

# **Burgh Castle Parish Council**

Chairman: Brian Swan

## **Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Burgh Castle Village Hall**

**Present:** Parish Cllrs: B. Swan (Chairman), B. Grimmer (Vice Chair), M. Greenacre, B. Grimmer, J. Hogg, K. Ruddock (Clerk) and four members of the public including County Cllr Smith and Borough Cllr Carpenter.

*The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.*

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Carter, Revd. Bunn and Borough Cllr Murray-Smith.

### **2. MINUTES FROM 2022 APM**

To accept the minutes from the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 proposed Cllr Greenacre, seconded Cllr Grimmer. All in Favour.

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** This has been another interesting year for the Council.

There have been several planning applications during the year, some that we have objected to have been refused however in some cases the Borough Council have approved such applications something that we have to accept as they have rules to follow, the Post Office site almost has its first owner however the Dovedale site is still undecided in planning terms. There has been an extension of time and area for the Welcome pit sand and gravel works however whilst objecting its good to see some highways safety matters coming out of the decision.

We now have a Neighbourhood plan in the making, we have combined with Belton and Browston also Fritton with St Olaves and I must extend my personal thanks to Ken Botwright chair at Belton with Browston who has done virtually all the local work on what is a mammoth task although we do have grant funding for professional assistance to keep us on the straight and narrow. The end result will be that the document will have 'weight' in future planning decisions, by the way a big 'Thank you' to everyone who returned or completed on line the related questionnaire in Village Voice, the response far exceeded our wildest hopes!

Relations with the Norfolk Archaeological Trust have sadly 'sourred', the car parking charges are in place resulting in increased parking at the private 'church triangle' and on the site frontage and although asked, they have done nothing to clear the 'lake' at the entrance to the car park and sadly we have become aware in recent weeks of several instances of heavy 'fines' being levied for parking when there have been issues with the charging system.

I would still describe highway matters as a 'nightmare', as last year, every time we succeed in getting one job off a long list two more seem to pop on, we did eventually get some clearance at Cherry Tree Corner but we are still, a year on, waiting for resurfacing at Crows Farm corner on High Road. We used our funds to pay for half the cost of tidying up work next to the village sign, but as a council, we are far from happy with the quality of the work and await updates as NCC have asked the contractor to do remedial works. Thanks to our County Councillor who obtained a new bus shelter for the Kingfisher stop from his local budget.

We disagreed with the decision of First Bus to reverse two of the afternoon trips on service 5 in term time to provide a service for a supposed 90 Belton pupils to get home from Lynn Grove High School and with barely a handful of pupils using the two services in the first month we are awaiting

official user numbers from First Bus before we possibly ask for a return to our 'own' service with the now lost return trips to Yarmouth and coverage of Cherry Tree corner reinstated.

We as a council continue to maintain the burial ground and the churchyard as the latter is described as a 'closed churchyard' (as it is full) and therefore falls to the Parish Council to maintain. We have again supported this Village Hall when we could and would urge you to support it whenever possible.

I would like to thank a few people, firstly Adrian Myers who has been a great help to us over many years as a Borough Councillor, he lost his seat on May 4<sup>th</sup> and will be greatly missed by us all, County Councillor Carl Smith for his continued help and assistance, Garden Guardian who continue with the grass cutting at the burial ground and churchyard, all fellow Parish Councillors and not forgetting Kate, our Parish Clerk who has kept everything running and in order for yet another year. Moving forward welcome to our two new Borough Councillors, Graham Carpenter and Ivan Murray-Smith, we look forward to working with you both over the coming four years. We have all just completed our four-year term of office however six of us will be back with you for another period, there were only that number of nominations for the 7 seats.

**Brian Swan** – Chair – Burgh Castle Parish Council – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

#### **4. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FROM: Playing Field Management Committee**

Cllr Greenacre reported there is no balance sheet for 2022/23 due to their being no income or expenditure during this period.

#### **Village Hall Trust**

Cllr Greenacre reported the following 2022/23 financial report for the Village Hall Trust.

As showing in the accounting report there was £2852.95 more expenditure than income during the last financial year. A big thank you to all the volunteers that help to run the weekly tea rooms, without this help this deficit would be much greater without the funds which are raised during these sessions.

#### **Balance Sheet**

Carried forward	2021/22	£20,221.81
Income		£8,936.00
Expenditure		£11,788.95
Excess of expenditure over income		-£2,852.95
Balance carried forward		£17,368.86

#### **5. BURGH CASTLE VILLAGE HALL TRUST - RESOLUTION**

Cllr Greenacre reported the Burgh Castle Village Hall is in the process to incorporate themselves as a CIO. As it stands currently the Trustees themselves are liable for any issues relating to the Village Hall, and the land itself is not registered. By undertaking this process it will eventually lead to the Village Hall Committee and the Playingfield Committee being held together in one charity which will be registered with the Charity Commission.

Therefore Cllr Greenacre proposed the following resolution that Burgh Castle Village Hall Trust takes steps to incorporate themselves as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) on the following basis:

- (a) the new CIO shall be called Burgh Castle Village Hall and shall seek registration as a charity with the Charity Commission;

- (b) the new CIO shall adopt the ACRE model constitution;
- (c) all assets, property and contracts of Burgh Castle Village Hall Trust shall be transferred to the new CIO; and
- (d) forthwith upon the completion of the above, Burgh Castle Village Hall Trust shall be wound up and cease to be a charity. Its merger with the CIO shall be registered with the Charity Commission.

That the charity trustees be and are hereby authorised to take all action and complete all documentation necessary to effect resolution 1. Seconded Cllr Swan. All in Favour.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters raised.

*With no further business the meeting was closed at 7.41pm*