

Minutes
Burton in Lonsdale
Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 26 May 2022 at 7.30pm
Village Hall, High Street, Burton in Lonsdale

Present: More than 40 parishioners; 4 Parish Councillors (David Taylor, Billie Strickland, Rebecca Spedding, Mike Biles); District Councillor Stuart Handley.

Chairperson: Cllr Biles

Apologies: Steve Vose, Maggie and David Bruno, Mike Ilsley, Julie and Ian Clarke, Andy Ive, Sue Cross, Ruth Gill, David Gillibrand, David Brown, John Wood, Cllr Peter Thompson, Cllr Ian Wardle, Cllr David Ireton.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

1.1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Burton in Lonsdale's Annual Parish Meeting and thanked them for coming. He explained that the meeting was NOT a parish council meeting, but a meeting of the whole parish. The origins of meetings of the parish lie in the past and annual meetings have to be held by law on a day between 1 March and 1 June. Where there is a parish council, as in the case of Burton in Lonsdale, then the parish council normally organises the annual meeting of the parish. Parish Meetings are open to all registered voters in the parish, and any six voters can call a parish meeting. Parish meetings can also demand a Parish Poll on a specific question.

1.2. Introductions

The Annual Parish Meeting is normally chaired by the Chairperson of the Parish Council, currently Peter Thompson. In his absence, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Biles, who introduced other parish councillors present. He explained that the meeting would follow the agenda issued, the main item being to hear from the various organisations active in the village. A few housekeeping announcements:

- The meeting was recorded to help with minutes, which were taken by Hannah Moodie.
- Any registered voter is entitled to speak at a Parish Meeting. Attendees were asked to raise their hand if they wanted to speak.
- Any vote required would need a proposer, seconder and based on a clear 'yes' or 'no' motion decided by a show of hands. The vote would be advisory only – ie it cannot be binding on anyone.

1.3. Apologies

Cllr Biles read out apologies received before the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 24 June 2021

The Chairman proposed that the minutes of the last parish meeting, which lasted 15 minutes, were accepted. This was seconded by Christine Whitfield and passed.

3. Chairman of the Parish Council's Report

Cllr Biles said that whilst he spoke on behalf of Cllr Peter Thompson, he could not speak for him. For the 12 months up to 19 May, Burton in Lonsdale Parish Council had two different Chairmen, Ian Thompson and Stuart Handley. Both were invited to submit or say a few words about the Council's activities and achievements in that time.

Ian Thompson submitted:

“We were pleased to welcome the junior soccer club back to the recreation ground once Covid regulations allowed. They have rebranded themselves as Lonsdale Terriers, reflecting their commitment to basing themselves here in the long term. They have expressed a wish to start a team for younger players so would welcome parents of children who are interested at the recreation ground on Sundays.

The Parish Council supported initiatives by making donations to get the church clock repaired and helping Burton Pals with Trowels to maintain the Community Orchard.

The Sports Pavilion attracted Covid grants of £28,000, which are available for any purpose that the Council selects. The developer of the Primary School will also be making a financial contribution with Craven District which will be available as partial funding of specific projects to be agreed between Craven and the Council.”

Stuart Handley had nothing to add.

Current Parish Council update – the Chairman highlighted:

Parish Clerk

The Parish Council has been operating without a Parish Clerk since 1 April. Attempts to achieve a smooth handover – which councillors set out to do as soon as the long-serving clerk announced her retirement in February – unfortunately failed. The fact that the Parish Council has functioned at all since April is almost entirely due to David Taylor, who took temporary responsibility for being the Responsible Financial Officer, Peter Thompson and Ian Wardle.

The position had been offered to an applicant, who pulled out at the last minute. It is hoped a subsequent applicant will be successful, but additional applications were encouraged. It is a vital and varied role at the heart of our community. Applications close at midnight today – please see a councillor after this meeting.

The Council may be interested in temporary paid clerical support to ease it over the period until it can make a new appointment. Please contact any councillor.

Money

Apart from standing orders at the bank, the Parish Council has been unable to pay its bills since February, because it has only had one registered signatory and, like most community organisations, needs two. The bank (Nat West) has proved to be both unhelpful and inept at adding signatories to the mandate. Ian Wardle has devoted days to this since April. There are more than sufficient funds in the account – the Council is simply unable to issue cheques and the account does not include internet banking.

The situation has been embarrassing and unacceptable. The Parish Council can only apologise to anyone it owes money to – though it is the bank that should be apologising. Cllr Strickland was asked to give an update in Cllr Wardle’s absence and was pleased to confirm that Nat West had advised cheques could now be signed. (Note: In fact, the situation was not resolved until 15 June).

What can a Parish Council do?

People often get confused about this. A parish council is the lowest form of government, with the House of Commons at the apex. Parish Councils can have varied, but limited, powers; they cannot, for example, declare war or control utility companies. Parish councils operate at local level and mostly deal with things like community buildings, open spaces, allotments, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters, cemeteries, car parks and toilets.

Parish Councils do have the power to raise money through taxation, paid through council tax. Council tax is paid to the local authority and the parish share of this, called the precept, is paid to the parish council in two chunks each year. The value of Burton in Lonsdale's precept is currently just £17,500 a year.

Burton in Lonsdale Parish Council's responsibilities include:

- Maintenance of the old closed churchyard – often known as 'VOSCY';
- Maintenance of the war memorial;
- Street lighting in most of the village, with the exception of Greeta Heath, Brookland and Manor Close;
- Benches;
- The recreation field, village green and common land;
- The pavilion.

Planning

Potentially a huge topic. The local authority is obliged to notify the Parish Council of planning applications in the parish and will, in theory, take its comments into consideration. Parish councils cannot approve or reject planning applications. They can only comment in the same way that individuals can comment – and only following a formal Parish Council meeting.

Therefore, if anyone has any comments to make about a planning application it is essential they are made to the local authority – do not wait for a Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council may add weight to comments if it decides to them. However, several councillors want to look into how and whether it can get more on top of planning applications. Cllrs Thompson and Strickland will be looking into this in particular. Cllrs Strickland and Handley encourage individuals to make relevant comments online or via email and be mindful of deadline dates.

Engagement

The Parish Council is part of the community it serves. Councillors are particularly interested in engaging with the community, including of course supporting and promoting community groups as much as possible. Attendees were encouraged to speak or talk to a councillor after the meeting if they have any comments.

Transparency

All councillors are committed to transparency - which means that big decisions, particularly those involving money, cannot be approved off-line – they can only be resolved at a full meeting of the Parish Council. These things have to be on the agenda. Moreover, the agenda has to be issued in advance so that parishioners have the opportunity to see what is about to be discussed. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council notice board on the Village Hall and circulated by email to anyone on the email circulation list.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and this council will give members of the public an opportunity to speak at the appropriate time. Minutes of meetings are posted on the parish website – initially in draft and then in final form once they have been approved.

The Chairman encouraged parishioners to come along to Parish Council meetings, read the minutes and keep an eye on what the Parish Council is up to, because it is accountable to them.

Parish Councillors

There are currently six councillors. Seven are needed and another member of the team would be welcomed. Attendees were asked to speak to any councillor after the meeting, or at any time.

All current councillors are relatively new. The meeting thanked past parish councillors, many of whom served the community for many years and did a lot for it, often behind the scenes, as well as the recently retired clerk. Others do much for the community, without recognition, and deserved to be thanked. The Chairman singled out Mike Ilsley for all he does around the village, particularly on the recreation field.

Parish Councillors are all volunteers, unpaid, do more than just turn up to meetings, of course have other commitments (including day jobs) and are all part of the community too. So parishioners are asked to see what they can do to resolve particular issues themselves – as well as seeing how the Parish Council may be able to help. To misquote Kennedy – “Ask not what the Parish Council is doing for you, but what you can do for the Parish Council”.

Council priorities and projects

Councillors have been developing a long list of things to work through since February, including basic items such as policies that should be in place, terms of reference for committees and how the Council we can best be organised to cover more ground. It also wants to hear what people feel the Parish Council should be doing. Cllr Taylor said that what the Council can do depends on resources, but it has a reasonably healthy bank balance at the moment (some of which is of course committed). He asked for ideas, projects and opinions.

Email circulation list

The Parish Council maintains an email circulation list, used to circulate details of meetings, events and items of news. Parishioners are invited to ask a councillor to add their names to this.

4. Police Report

Cllr Strickland read the written report received from PCSO Jayne Grace before the meeting:

“We have had 13 incidents reported to the Police between 20.03.22 & 25.05.22

20.03.22 – RTC – 2 vehicles – non injury

12.04.22 – Crime Auto – Van broken into & tools taken – Burton Hill

20.04.22 – Road Related Offence – Civil vehicles parked on private land

24.04.22 – Suspicious incident – Males & vehicles - High Street – Van seized full of diesel believed Theft of Red Diesel from farm – near Country Harvest towards Burton In Lonsdale

27.04.22 – 4 reports of Concern for safety/welfare – in order- Joint partnership working

10.05.22 – Abandon call

16.05.22 – Concern for safety/welfare – checked in order

16.05.22 – Safeguarding – other force enquiry

22.05.22 & 23.05.22 – Harassment

Please report & suspect incidents at the time on 101 or 999 if urgent.”

Cllr Strickland disputed the location of the seized van of diesel, which she believed to be closer to Burton than Country Harvest.

5. County & District Councillors’ Reports

Cllr Biles read a report from County Councillor David Ireton received before the meeting:

“MAY ELECTIONS

As you know, May elections were held for the new Unitary Authority, the establishment of which should reduce confusion, halt inefficiency and duplication and, above all, cut costs.

Value for money, quality of service and high standards of delivery for all residents are of primary concern.

Our determined aim is to continue to strive to make North Yorkshire a better place for all our residents, communities and businesses. In the present geo-political climate, this will be a challenge for all of us elected to public service. Elected Councillors will serve as County Councillors for one final year, then as Unitary Councillors for 4 years. This year’s Parish elections were not charged for and it is my hope, and also the aspiration of many in the new Council, that Parish Councils should not be charged for election as this is often a large percentage of cost to the precept.

SCHOOLS

We can be proud of the fact that our schools provide a high standard of education and safeguarding.

They give every child an excellent start in life so they can fulfil their potential and be equipped to face the challenges of the future with confidence. We continue to be dedicated to supporting all our schools to the best of our ability. We only agree to the process of closing small village schools at the request of the relevant school governing body and where every other option has failed.

SOCIAL CARE

Almost half of the County Council annual spending goes into Adult Social care and looking after vulnerable children. Both nationally, and regionally here in North Yorkshire, we are facing unprecedented pressure in the Adult care sector. There has been a major change in recruiting people to work in this sector since the economy opened up. We are now in fierce competition for labour with other employers. Much of the usual available workforce has simply evaporated. The acute need for more people to work in Social Care is becoming ever more critical. Across North Yorkshire, 20 thousand people are working in the Care Sector. On any given day, there are at least one thousand jobs available and no applications. Because of this labour shortage, North Yorkshire have launched their own major Social Care Recruitment Campaign.

COVID

Working together, we have come through another year of the Covid Pandemic, which remains an ever-present threat to us all. Fortunately, cases seem to be decreasing in severity and to be less life threatening, but as our hospitals are fully committed to treating cases of this disease, increased pressure is put on other essential and elective procedures and treatments. We must hope that the vaccination programme continues to mitigate the impact as we try to learn to live with Covid. Although things seem less severe now, we should never forget the 1499 people in the County who have Covid 19 on their Death Certificates. This is a source of great sadness to all of us, for lives cut short and families grieving in such times of crisis, the courage and generosity of the human spirit shine through. I should like to add my own heartfelt thanks and admiration and the gratitude of our communities to our amazing volunteers. They have risen to the challenge of serving the local communities and beyond, by organizing an army of goodwill and compassion to deliver and administer Covid Vaccines. They also ensured that vulnerable members of the community had someone to turn to for help in their hour of need. It was, indeed, truly heart-warming when their efforts were recognised when they won two Community champions Awards.

Finally

There is much to be done and many challenges lie ahead. We can face these together with confidence, knowing that we have the dedication and the shared experience and determination to do the best we can for all who live in North Yorkshire.”

District Councillor Stuart Handley (Bentham Ward) gave his report:

“On Tuesday at the Annual Meeting of Craven District Council the outgoing Chair Alan Sutcliffe gave his address and then we elected the new Chair Councillor Simon Myers for the Municipal Year 2022/2023 for the final year of Craven District Council.

At present, there are 30 district Councillors in Craven but when the New Unitary Authority is in place there will be actually only nine County Councillors in craven area. As in the wards of Bentham and Ingleton at present there are four District Councillors and one County Councillor but in the New Authority there will be only one Councillor of which most people in this area will know of is long standing County and District Councillor David Ireton of Ingleton.

I would like to also mention that the Planning at Craven has improved over the last twelve Months with the help of the planning improvement board, but we still have a long way to go as it is always hard to get hold of good Planning officers as they are always taken up within the private sector.

But for the next 11 Months both myself and Linda Brockbank will be still District Councillors for the Wards of Bentham and Burton in Lonsdale. As we all probably can agree it will be very sad day to see the loss of Craven District Council looking after the local needs of people in Craven.”

6. Village Organisations' reports

Representatives of various village organisations were called upon, in alphabetical order, to tell the meeting a little about what they have been up to and what they plan to do.

All Saints' Parochial Church Council (PCC) – report given by Christine Whitfield

“This time last year we were still being bombarded by risk assessments and regulations from the Diocese, which saw us sitting in alternate pews and not being able to follow Denis (Tate) up onto Castle Hill with the Good Friday cross. Fortunately things started to change and we decided to put on a summer fayre at the end of July which was very well supported, and people even came into church!

We followed that with a Produce Show and Harvest Festival in September, and a Heritage Exhibition the week after. Our weekly Stay & Play group were allowed back inside the building and they have all come back two years older!

We were able to organise the Christmas Carol service which attracted half our usual guests, but the Singing on the Green on Christmas Eve was most popular with almost 100 villagers joining in.

In 2022 we were able to offer Wedding and Funeral services with no restrictions and we welcomed Concert & Cakes back into church. This Easter a large group was able to follow the cross up onto Castle Hill, and the views were stunning! We now look forward to our Wedding Dress exhibition next week, as part of the village celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee, and ask you all to support that.

All Saints' is your village church, where you are legally able to be married or buried if you wish. It is open at weekends, and many people walk around the church grounds which we aim to tidy tomorrow and Saturday. It is there for you all, not the folk who cross the threshold on a Sunday. But we do need and want your support, to make it a community building which is used by as many people as possible, so it will stay open. Not many know that we have to send £12,000 annually to the Diocese, which we aim to raise ourselves, but this does not go to Denis or our next Vicar so any fundraising we do ask you to support is often for charitable purposes or to repair the fabric. We have the clock working again, and in June will see a small area of wet rot in the spire tackled from the outside by rope access, very exciting.

If you want to volunteer to help inside or outside, or you need information about Sunday services, please see me after the meeting. It is Ascension Day today so Denis is taking a service at church, and cannot be here!

Art Group – no one present to report.

B4RN - Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN) for Burton in Lonsdale (BiL) – report given by Simon Stockton.

“The B4RN4BIL project is a Burton in Lonsdale community project, run by volunteers, to provision 1000Mbps broadband, from B4RN, to all households in our village.

Since the B4RN4BIL project was kicked off in Summer 2019 we, as a community, have come a long way thanks to the efforts of our Zone Champion volunteers who have engaged, informed and supported the community in the planning, sign-up and investment phase of the project. Many thanks to them for all of their hard work.

B4RN relies on the generosity of landowners and farmers to permit free wayleaves for the B4RN ducting to pass through their land. We are grateful to all those landowners beyond the bounds of our village but also very grateful to the local landowners who have worked with us to get the B4RN network from two different directions into the heart of the village and to the majority of properties. Many thanks to all those land owners and as we finalise the detailed plan and identify additional landowners we look forward to working with them to reach the few remaining properties.

The B4RN4BIL project, like all B4RN projects, needs to be self-funded, to-date there are 109 requests for B4RN in the village, which is sufficient to make the project viable, but also to allow us to secure partial grant funding from the Government. The remaining funding has been raised through the Community Investing in B4RN. Combined

the B4RN4BIL project is 100% funded. Many thanks to all of you that have requested B4RN and to those that have invested. Additional requests are still being accepted along with investments. Finally thank you to the community for engaging in the project, it has been a reasonable long process so far, but I am pleased to inform you that B4RN have preliminary scheduled their contractors to work on the installation of the Cabinet, which will in the vicinity of the former School, and main ducting routes in and around the village this coming September.

B4RN's original plan for the village was a soft dig, through gardens. However, recent developments at B4RN and a cost analysis of the project has opened an opportunity for a hard dig in certain parts of the village. Whilst there will be limited disruption on some roads and pavements during the installation our resulting network will be more resilient in the long term. Furthermore, limiting the soft dig through gardens is less disruptive for individuals and less work for our community to undertake.

BARN are currently working with us to finalise the new plan. Leading up to September and beyond we, as a community need to come together to establish a Community Workforce, tasked with digging in ducting and fitting house kits to all households that need our assistance. Joining the Community Workforce is a great way to meet those in the community, whilst also contributing towards the future of Burton in Lonsdale. Training will be provided by B4RN for those that wish to Self-install and for those that wish to join the Community Workforce. The first training is being held mid-June, please join the Project Status and Community Workforce WhatsApp groups to be kept informed.

I will end on thanking you for your continued support of this project and encourage you to be proud that our community is working together to bring the 'World's Fastest Broadband' to Burton in Lonsdale."

A question to Simon confirmed that the location for the B4RN cabinet is to be adjacent to the former school entrance, not at the village hall.

Book Group – report submitted before the meeting by Sue Thompson was read by Cllr Strickland.

"The Burton Book group has been in existence for 27 years. We meet approximately every 6 weeks in members' homes, which limits our membership, currently 9. After a couple of ladies decided to retire from the group, we welcomed the injection of new blood through new people who have come to live in Burton. This has added a new dimension and plenty of lively discussion at each meeting.

We held no meetings in the first half of 2021, due to social distancing requirements, but resumed in June.

We celebrated the publication of member Clare Weze's (Easterby) debut novel, 'Alfie Miller, Lightning Catcher' by Bloomsbury Children's Books, She is busy working on a sequel and we wish her every success.

In February, past and present members enjoyed an afternoon tea at Ireby Green."

Bowling Club – report submitted before the meeting by John Wood was read by Cllr Strickland.

"Burton Bowling Club continues to thrive. Through the winter we have raised grant funds and installed electricity to both clubhouses which gives us light and power and the opportunity to offer tea and coffee to our many visiting bowling clubs. We have also repaired and installed new floor boarding to the old clubhouse, plus many cleaning and repair jobs for which we thank the members involved. Future projects involve: repairing, replacing the clubhouse roof after the storms last winter, building a new thief proof tool shed and erecting a marking hut at the far end of the green.

We field a team in the South Westmoreland Seniors' Bowling League, Captained by John Mason, these matches are played on Monday afternoons throughout the season against teams such as Bowness, Burneside, Milnthorpe, etc. We also field a team in the Kendal Bowling League, captained by Shaun Wilson, these matches are played on Thursday evenings, against teams such as Heversham, Allithwaite, Lindale, etc. Again, we also field a team in the South Lakeland Rural League, captained by Val Thompson, playing on Friday evenings against teams such as Heversham, Netherfield, Allithwaite, etc. This league is specifically for beginners to introduce them into the game. Friendly matches are organised by Jane Burns, captained by Doreen Dryden and are played on Saturday afternoons, these matches are played against Ingleton, Bentham, Hornby, Kirkby Lonsdale and Austwick. Thanks go to the ladies of the club who make the teas and organise the raffles.

The green is mowed and maintained by Shaun Wilson and John Mason, the club officials are Chairman: Brian Ramwell, Secretaries: Jane Burns and Steve Vose, Treasurer: Tony Blacow, President and Safety Officer: John Wood, Committee: Doreen Dryden, Shaun Wilson, Chris and Val Thompson, Malcolm Bibby who run the day to day business of the club.

The bowling club has 30 members and we have an enthusiastic and committed membership. Burton Bowling Club are excellent ambassadors for the village hosting many matches and events from visiting teams from all the towns and villages mentioned above. We raise funds by means of an annual jumble sale held at Ingleton Community Centre in the autumn, a coffee morning and subscriptions.

We are always looking to attract new members to join us and enjoy the company and friendship that bowling provides. Bowling is a community activity and any age group can play and compete, we have players in their twenties and one member in his nineties. We hold practice sessions on Tuesday evenings at 6.30 and also practice on Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 2pm. Visitors to the village are welcome to play throughout the season, entrance fee £1 per person."

Burton Chapel – report submitted before the meeting by David Brown was read by Cllr Biles.

"You will all have noticed the building work in progress to convert the chapel into residential accommodation following its sale last year. We are unable to use the schoolroom part of the premises at the moment, pending the provision of a new power supply, but we are very grateful to our friends at All Saints' for allowing us to hold services in the church room each week. We look forward to developments later in the year."

Burton Communication Group – report by Julie Clark was given by Mike Lavelle.

"Burton Communication Group aims to keep the village informed through the publication of the Burtonian and the village website. We are very thankful for all contributors to the Burtonian and welcome any new ideas for features etc. A few thanks are required:

To all the distributors;

To Simon Willan at Multimedia who printed the Burtonian until recently. It is now being produced by a small company which specialises in parish publications;

To Sue Gregory who has stepped down as Secretary;

Finally for the last 6 years the Burtonian has been wonderfully produced by its editors David Taylor and Marilyn Smith. They have now decided to step aside and new editors are being sought. Our thanks to them for all their hard work over the years.

David has also been editing the village website and we are pleased to say a new resident, Janet Coulthurst, has offered to help with the website.

We hope that all will agree that the Burtonian is a valuable asset to the village and sincerely hope others will come forward to take on the editorship."

Mr Lavelle posed the question as to whether it was time to move publication of the Burtonian entirely online, but accurate readership numbers are unknown. A show of hands suggested everyone in the room read the printed version. Simon Willan observed that Ingleton's magazine has more adverts than Burtonian. It was agreed that the Burtonian and website should include an updated list of all Burton in Lonsdale's clubs/organisations.

Burton Community Sports – report given by Ian Thomson

"Burton Community Sports was created by an enthusiastic group of residents to build and run the Multi- Use Games Area at the Burton recreation ground. The group entered into a 25 year lease with the Parish Council for the land on which the hard court was built. They managed the use of the facility, funded by annual memberships donated by families and individuals as well as fees for the use of floodlights in winter.

The playing surface was professionally refreshed about ten years ago and now needs to be removed and replaced. Estimates to do this have been priced at about £30,000.

In recent years fewer annual membership donations were received. Usage fees for the floodlights are priced to recover the cost of electricity used with a small excess towards maintenance. To help secure the future of the MUGA, BCS in consultation with the PC agreed not to renew the lease. BCS remains committed to supporting the Parish Council to maintain the MUGA. If the Parish Council decides to apply for grants to replace the playing surface, the status of BCS as a registered charity may be of help as some potential funders will not make a grant to a local authority."

Burton Film Nights – report given by Marilyn Smith.

No films have been shown for 2 years, primarily due to the COVID pandemic. There is a meeting next week and optimism for the future, but new volunteers to organise and run film nights are being sought.

Burton Regeneration Group – report given by Ian Thompson

"BRG has been quiet since completing the Sports Pavilion. Our most recent action was to donate £1000 towards the purchase and installation of a climbing frame for toddlers at the recreation ground. This sees plenty of use whenever the weather allows and attracts young families from surrounding villages as well as our own, increasing the chances of our children having others to play with.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret Mason and Sarah Salrein for their time and efforts as trustees of BRG during the period of fund raising and the building of the Sports Pavilion. Sarah also took on the role of Secretary of the adult soccer club which was set up as a condition of our grant from Sport England. This turned out to be quite a significant job and we were very grateful to her for persevering with it!

Margaret and Sarah have now stepped down as trustees and Simon Stockton and Alistair Gregory have agreed to replace them. This will ensure that the village continues to have the benefit of a registered charity focused on the provision of leisure and recreational facilities as stated in its constitution.

In the past, BRG trustees wanted to achieve a specific objective and then set about finding the money to deliver it. The present trustees see an opportunity to generate funds and then decide how to apply those funds once the amount is known. This will be done by using the charity's bank account to collect grants earned by the volunteers in the B4RN4BiL project and to hold them on behalf of the village until a suitable project has been identified.

Anyone is welcome to propose a leisure or recreational project to BRG that they believe would benefit the village, although the value will only become known when the B4RN4BiL project is complete."

Community First Responders – a report provided by John Wood before the meeting was read out.

"We have handed over the defibrillator at the Village Hall to the Parish Council together with funds to maintain."

Concerts & Cakes – a report provided by Steve Vose before the meeting was read by Cllr Taylor.

"Concert & Cakes resumed concerts in February & March 2022 following the enforced covid layoff. Since September 2013 there have been 31 performances which have been well patronised by villagers and many from further 'lands' such as Bentham & Ingleton!!

After Musicians fees, incidental expenses and Church heating costs we have managed to donate around £6000 to various bodies in the Village such as:

- All Saints Church,
- The Village Hall,
- Pals with Trowels,
- The Pavilion,
- The WW 1 group,
- Burton cats rescue,
- Stay & Play toddlers,
- The Babies Memorial Garden,
- And, most recently, the Platinum Jubilee fund.

The intention is to resume concerts in September this year.

Christine, Cathy & Steve would like to thank all councillors over many years for their support and wish the new Parish Council good wishes for the often unseen and thankless tasks they perform trying to make Burton an even better place to live.”

Emergency Plan – Andy Ive was not available to speak.

Friendship Group – no one present to speak.

Gala Committee - Andy Ive was not available to speak.

Heritage Group – report given by Carole Biles.

“The Heritage Group is a small band who aim to preserve and extend knowledge of village history. Our main activity in the last year was putting on an exhibition in September in the Church to coincide with National Heritage Week. The focus was on village life and influences in the 19th Century and topics included education, faith, trades, pubs and Burton’s connection to slavery. The exhibition was a great success with over 200 visitors.

Our forthcoming activities will include: continuing recording of oral histories, production of an information board at the Orchard focusing on mining and the importance to the potteries in the village and potentially a small exhibition on Burton’s horticulture society (which is now sadly no longer). This will coincide with the planned village produce show in September.

If anyone is interested in joining us please get in touch with any of the group members: Carole Biles, Jane Burns, Maggie Bruno, Loretta Dolan, Marion Hodgson or Jean Smith.”

Jubilee Committee – report given by Mike Lavelle.

“In January the Parish Council appointed a sub-committee to organise an event to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. By that time a few people had begun work: the bridal exhibition had been arranged, lighting the beacon was organised, permission to close roads had been sought, the PRS had been approached regarding any licences we might need and the availability of the band we wanted was checked. Other events under consideration at the time were a disco, a classic car exhibition, a Coronation chicken night in the pub and a sports day for children. The first committee meeting was held in early January and since then a group of around 20 people have been working to ensure the various events, which you all know about, would take place. The village owes those 20 or so people a huge thank you for their efforts. I would also like to thank the various people/organisations for their donations, without them we would have to charge a fortune for the different events. NYCC (David Ireton), CDC (Linda Brockbank and Stuart Handley), BiL PC, Pals with Trowels, the Methodist Church, The Village Shop, Mick and Heather Hill, BiL Heritage Group and Concert & Cakes.

As the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so all that remains now is to see how successful the four days will be. I am confident that the bridal exhibition, the lighting of the beacon, the Coronation chicken

feast, the classic cars, the disco and the village picnic will be well attended and will justify the efforts of the volunteers. What I am not sure about is the village party in Low Street, but we have done all that we can, so all that remains is to hope. We need volunteers for the Saturday (hopefully) and the Sunday and I am confident that we shall have them.

The committee has held its last meeting. However, we shall probably have a surplus of funds, what shall we do with this 'left over' money? We could give it back to the funding people and organisations on a pro rata basis. We could give it to charity. I could keep it. The option I prefer is to keep it in a fund, which would be ring fenced, and used for future village social events. Resurrecting the Gala has been mentioned, my view is that village galas/fetes seem to belong to the past. It may not be too long before we are celebrating a Coronation and there may be other options for us to consider.

What has been good to see over these last few months is that we haven't had to rely on the same old (in some cases, very old) faces to make things happen. There has been a mix of old and new with roughly half of the 20 people on the committee having lived in Burton for twelve years or less, some for under a year. Whilst this is a healthy sign, it would be good to see still more of the under 45s say, taking a more active role in village affairs. Perhaps these Jubilee events will prove to be a catalyst and more young, and very young, people will step forward and take over the running of the village."

Knit & Natter - no one present to speak. It is believed the group no longer exists.

Lonsdale Wheelers Cycling Club – report given by David Owen.

"The club comprises 3 main groups catering for 3 different needs or objectives:

- Those wanting longer rides but at a pace that's enjoyable, no one is left behind. Distances up to c70 miles.
- Those wanting a shorter ride at a steadier pace and especially suited to anyone with an E-Bike. Distances typically c30 miles.
- Mid-week cyclists who might be retired or working part-time. Distances typically up to 70 miles.

We always choose the quieter roads. This might mean hillier routes, but the main roads have already taken the valley routes. All rides include a café stop. The longer ride group also organise car assisted away days and overnight trips to add to interest & keep things fresh. For example, we have been to Shropshire and the Peak District in the last 12 months. We've also had several week long trips to Mallorca (the Mecca for great cycling), as well as mainland Spain & the French Alps.

Membership is only £5 per annum. Communication is by WhatsApp. The first Sunday of the month is set as the regular ride but there are far more rides organised informally between members on WhatsApp.

Contacts - the website is a good starting point: www.lonsdalewheelers.weebly.com We can also be found on Facebook & Twitter; local contact is Club Secretary Tim Rollinson. timrollinson@icloud.com"

Multimedia Shop – owner Simon Willan said that the shop offers to help with any IT needs. Cllr Biles took opportunity to thank Simon for his work in the community.

Pals with Trowels – report given by Marilyn Smith.

"The pandemic has been responsible for the shelving of many of our usual activities over the last two years, but if anything it has brought about a realisation of just how important is the work we do in the village. When we embarked upon the creation of the community orchard back in 2017 we could have had no idea how important a feature it would become. During the various lockdowns the orchard area became a haven for people to escape to and throughout the last two summers it has been the scene of many family picnics, barbecues and gatherings, to say nothing of the number of people braving the chilly waters of the river Greta for a spot of wild water

swimming. The addition of the BBQ proved to be very popular and succeeded in persuading the small minority of people who deemed it okay to BBQ on the grass, to relocate their BBQs to somewhere more appropriate. The trees have flourished, even the appropriately named pear tree 'Invincible' survived being mown down by a car, thanks to the emergency surgery carried out by Cathy R, and happily it still stands today, a lasting Testament to its name, We have added a children's picnic table, thanks to the generosity of Chris W, in memory of her dad, Ken, who wanted to leave something for the children to enjoy at the orchard. This has been very well used. Whilst most of the news from the orchard is very positive, we have had several incidences of flood damage to the path leading from the cart track to the river. A considerable amount of money has been spent on repairs to the pathway including the provision of a large drain which it was hoped would alleviate the situation but sadly all these efforts have been in vain. A solution needs to be found to the poor drainage of the area before more money is spent on repairs. This is now in the hands of the Parish Council.

We have also managed to persuade the Parish Council to take over responsibility for mowing the grass at the orchard and also at the two entrances to the village, which until now have been looked after by the PALS. Although we hate to admit it, we are an ageing group of ladies and even though the men have stepped up to the mark to help, this is an aspect of maintenance that we felt we could no longer sustain. Throughout lockdowns, we have continued to maintain the orchard, with working parties of differing sizes. This a large area which needs constant attention and management to ensure the trees flourish and the area is kept clean and attractive for all who visit. We have also maintained the areas on the perimeter of the village, planting up with bulbs and bedding plants at the appropriate times of the year, ensuring that there is always a colourful welcome for all. Each spring there is a lovely display of bulbs adorning the Village Green, the orchard and around the borders on the recreation ground. This is an ongoing labour of love, with Sue, one of our most hard working members, constantly on the look out for any patch of grass that can be filled with crocuses and tête-à-têtes. Perhaps the most unlikely success we can lay claim to in more recent times is the Book Cafe. Born out of a need to offload the many books we were left with after last year's plant and book sale, Marion H came up with the idea of a Book Cafe. The combination of luscious cakes, coffee and free books to browse, proved an outright winner and what started out as a one off event to solve a problem has now become a popular and much loved bi-monthly event. It seems to fill a gap in village life that we could never have anticipated.

More recently we have bought two elegant planters for the purpose of displaying the Platinum Jubilee Rose, which will hopefully flower year after year, a good investment for our money. As part of the Jubilee celebrations we are making a contribution to the planting of 7 trees, one for each decade of the Queen's reign. We have already planted a willow tree and have two Rowan Trees on order for planting later this year. We also helped with the planting of a crab apple tree at the recreation ground earlier this year, in memory of a young man who died a year ago. . In March this year there was another addition to the seating at the orchard courtesy of a generous donation from Burton WI The seat was designed by Luca Dodgson a year 9 pupil at QES and was beautifully made for us by Stephen Tyrer who also laid the foundation and secured it in its place overlooking the river.

As ever, we are always planning ahead and recently we managed to secure a grant from The National Lottery Community Fund to create a wildlife area in woodland adjoining the orchard and adjacent to the old mine ventilation shaft. The idea for this came about after the creation of a clearing in the woodland by the removal on safety grounds of several, large, dead trees and we hope to begin work on this later in the year.

In all, and in spite of Covid, we have continued to thrive. We have some new members who are proving to be a brilliant addition to our happy band and we can look forward to the future knowing that the PALS are in good hands."

Park run and annual cricket match – no one to speak. It is believed these events may have ceased. Cllr Biles encouraged anyone wanting to restart either event to do so.

Punch Bowl pub – no one to speak.

Stay and Play – report given by Christine Whitfield

Some attendees are returning children from before lockdown with some new younger children. Sessions are on Thursday mornings and now start at 9.30am instead of 10.00am.

Village Hall Committee – report given by Marion Hodgson and Bill Sherrington.

Thanks go to Ruth Gill for deep cleaning the building. The village hall is an old building in urgent need of renewal. Previous plans have been rejected and are to be modified and resubmitted. New toilets have been required since 2003. The building suffers from damp – quotes are being obtained to address this. A serving hatch is to be installed in the kitchen to attract caterers and therefore more hall bookings.

There have been difficulties with planning permission and thanks are due to Chris Phillips for his help as the architect. There is optimism that future plans will be successful. Thanks also go to David Taylor for his work as treasurer. New committee members would be welcome.

Village Shop Association – report provided by Seb Beck before the meeting was read by Cllr Taylor.

“For the past 17 years our not-for-profit Community Shop, incorporating a busy Post Office, has been a key facility for all Burton in Lonsdale’s residents as well as those smart enough to pop into 27 High Street as they are passing through! We are very keen to communicate with everyone in Burton to understand why they use the shop, what they want from it and indeed what might be stopping them from using it. Last December we included an article in the Burtonian about the future of our Village Shop, describing plans to improve its look and service to the village, in order to help secure its future. In progressing that ambition, we have submitted a planning application to Craven District Council to alter our Shop front by moving and widening the shop's door – with an eye on improved access and circulation space for all our customers (including those with wheelchairs/pushchairs) and the delivery of suppliers’ goods along with better natural light and ventilation – recognising that we need to have a sympathetic design that meets strict heritage criteria in a Conservation Area. We expect to hear back about that in a few weeks and it has been gratifying to note the supportive comments sent to Craven Planners by a number of people in our village. In parallel, we are working with a shopfitter to produce a detailed costed design for the interior that meets our brief. All in all, this has been a complex and time-consuming piece of work for the Shop’s Management Committee.

With squeezed household budgets generally, the Committee will have a decision soon on where we take this work, as there will be a tough call to make on spending cash reserves, built carefully over a long time, to be reinvested in the Shop for the community. The next Burtonian will include a further article asking our community to think about using the shop to a much greater extent, despite those financial pressures we all face. With competition from big supermarket deliveries everywhere, none of us should take the Shop for granted. The privately-run shop and Post Office at Wray has recently closed and the one at Cowan Bridge is currently for sale. Our long-term sustainability relies on us all using it more. It’s an important source of high quality locally-supplied goods and services (with the Post Office), a social hub and, not least, a local employer in its own right. We also have a dedicated band of volunteers who work hard in various capacities, to offer a great service for Burton. It certainly showed its worth throughout the pandemic.

In planning this future, the Management Committee have made the assumption that the village needs, will use, and will support the Shop in the long term. It would be reckless for us to undertake such a project without that support. There are ways we can all show support for our Shop. We need more of us to visit regularly, see what’s available and use it. Why not consider taking at least 3 items off your weekly supermarket shop, and purchasing them from us? We have an astonishing range of products at competitive prices, including value brands and promotional deals, which compare favourably even with the big supermarkets. We work with local suppliers to negotiate high-quality items at great prices and we can source specific goods.

All of us on the Shop’s Committee would welcome any thoughts offered that will help increase our chances of success in these endeavours!
Thank you.”

Women’s Institute – Burton’s WI has disbanded.

Young Farmers – no one present to speak.

7. Written resolutions received

There were none.

8. Close of meeting

Before the close of the meeting, Bill Sherrington asked how the changes in the district’s structure will affect the Parish Council. Cllr Handley replied that the next 11 months will serve as a handover/go between the two systems. Any changes that effect the Parish Council will be reported as they are found.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming. The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

Signed

Date

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