

BURY PARISH COUNCIL

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The Annual meeting of Bury Parish was held on Wednesday 3rd June 2020 at 7.00pm by video link

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panel Meetings Regulations 2020 came into force on 05 April enabling local councils to hold remote meetings until May 2021. This meeting took place via “Zoom”
For practical reasons some items will be deferred. There is no provision to place the agenda on the noticeboards.

All members of the council are hereby summoned to attend for the purposes of considering and resolving the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out below. **Public Open Forum – Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council regarding items that are on the agenda. If you wish to discuss any other matter, please contact the Clerk outside of this meeting.**

Charlotte Copley -Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Bury Parish Council



Minutes

- APM0620.12 Present and apologies
Present; Councillors M. Tew (Chairman), D. Wakefield, R. Scantlebury, J. Hayes, A. Barber, J Prestage, K Prestage
Also, present; Clerk – C Copley and 5 member of public
Apologies; Cllrs Johnston and Hazell. District Councillor Corney not present
- APM0620.13 Councillors Interests
None received
- APM0620.14 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 1st May 2019
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 1st May 2019 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman when legislation allows meetings to be held in public again.
- APM0620.15 Matters Arising
None received
- APM0620.16 Responsible Financial Officer Report 2020
The Responsible Financial Officer report 2020 was received and noted.
- APM0620.17 Report from the Parish Council Chairman
The Chairmans report was received and noted.
- APM0620.18 Report from District and County Council Officers.
The County Council Officer report was received and noted.
The District Councillor report was not received due to Cllr Corneys absence. Cllr. Clerk provided a verbal update of District Council events.
- APM0620.19 Reports from Local Organisations
The Village Hall Committee report was received and noted.
- APM0620.20 To Invite Members of the Public to Raise any Matters of Interest
No members of the public wished to raise any matters of interest relating to this meeting agenda.
- APM0620.21 Questions to County and District Councillors
None received.
- APM0620.22 Chairman’s Closing Remarks
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending this evening and extended thanks to the organisations who had forwarded their reports to the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 7.27pm

Bury Parish Council

Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer

We started the financial year with £112,159 and received £54,864 of income which was made up mostly of Community Infrastructure Levy and precept. With these reserves and with careful management of an annual spend of £57,248 we were able to carry forward £109,775 in reserves at 31st March 2020. Bury Parish Council continues to remain financially stable going forwards.

An increase in grass cutting areas and thus costs has meant the Parish Council have increased the precept for this year to £32,500.

The Parish Council has collaborated with Upwood Parish Council again this year in providing a Summer Sports Activities Club which is hoped to be going ahead each Friday of the Summer Holidays, between Upwood and Bury sports field locations, should the Covid-19 restrictions be lifted in time. The event will be free of charge to the public, the Village Hall will be open and the costs incurred will be covered by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council continue to work on the new cemetery extension, and pathways, with funds from reserves for the ongoing works such as laying the new path, refurbishment of the existing pathways and refurbishment of the Garden of Remembrance. Completion of these works has been delayed slightly due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus which saw the country going in to a 12-week isolation lockdown.

The village has seen a new housing development site coming along on the former RAF Clinic, with phase 1 works for 160 houses due to commence soon, following demolition of most of the dilapidated RAF buildings. The developers are hoping to consult the public later this year with regards to the Phase 2 build on the site. These developments will see a considerable amount of Community Infrastructure Levy being received by the Parish Council who hope to utilise the funds for infrastructure such as much needed pedestrian crossings on the Upwood Road, and more greener space provision for our villagers. The Parish Council has allocated funds of circa £50k towards installation of the pedestrian crossings. Exact costings from the County Council are yet to be received.

The Parish Council have maintained the play equipment well carrying out repairs to the zip wire and to install the new play swings once government allows our play parks to reopen.

Budget cuts at HDC and CCC continue and it remains a challenge to persuade them to carry out routine maintenance in a timely manner. Unfortunately again, at this time due to the outbreak of Covid-19 many staff members have either been furloughed or re-deployed elsewhere.

From the Parish Council's viewpoint, this last year has been a good year. We have fulfilled all of our obligations and have been able to make a £20 donation to the Royal British Legion for a Remembrance Day poppy wreath along with a £250 donation to a local grass cutting volunteer towards the upkeep on his lawnmower.

Bury Parish Council
Chairmans Annual Report 2020

With all things considered the Parish Council has had quite a difficult year, The Parish council have had to change the way we work with the current public health emergency, but it has shown that the parish council can adapt to exceptional circumstances that no one had foreseen.

Financially we have succeeded in coming in under budget, and for the year 20-21 we have had to increase the precept to £32.500 this is due to the provisions on the Dehavilland Gardens development site. The Parish Council will strive to keep the precept as low as possible in future years and will review this yearly as more developments come to fruition. The Parish council has received some CIL funding which has been earmarked for pedestrian crossings on the Upwood Road this will provide safe crossing for the children of the village and will also act as a traffic calming measure, we are also in consultation with developers and the District Council concerning green space on the Upwood Airfield site for much needed infrastructure.

The Parish Council has made significant improvements in the governance and financial management and are constantly updating legislation as and when required. The Current crisis has shown up some flaws in the way the Parish council currently Bank, the Parish Council took remedial action and are in the process of changing from a cheque base system to an online system keeping control of transactions, which will see the Parish Council well into the future.

The Parish Council has overseen the Bury Village Neighbourhood plan which will give the village a legal document to help our village grow in a sustainable way, The Neighbourhood Plan has now passed all the inspection stages and is ready to go to the Referendum stage, however this was put on hold due to the corona virus outbreak until further notice, the Parish Council will keep the residents updated as we hear more from Government.

Upwood airfield is progressing slowly but is hoped by the autumn phase 1 will be under way and phase 2 is in the pre application stage, the parish council is engaging with the developers to get the best it can get for the Bury area. Developers still use speculative opportunities to develop around the Bury area on Greenfield sites, which the parish takes very seriously and will continue to object to development on Greenfield sites, but ultimately these decisions are taken by the District Council.

The state of our roads in the parish and the increased usage continue to cause great concerns, the Parish Council are aware that with all the new developments in Bury and Ramsey that the roads will rapidly deteriorate more, which will exacerbate the flow of traffic on our roads and the Parish Council will monitor the situation.

In closing I would like to say that I feel the council is well and truly able to pursue the various tasks which lay ahead in the coming year and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations that are helping our elderly and vulnerable adults through the pandemic and all the residents that are contributing with food donations and funding.

And finally my thanks to you all on the council but especially our clerk Charlotte Copley for her hard work ensuring our parish continues to be a place where people enjoy residing.

I hope residents of our village will feel we have kept the parish in a state that we are all proud to live in, the Parish Council is trying to ensure that anti social behaviour especially on the airfield site and the continuous dog fouling is kept to a minimum, however with mixed results.

Michael Tew

Chairman of the Parish of Bury council
May 2020.

Bury Parish Council
County Council report 2020

As your ward County Councillor I am here to represent your views to the County members and officers. In general these tend to be highways issues and I regularly meet with the Highways Officer and point out any problems within the parish. I also met with him and the Chairman to examine the option of having a pedestrian crossing for the new development on the American hospital site which I believe is progressing.

I also report on what is happening at the County by forwarding emails to the Clerk to share on the parish website. Equally I write a monthly article for the Informer highlighting to everyone the requirements of the county, which still includes the necessity to recruit more foster carers, enablement workers and teachers. The need for foster carers is vital as more children have been taken into care during the last few months.

I attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible even virtually so that I am available to respond or act on information regarding the county. I know that a continuing worry is the numerous planning applications for large developments which is not really within my remit but equally I know it is high on the agenda of other parishes, as I organise a three monthly local parishes meeting over three wards and this is normally well attended, in particular by Bury members. Other topics that have been raised are the lack of infrastructure and policing.

Earlier on in the year I received a request from Bury Pre-school for assistance as they were concerned about a shortfall in anticipated numbers from September. I attended a meeting with staff, committee members and our local M.P. but it would appear that matters have improved and it will be continuing. At the start of April, the County introduced a £5,000,000 Capital Grant Fund for local communities and I have supported various local groups with their applications, which if successful, could also benefit Bury residents.

These last few months have been tremendously difficult for everyone as we coped with lockdown. It is also a time that has been extremely sad as people have lost their lives as a result of this disease. My condolences to all in the parish who have been affected in this way.

As always I am available to all residents and my contact details can be found on the Bury Parish Council website.

Annual Report from the Bury Residents Charity
to Bury Parish Council
2019/2020

The Charity manages Bury village hall and the committee comprises 8 trustees.

We have a significant number of regular weekly users to whom we are grateful for their continuing commitment – Bury Playgroup, Judo, Beavers & Cubs, Carpet Bowls, Bridge, Table tennis and the Concert band. Added to these are our regular monthly users – the Parish Council, Abbey W.I., Ramsey senior citizens and Hunts Society for the Blind. The steady income from our regular users allows us to plan with confidence future developments.

We also have a wide variety of occasional users particularly at the weekend putting on parties, for all ages, quizzes, yoga etc. We also now have bookings for 2 weddings in 2021!

We have continued to update the hall's facilities:

- The toilet refurbishment was completed during the Easter 2019 school holidays.
- A canopy was installed over the patio area during the summer holidays. Bury playgroup assisted with the finances via a grant from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.
- We have updated the sound system in the main hall together with the installation of a large screen and projector capable of showing films.
- Our film club started in November and was on course to be successful with monthly showings planned, until the Coronavirus shut everything down.

We have been closed, in accordance with government guidelines, since 21st March but following a deep clean on 1st June we will be opening the hall for Bury playgroup. They will start limited operations on 9th June until term ends on 17th July.

This continues to be a team effort and my thanks go to Pat, David, Karen, Trudy, Jo, Thusy and Chris: with a special thanks to Jacquie our cleaner.

John Prestage

Chairman

June 2020