Trust to try and work out a different approach to tackle the problem.

Cllr Greenacre stated the Trust would also need to discuss the proposals with the PCC. Cllr Griffiths reported the Community Speed Watch Group would also be effected by this decision as the volunteers cars are parked on the car park when monitoring traffic in this part of the village.

County Cllr Smith stated Norfolk County Council can not support this scheme. He had already consulted the Highways Dept, there are already major problems with parking on Butt Lane and at the Church Triangle, the proposed scheme will cause major problems in the village.

It was agreed one hour to park and walk a dog is not long enough and three hours would be too long.

Borough Cllrs Myers and Cameron both agreed the scheme would cause a lot of problems for the village. Both agreed it is a difficult problem to address as funding for maintenance of both the Fort and car park is an issue.

Natalie confirmed that every other avenue has already been explored to obtain funding, this is the

last resort for the Trust. If funding is not found then some areas of the Fort would have to be closed off to members of the public. It was confirmed the Fort will be the first site out of the ten where car parking charges are implemented, they will also be rolled out at some of the other sites. It was confirmed the majority of the fines raised will be spent on maintaining the Fort site as it is the largest site owned by the Trust.

The Chairman ended the presentation by concluding that all members present were against the proposal. The one pound charge for one hour parking would not work as this would not allow enough time for dog walkers to exercise their dogs and get back to their vehicles. Butt Lane would become even more dangerous if even more vehicles started to park on the grass verge and access to the Church and the Burial Ground must be maintained at the Church Triangle, he was also concerned about the road safety aspect of people entering/exiting vehicles on Butt Lane.

County Cllr Smith stated he would assist the Trust with trying to access funding to prevent having to start the car parking charge scheme. Cllrs Myers stated he would also be happy to work with County Cllr Smith and the Trust to source funding.

### ***The main meeting commenced at 8.00pm***

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies had been received.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Greenacre – Belton with Browston Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Burgh Castle Village Hall Committee & Burgh Castle Playing Field Committee.

Cllr Swan – Burgh Castle Playing field Committee

Cllr Greenacre declared an interest on item 8 ref 06/20/0671/F and BA/2020/0458/FUL

## **4. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Minutes from the meeting held on 11-01-21 had been prior circulated to all members by the Clerk. To accept as a true and accurate record Proposed Cllr Grimmer, Seconded Cllr Greenacre. All In Favour.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING**

-Borough Cllr Myers stated he had not received any update from Anglian Water regarding the field being flooded on Porters Loke where the pump house is situated. Cllr Grimmer reported the field is regularly flooded with water contain sewage. It was agreed for Cllr Grimmer to pass the dates and times when the flooding has occurred onto Borough Cllr Myers who will again contact Anglian Water, and to the Clerk who will notify the Environment Agency and GYBC Environmental Health that the contaminated water is making its way to the water course which would then cause cross contamination.

## **6. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

The Chairman reported Lords Lane has now been pumped. County Cllr Smith stated the road will need to be resurfaced in due course as parts of it are breaking up. The last of County Cllr Smiths highways budget will be spent on cleaning Cherry Tree Corner. Next year County Cllrs will have £10,000 to be spend on highways matters within their parishes.

County Cllr Smith agreed he will look into having a new survey done on Stepshort Bridge.

## **7. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Cheque Number	Detail	Amount
BACS	Kate Ruddock salary 406.08 less tax 81.20	£324.88
BACS	Nina Dockerty wage	£91.56

BACS	HMRC Kate Palmer tax	£81.20
BACS	K. Ruddock refund for stamps and postage to Barclays 14.24 & stationary 36.00	£50.24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£547.88</b>

- To Proposed payment for the above sheet Cllr Greenacre, Seconded Cllr Griffiths. All In Favour.
- The Clerk confirmed the first payment of the Caretakers furlough money had been paid into the Parish Council account.

## 8. PLANNING

06/20/0671/F            The Laurels, High Rd    Laying of Ground Loop Collector  
BA/2020/0458/FUL    The Laurels, High Rd    Laying of Ground Loop Collector

It was agreed to submit no objections subject to neighbours comments for the above applications.

06/21/0008/F            Sonning, High Road.    Side extension for Garage/Gym/Sun room  
This was deferred as no documents received or available on GYBC web site

06/20/0674/F            The Nursery, adj Oakview, Mill Rd    2no. Residential Dwellings  
It was agreed to object to the above application as the development would be outside the Borough Wide Plan. There are highway concerns as the access to the properties would be opposite an already busy junction, and there are no footpaths in the part of the village for pedestrians. However it was agreed to add if the application is approved, to request that the properties are set further back on the plot to allow more room for cars to be parked on the site.

### The following application has been approved:

06/20/0606/F    Land at Butt Lane      Variation in condition 3 reduction in plot size

## 9. ONLINE BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reported she had sent her certified documents off to Barclays and is still awaiting correspondence from them.

## 10. BURIAL GROUND & CHURCH LOKE

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

## 11. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was agreed to hold both the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, either online via zoom or in person at the Village Hall.

## 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING & AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 remotely via zoom.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 20.26pm