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**Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council**

**Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7.30pm at Briercliffe Community Centre.**

**Present:** Councillors Michael McFarlane, Michael Greenwood, John Marlow, and Pippa Lishman

**In Attendance:** CouncillorAnne Kelly**,** R Greenwood (Temp Clerk)

| The Vice Chair, Councillor McFarlane opened and welcomed all to the meeting. | | | |
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|  | **Actions by Clerk** | **Cllr Support** | |
| **24/25/0299 Apologies for absence** | | | |
| Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Gordon Lishman, Carrie Halstead, Roger Frost, Richard Sagar and Libby Lalor |  |  | |
| **24/25/0300 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** | | | |
| No Councillors declared any pecuniary interest. |  |  | |
| **24/25/0301 Minutes of the meeting held 13th February 2025** |  |  | |
| A correction was noted for the minutes that the flowers were not for the boundary markers but for the planters on the main road at the Bowling Green. |  |  | |
| **24/25/0302 Matters Outstanding from the minutes.** | | | |
| No matters were outstanding from the minutes. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0303 Planning Working Group** |  | |  |
| FUL/2024/0104 78 Stirling Court, the parish council has no objections to this.  PDEM/2025/0113 demolition of the former library, Jubilee Street. The building is not fit for purpose so the parish council supports this application. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0304 Communications Working Group** |  | |  |
| Newsletter – articles are needed before the end of March. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0305 Contractor Working Group** |  | |  |
| There are new procurement regulations that will impact on the Lengthsman Contract, these have now been adopted for the recruitment of the Lengthsman.  Adverts for the Lengthsman position will be on the website, in the newsletter on the notice boards and on the Government’s ‘Find a Tender’ site. | RG | | PL |
| **24/25/0306 Allotments and Garages Working Group** |  | |  |
| Skip day will be on the same day as the Keep Britain Tidy and Litter Pick – 6th April  Proposed PL, seconded MG. – skip approved payment.  There have been 3 new requests for allotments and 1 for garages.  3 allotment tenants have given notice.  One garage on the back of Church Street is in need of a new roof and door alignment, this is a parish council-owned garage so the repair will be financed by the parish council.  Questions were asked about the rent increase for both the allotments and the garage as no increase has been actioned for a number of years. This will be reviewed prior to the rent letters going out mid-April. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0307 Project Working Group** |  | |  |
| Police Landrover – Chair Gordon Lishman attended a meeting to discuss the provision of a Police land rover for use in rural communities.  Easter Egg hunt – after the success of previous years this project will again be run by volunteers of the Allotment Committee.  The Litter Pick for April will coincide with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign and the skips for the allotment tidy. This will be on 6th April 2025 11am to 2pm.  The Wildlife Trust wish to run another event, the last was poorly attended, social media will be used to encourage more volunteers. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0308 Policies Working Group** |  | |  |
| Work continues on updating and creating policies. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0309 Staffing Working Group** |  | |  |
| The advert for a new clerk will be advertised this month, via the LALC website, in the parish newsletter, on the parish website and on notice boards. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0310 Clerks Report** |  | |  |
| In addition to admin work the clerk has been archiving paperwork over 7 year old and scanning documents for digital storage.  There have been two visits to banks to check on accounts that are now shut, the first to the Marsden Building Society for an account called Briercliffe Parish Council Welfare Account. This account was confirmed as closed.  The second visit was to the Natwest to confirm that the Briercliffe Parish Council Bowling Green account was closed. Natwest confirmed this account as closed.  The clerk has been working with the parish solicitor to have copies of documents not in the clerk’s possession; these include the Festival Lease paperwork, the Community Centre documentation and the paperwork pertaining to the lease of the allotment adjacent to 20 Harrison St.  The role of Community Centre admin has been finalised with the parish council seeking to raise an invoice for works undertaken each month, it was noted that some months this will be nil.  The clerk signed a key holder’s agreement for the Community Centre. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0311 County Council Report** |  | |  |
| There was no report this month from the County Council |  | |  |
| **24/25/ 0312 Public Participation** |  | |  |
| There were questions submitted for the meeting.   * The allotment downloadable form for the allotments needs a review after a member of the public highlighted issues with it. * Briercliffe Eagles – a request was made for a meeting as a requested report was not quite ready. |  | | PL  PL |
| **24/25/0313 Borough Council Report** |  | |  |
| The Borough Council Report is tabled below, in addition Cllr Kelly informed the meeting that:-   * the Ward Opportunity Funding will be available this year. Cllr Kelly can be approached with ideas for this funding. Ideas put forward included a notice board for the allotments, replacement of plaques on the Rogerham boundary stone – sponsorship needed. * Burnley Council will be employing a team to deal with back street rubbish. * Burnley Council will be employing a person to deal with dog fouling. * Each ward will have designated clean up days per month. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0314 Finance.** |  | |  |
| 1. As per the clerk’s report financial paperwork over 7 years old was archived or to be destroyed. 2. The VAT126 paperwork has been submitted for the period 23/24 3. Items for payment included :-   Cheque 1993 void  Cheque 1994 Croner – legal costs, £386.60  Cheque 1995 Post Office (registered mail) £3.35  Cheque 1996 Clerk Salary £631.58  Cheque 1997 HMRC £21.80  Cheque 1998 Water Plus for the allotments £259.60 |  | |  |
| **24/25/0315 Land at former RDC tip area** |  | |  |
| There was a report of men digging at the land at the bottom of the recreation field, the clerk did attend but no one was about. Cllr M Greenwood will also check the area. |  | |  |
| **24/25/0316 Environment and Heritage Project** |  | |  |
| There were no updates on this project |  | |  |
| **24/25/0317 Dates of the next meetings.** |  | |  |
| It was formally agreed that the dates of the next meetings will be   | | * March 6th 2025 * April 3rd 2025 * May 8th 2025 Annual Meeting * June 6 2025 * July 10 2025 * Aug 7   2025 * Sept 4 2025 * Oct 3 2025 * Nov 6 2025 * Dec 4 2025 * Jan 8 2026 * Feb 5 2026 * Mar 5 2026 * Apr 2 2026 * May 14 2026 (and Annual meeting; first meeting after elections) | | --- | | | --- | --- | |  | |  |

Lancashire Police Report.

| BRIERCLIFFE AREA 2nd February – 4th March 2025 | | | |
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| INCIDENTS REPORTED - 67 | | | |
|  | | |  |
| NO | TYPE OF INCIDENT | LOCATION | DETAILS |
|  | | | |
| 1  0 | Burglary  Burglary non dwelling | Cornholme | 4 Unknown offenders gain access to property, steal monies and make off once home owner returns home. CID are dealing and NHPT are doing H2H and CCTV trawl. |
| 1 | Criminal damage | Burnley Road | Window been smashed by a brick. |
| 1 | Theft | Standenhall Drive | Theft of road furniture. |
| 5  0 | Vehicle crime  Theft of vehicle | Back Lane  New Taylor Fold  Red Spar Road  Malham Road  Standen Hall Close | Suspect smashed quarterlight drivers door, made untidy search and stole a fuel card.  Works van broken into, tools and laptop taken.  Vehicle scratched.  Insecure vehicle entered by offender and numerous items taken.  Offender tries to gain entry into vehicle |
| 1 | Nuisance | Queen Street | Nuisance calls |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | | | |
| Many thanks Jody Hudson PCSO 7738. | | | |

Borough Council Report

**Briercliffe Parish Council**

**Borough Councillors’ Report – March 2024**

1. The Councillors have Kept in touch with the Borough Planning Department about the proposed **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** on Halifax Road in Briercliffe. There has been no recent movement from the developer. Nothing has been heard from in the last 5 months. WE shall continue to keep informed.
2. There continue to be major problems and nuisance with the new development at **Standen Hall**. It shows how right we ere to oppose the development and raise problems about access during the building phase. The problem of mud on the road will be helped by the addition or tarmacking on the site, but residents still have problems with blocked drives and as heavy lorries make their way to the site around parked cars. The Councillors keep talking with residents and arranging for Burnley Council enforcement officers to visit the site. Cllr Maggie Lishman has raised again with the developers the need to keep residents informed and proposed a Liaison Group but with no effect.
3. **Cllr Maggie Lishman** has been much occupied with her role as Burnley Council’s Executive Member for Resources, preparing the **Council’s budget** for next year. As ever, she has borne in mind the needs of Briercliffe residents in looking at areas for growth. Areas of special interest to local people include:

* Making the **Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour Officer** permanent after they issued 46 formal written warnings and 1 prosecution for persistent begging. They work closely with the police and other bodies.
* An **Opportunities Fund of £5,000** per ward to support small local projects. The Briercliffe Councillors want to hear about local projects that could use a bit of help.
* A one-off pilot scheme to tackle the 40% increase in **fly-tipping and general cleansing** which happened between 2022 and 2024 and funding for a **mobile CCTV/ANPR trailer** to catch fly-tippers in the act.
* Two new enforcement posts: one will tackle **dog-fouling** and the other will target **waste deposited on back streets.**
* Two collection dates per year for **community clean-ups** in Briercliffe.

In her budget speech, **Maggie** noted that careful management of the town’s finances mean that our finances are in much better shape than most local Councils.