

Minutes
Burton-in-Lonsdale Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 28th April 2016 at 7.40pm in the Village Hall

Present: 16 Members of public, 6 Parish Councillors;

In Attendance: Clerk to Burton-in-Lonsdale Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr. Mr. Ian Thompson

Apologies: Mrs M Bruno, Mrs A Whitworth, County Councillor Ireton, District Councillor Brockbank, PC David Ridler

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking attendees for their time, stating the Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for the Parish Council and other community organisations to report to you on their efforts to support the village.

1 Minutes of the Parish Meeting of 21st May 2015

The Chairman ask the meeting to examine the Minutes, in large print format, at the back of the hall; if there were no comments after the meeting, the Minutes would be signed.

2 Police Report

There was no report.

However, the Chairman drew attention to the regular publication ‘*Country Watch*’ published by North Yorkshire police and widely circulated through email, online and hard copy.

3 County and District Councillor Reports

There were no reports.

3 Chairman of Parish Council’s Report

In February this year, the Parish Council lost Sandra Chapman who had been a councillor for a number of years and recently had been Vice-Chairman. Sandra was someone who could always be relied upon to listen to our discussions and then to summarise or propose a solution which would address the matter in a common-sense way. We miss her friendship and advice.

I would like to once again express our thanks to councillors Stuart Handley, Margaret Mason, Kath Salrein, Tommy Sedgewick and Jan Shaw for their continued efforts on your behalf this year.

We are also extremely grateful to our Parish Clerk Sue Gregory who works diligently behind the scenes to ensure that the Parish Council fulfils its duties and represents the interests of all Burton residents. She is the visible face of the Parish Council, always willing to listen to residents’ concerns and try to engage the appropriate level of the local government structure to help them.

We would like to thank District Councillor Linda Brockbank, who continues to advise the parish council on any matters relating to Craven District Council. She has also guided me through my first year as a District Councillor for which I am most grateful.

Our thanks to County Councillor David Ireton, for his continued support with a variety of issues during the year. He provides sound advice on County

Council matters and makes representations for us, to their officers and other county councillors. He was most helpful in obtaining a grant for the pavilion to buy furniture.

PC Dave Ridler has joined many of our council meetings during the year despite the fact that he is responsible for a wide area within North Craven. We thank him for making time to keep us abreast of police matters of local and regional concern.

Most PC meetings this year have been attended by members of the public. The Parish Council is here to represent you, so please come to our meetings and express your opinions. There is still a vacancy for one councillor following the loss of Sandra Chapman so if you are interested in supporting your community in this way, form an orderly queue at the end of the meeting this evening!

The village achieved a major milestone in September 2015 after ten years of effort when it opened the new sports pavilion on the recreation ground.

You will have read in the recent issue of the Burtonian, a letter from the new owners of the Punch Bowl Inn; they have just completed the purchase and hope to re-open the pub by the end of May at the latest.

NYCC replaced the street lights on Manor Close, Greta Heath and Brookland this year and included controllers to switch off most of the lights between midnight and 5am. The Parish Council received a few comments about the switch off. Since these were both for and against, no action has been taken to install controllers on the lights managed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the recreation ground, the village green, the old closed churchyard, the riverside open space and public benches around the parish. A few residents give their time to make minor repairs, pick up litter, clear weeds, plant gardens on unused land and I would like to thank all of you on behalf of both the council and all residents. Your efforts help to make our village more pleasant for all of us.

There are so many ways to contribute and they can be a lot of fun. If you are willing to offer your skills and time to the community, please contact any of the councillors; there is always plenty to do, even in a small village like ours. With that, I would like to invite representatives of each of the village organisations to tell us their news, their plans for the future and to advertise themselves to anyone that does not know what they do for us all.

Ian Thompson

Chairman, Burton in Lonsdale Parish Council

7 Village Organisations Reports

Verbal and written reports were received from the following organisations:

CHURCH GROUPS

All Saints' PCC

read by Mr C Weedon

All Saints church here in Burton has Sunday services each week and a few special services throughout the year. In particular -

- At Easter on Good Friday which included the mounting of a cross on

Castle Hill.

- The WW1 Centenary Commemoration, with a short service at the War Memorial.
- The October Harvest Festival, attended by, amongst others, the children and parents of the Stay and Play Group and the congregation of the Methodist Church.
- The Joint Remembrance Service held with the Methodist Church; and
- a range of Christmas services including the Carol Service and the Nativity Service with a pilgrimage around the village.

The Reverend Denis Tate joined us as the Team Vicar in October last year. He welcomes you all to our services, see the *Burtonian* or our noticeboard for details.

We would particularly like to voice our thanks to all who contributed to the much needed refurbishment of the Spire. The erection of the scaffolding and the work itself excited a lot of interest and we are very pleased with the finished results. The spire positively glows in the spring sunshine. However, we are still short of the final sum and fundraising continues.

In addition to the spire we thank everyone for supporting our efforts to raise funds for various charities and church funds via coffee mornings, the Advent fayre, pancake day and the Lent lunch.

The church has once again been host to the popular Concert & Cakes and it has been good to welcome so many people into All Saints'. We thank all those who organise the event, the Burton bakers and all participants for its success and for all that they contribute to our church and community.

*Ann Whitworth, Church Warden; Gyn Price, Reader,
All Saints, Burton in Lonsdale.*

Burton Chapel

David Brown reported numbers are declining. The main focus for the congregation is the future use of the building: an architect has been engaged to do a feasibility as to possible future uses.

SPORTS ACTIVITY GROUPS

LONSDALE ARCHERS

Still very much a work in progress. But starting to get things together with an emergent if small committee. Grants problematic due to pavilion having used up many options so club is unable to apply to same funding bodies for a while. May be reliant on member fees/donations and other fundraising to get started. Constitution written. Two successful taster days attracting 36 archers suggests a bright future if we can get it going. Mark Christie.

Lonsdale Wheelers Cycling Club

Currently 15 members (same is in last two years). Twice monthly rides at 10am from pavilion. Held another very successful Xmas ride n' lunch. Have a Twitter account @LonsdaleWheelCC, plus a Facebook page. Four of the lads embarked on their second organised overseas cycling tour this spring.

Burton Bowling Club

John Wood reported on a successful 2015 season, playing a lot of different

teams. The 2016 season has just started, playing in a number of different leagues. Membership has increased. As always new members and support are always welcome.

Burton Amateur Football Club (AFC)

Mark Christie reported: Currently struggling to continue to exist. Has made it through to last couple of fixtures in its second full season but struggling to complete these with a full team so at risk of folding. A pity as player-manager Paul Gibson has put heart & soul into the club, as has the secretary Sarah Salrein. Implications for grant reconciliations if club folds.

Junior soccer camp established with seven young players attending in April. Another one set for Whitsun week – need village to get behind these initiatives. Quality coaching provided by FA qualified coaches Scott & Peter. Excellent feedback from juniors and parents from last camp. Need 15 registered juniors to access grant from CDC due for reporting back in June.

GENERAL INTEREST GROUPS

Burton in Lonsdale Art Group

The Art Group still survives, and we still meet in Vera Dodgson's house as we do not have enough members to afford the village hall. If you like painting, give us a try – we are very informal and our only limits are what you want to do.

Margaret Gibson, 19.4.2016

Community First Responders

Julie Clark wrote:

This year (2015-16) we have attended a number of call outs in the area including Ingleton and Bentham.

I am sorry to report that we are currently operating with only one member therefore coverage in the village is somewhat limited. On a more positive note we have three people who have expressed an interest in joining us.

The time commitment for a responder is not onerous; most time is taken up with training (over 2 weekends) and it is very rewarding volunteering. The types of call outs responders are going to is being expanded and our contribution is really valued by the ambulance service.

Concerts and Cakes

Cathy Rowland reported the third year of the hugely successful concert series Concerts and Cakes (4 concerts in 2013-14 and 5 concerts in 2014-15 and 2016). The format is one hours of musical performance by students from the Royal Northern College of Music (now fighting to sample the cakes!), followed by tea and cakes, baked by local residents. Grateful thanks are given to both concert helpers and bakes. The now successful formula of not charging for the performance and inviting donations toward expenses continues; the refreshments are charged for. Any surplus is donated to the Church, and other village organisations e.g. the Spire Fund, Sports Pavilion, new village signs, as mentioned before. The next series will be holding performances on the third Saturday in September, October and November 2016 and a further performance in March 2016. All are most welcome to come and enjoy the afternoons.

Emergency Plan

Andy Ive wrote:

The plan was updated in February 2016 and will be re-written in full in 2017. Sandbag supply has been replenished, following Storm Desmond in December 2015. Emergency items are stored in the garage at the rear of the Village Shop.

Gala Committee

Andy Ive wrote:

The Mediaeval Gala for 11th June 2016 is going ahead as planned: flyers and banners give details. Full article in next issue of *Burtonian*.

Heritage Group

Julie Clarke wrote:

As reported last year this new group has had many ideas in relation to Burton's heritage but has decided at present to concentrate on three main areas:

- recording oral histories of residents
- developing a heritage trail leaflet for the village
- digitization of material.

The first of the oral histories has been completed and a programme of interviewees has been drawn up. We hope to have the heritage trail leaflet ready in the late summer. This will be a general walk around the village to be followed in the future by more detailed information leaflets on various heritage aspects of the village. We have started to form an online archive of material (including newspaper articles, photos). In March we held a very successful evening with over 80 people attending Lee Cartledge's talk about 'The Last Potter of Burton'. In addition to the above and working with Pals with Trowels the old village signs have been restored and we are just waiting for quotes from builders before they can be put in place.

Currently we are in the process of developing a logo to identify the group. One of the questions for the long term is how and where we can make everything accessible to villagers.

As you can see we have had quite a busy year!

Pals with Trowels

Kate Vose wrote:

The Burton 'Pals with Trowels' continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Whilst the Punchbowl is shut we meet informally in members houses with each Pal taking a turn as 'Chair' and 'Secretary'.

The aim of the group is to have fun, share our knowledge (or lack of it!), visit other gardens and help Burton to 'bloom'.

Open gardens was the main event in our calendar last year, we stuck to the successful tried and tested model but were glad to have some new gardens open for visits and to introduce a plant stall outside the punchbowl. In total we raised over £400 which will all go into funding projects that will help Burton bloom. So far this has included an avenue of daffodils on the road leading to the church and summer planting on the green and by the primary school. We hope to develop these areas in the coming year including tubs by the pavilion and our continuing project to introduce dry stone walls at the entrance of the village for the old Burton in Lonsdale signs. This is a joint project between the Heritage Group and Pals with Trowels which has benefitted from a very generous donation of £500 from Concert and Cakes.

Garden visits have been varied in success mainly due to the good old British weather. The two most memorable were a unique hidden garden in Lancaster and the September trip to the beautiful gardens of Holker Hall where the sun shone and the tea flowed. This year we are organising two trips one to Larch Cottage nursery near Penrith and the other to Harlow Carr near Harrogate.

The giant pumpkin competition was well supported but unfortunately we were unaware that pumpkins hybridise very easily. In the end the prize went to the grower with the biggest orange marrow! A learning curve if nothing else.

Other plans for the coming year include a garden stall at Burton Gala and a longer term project to develop the Millennium Garden in the church yard.

Burton Regeneration Group

Mark Christie wrote:

Highly successful year culminating in pavilion being opened. Needs to find a new focus as Rec Committee will take over the role of developing pavilion bookings/maintenance reporting to PC. Fun run on again on July 9th with a 1km & 3km option. New grass running track installed officially launched that day.

The Chairman added: a heating system was installed in January and chairs (second hand) purchased this month; the next purchase will be tables.

Burton Village Hall Committee

The village hall continues to go well. The upgrade is nearly complete. This year has seen the installation of superfast broadband, new windows and curtains, the glass door panels, and the radio microphone system. Some of these were paid for by Craven grants scheme, for which we were most grateful. The cost of hire went up by £1 per hour on 1st April; it was 3 years since the last rise. We are embarking on more advertising outside of the village.

Plans are firming up for a youth club, a possible table tennis club and a film club. My thanks to the committee for the work done on your behalf.

Andy Ive, chair and treasurer

Burton Village Shop

David Brown reported the Shop is just about keeping its head above water; a new manager was appointed in March and is settling in gradually. As always, the shop welcomes new volunteers and would positively welcome more shoppers!

OTHER GROUPS

Burton in Lonsdale Women's Institute

Margaret Gibson, the former Hon. Secretary wrote:

We now have 18 members. A founder member of the Burton in Lonsdale WI, Jenny Lyle, died on New Year's Eve 2014. Margaret Gibson stepped down as secretary to be replaced by new member Sue Thompson.

We enjoyed talks about the village book club, being a Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and about volunteering in Srebrenica, former Yugoslavia, just after the massacre there in the early 1990s. We also had a quiz with many visitors. We went round a kitchen designers shop and workshop, some enjoying supper at the pub later and the gardens of a local

stately home with a volunteer gardener member. In September the 'Garden Party Four' and one from Ingleborough WI arrived in their finery, including hats and fascinators and we had a presentation about their experience. We also enjoyed a DVD presentation about various local places and people. At the beginning of this year we had a flower arranging demonstration, a talk by a forensic scientist at which our new secretary glammed up in baggy tyvek onesie, plastic boots, hairnet etc. etc. in April 2 Alice Dodgson and Kath Salrein told us about Burton in the 1930s (recorded by the Millennium History Group).

Our President represented us at the Centenary AGM – a stunning day. Four joined with 1 from Ingleborough WI and 1 from Clapham with Horton WI to go to the Royal Garden Party together.

Members went to various events outside the village and three enjoyed the WI Group Carol Service in Austwick Church in early December, where two members jointly recited a poem. Burton helped at the Group Show and a few members exhibited as well, 1 new member did particularly well.

World War One Commemoration Group

Mike Biles wrote:

The First World War Group is an informal band of parishioners, formed to commemorate the centenary of the Great War and Burton's part in it. The group has about a dozen members, of which roughly half are active, and meets every other month. It will be disbanded after November 2018.

Since its inception, the group has:

- Organised the 'Lights Out' event on 4th August 2014;
- Put on the 'Mud and Medicine' presentations last year in the Village Hall;
- Launched the booklet 'Burton Remembers' – a commemorative trail around the village – which is still available in the Village Shop, if you don't already have a copy;
- Put on a talk about Rev Theodore Bailey Hardy VC DSO MC, the most decorated non-combatant of the war, who was Headmaster of Bentham Grammar School and Vicar of Hutton Roof.

All of these initiatives have been highly successful. Regrettably, the exhibition it had been hoped to stage this July to mark the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme had to be postponed. It is now intended to stage an exhibition in November 2017.

The group has no shortage of commemorative ideas and it is hoped to hold at least one more event later this year - all will be advertised in the *Burtonian*. Like everyone else, our main problem is time - we are in need of people who are able to DO THINGS. If you would like to contribute to the work of the WW1 Group, please contact Mike Biles (details from the Parish Clerk).

Craven District Council Local Development Plan consultation

The Chairman outlined the background to the consultation: the last Local Development Plan was in 1999; the current proposals having taken several years to compile. The Plan must be approved by November 2016, and in place by March 2017, otherwise a national Plan will be imposed on Craven District. Any development in an area must take account of the Local Development Plan which has been drawn together through a democratic process. This is the last opportunity to give feedback on the proposals. It should be noted that all previous nominations for proposed sites have been withdrawn, with the

exception of BU001 (2.207ha) a field between Coronation Mount and Blind Lane/Ingle View; a new site, BU013 (1.987ha), east of Brookland, has been added to the proposed development sites. The Chairman expressed disappointment that the former primary school site was not included as he feared the existing Grade II listed building would deteriorate further if the site was not interesting enough to be bought. It is also noted that some development may be desirable in order to maintain the community's vibrancy, and village services, such as the shop, hall and churches. However, any such development would have to be sensitive to all aspects. This is the last opportunity to make comments to the district council.

Residents were invited to make comments:

Mr and Mrs Hird (Brookland):

Firstly, I am surprised to see land east of Brookland (BU013) as one of only two sites earmarked for future development in Burton in Lonsdale. Since we are a small village of probably less than 700 souls it makes a mockery of the idea of the village growing organically (my understanding of the original village plan) - it seems we have only two sites earmarked to meet the demand for 60 houses up to 2032 - so this means two more large developments like Manor Close (since developers are only interested in medium to large building programmes) do we really need this size and concentration of new builds in Burton?

I spoke with Henry Cumbers in the planning office to register my objections to this site being earmarked - and have emailed details of my objections with supporting photography. The main objections are associated with:

- Site access from the bottom of Burton Hill and past my house where width limitations cannot accommodate both a road and a public footpath.
- The topography of the land and its drainage into the field below.
- The Environment Agency designation of the land as a flood plain. Including the present drainage problems and ponds that have developed over the last couple of years.
- Future flooding from both Bog Beck and the River Greta. (the heavy rain and rivers in full spate during November and December 2015 is perhaps a reminder of the unpredictable weather we can expect in the future and the possibility of a major flood event).

They also plan to attend one of the surgeries at either Bentham or Settle to reinforce my objections.

Mr Clements (Brookland) submitted the following comments:

I write with reference to the new Local Plan produced by Craven District Council, which I understand is on the agenda for the Parish Council to discuss on Thursday 28th April 2016.

I realise that the main consultation process is being run by Craven District Council however we felt that it would be helpful for us to share with you our initial thoughts and hope that you feel able to take account of them in your discussions.

Clearly the land earmarked for potential development – BU013 – would have a considerable impact on us; it would be sad to see green fields with their view towards Ingleborough disappear and be replaced by housing (even accepting the mess that currently exists in that field which is an irritant in its

own right). It would of course dramatically change the nature of the environment for those of us who live in Brookland.

The above concerns may not be an overriding consideration but they do deserve, it seems to us to be borne in mind. However there are more objective reasons for suggesting that the area is not suitable for development

Access/Exit

Brookland is a relatively narrow road and there is a lack of off-road parking for some of the houses. This results already in many cars being parked on the road, reducing it in practice to a single lane. That is okay currently but would be unhelpful for a significant increase in traffic which would be anticipated if development goes ahead, and would be problematic for heavy plant and deliveries during construction.

A serious concern relates to the increased traffic needing to access Burton Hill. Visibility is obstructed at the junction from Brookland by hedging on one side and by the dip in the road immediately before the bridge on the other. Great care has to be taken when exiting Brookland and not everyone sadly coming down Burton Hill from both sides drives with care and at an appropriate speed. The dip before the bridge on the Bentham side can obscure cars and great care has to be taken to ensure that traffic coming down the hill (and disappearing into the dip) is seen when at the same time trying to see past the restricted view on the right (which necessitates slightly pulling out into the road). This is not a good place to increase the amount of traffic and would increase the risk of accidents.

Traffic in village centre

The proposed development area is extensive and would result in many more cars heading towards Lancaster, Kendal and Kirkby going through the centre of the village, which of course means going up the hill and making the known problem with street parking in Chapel Lane worse. It would encourage more cars to use the 'rat-run' through Low Street and Duke Street (another narrow street) which would be undesirable for those living there.

This issue will already be made worse by the further development of surrounding areas, particularly the Benthams, which is almost certain to further increase traffic on the road.

For a development of this size it would seem to us to be far preferable for the village to find a site that has direct access to the main A687 road to help mitigate an increase in traffic in the village.

Flooding/drainage

As you will be aware the proposed development area is on a flood plain. This has not flooded in the 16 years we have lived at Brookland but the expectation is that extreme weather events are likely to become more common in the future and the risk of flooding increase. As a matter of policy, building on a flood plain makes little sense to us from a long term planning perspective. Should flooding occur it would be miserable for new householders who would then find it harder to get insurance at a reasonable cost, if they could get it at all.

The land marked for potential development is poorly drained with marsh grass growing on it in places. But poorly drained here is a benefit here. The ground absorbs rainfall from the hill behind and helps to prevent surface

water pouring into the river. Again it does not seem sensible long term planning to us to concrete such an area and risk of speeding up drainage that may contribute to flooding further down the river. This flies in the face of new approaches to flood management which seeks to slow down surface water reaching rivers by natural means.

The current site seems poorly selected to respond to pressure to make more land available for housing. This aim is hard to oppose in principle, but if targets outweigh sensible planning the long-term effects will be bad for everyone. Clearly finding new areas to build on in a small village like Burton is difficult. It is not obvious that a significant expansion is desirable here given the negative impact of increased traffic on the village's restricted roadways and the lack of some crucial local services such as a school. However if it must happen then it does not seem to us that a site that can directly access the main road through Burton would be a more sensible proposition.

Mr and Mrs Ridgway (Duke Street) were not as surprised regarding the site BU013 off Brookland, as the owners have been attempting to develop the site since the mid 1980s. However, Mr Ridgway advised the Conservation Area status would be of importance when considering the proposals and it was of note that the comment re BU013 advised development should “*be restricted to the lower area of the site to avoid/reduce the visual impact on the village and encroaching on the conservation area*”. Also “*Development will need to be subject to the agreement of the Environment Agency for location in a flood risk area.*”

Mr Weedon expressed grave concern regarding site BU001 “west of Ireby Road, 2.207ha), even though the planning note says “*Access from Ireby Road. Suitable for low density housing. The design of the development should aim to mitigate the impact on open countryside to the north and west possibly by restricting development to the Ireby Road and southern parts of the site*”. His main concerns relate to housing density and traffic density and flow along the Ireby Road, already the subject of concern regarding both volume and speed of traffic.

Both sites have mitigation measures recommended, namely items 3, 7 and 9; site BU013 also has items 2 and 5a. (see appendix for details)

Further comments:

- The building density is questioned, as limiting building to (relatively) level sites will concentrate the number of buildings, which will detract from the appearance and affect the impact on the surroundings.
- Vehicle numbers and density both in Brookland and along the Ireby Road were questioned, along with their effects on Burton Hill, Chapel Lane. There have been many complaints about all the roads over the years: an increase in traffic volumes would exacerbate matters considerably.
- The rejection of the school site should be challenged as it appears to be a similar distance from the village centre as that of BU001.
- Similarly, the statement regarding ‘good public transport’ should also be challenged in the light of the recent cuts to the local bus service to four buses in each direction between Burton and Lancaster, and which do not connect with trains at Bentham in a timely fashion.
- The Conservation Study outcomes will play a big part in the final decision regarding these sites, as they plainly impact on the village’s

appearance.

The above residents were anxious that all residents should be made aware of the proposals and requested that a parish council meeting be held before the consultation period finishes on 16th May 2016.

The Chairman agreed he would look into the matter.

Written resolutions received prior to the meeting

There were no written resolutions.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.