

BURLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA

2 April 2024 at 19:00
Westleigh URC

A MEETING of the **BURLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL** will be held at Westleigh URC on 2 April 2024 at 19:00.

ALL MEMBERS of the **COUNCIL** are summoned to attend for the purposes of transacting the business specified in the Agenda which is set out below:

Please Note: members of the Public and Press are able to attend.



LEWIS WORROW
Chairman of the Council
2 April 2024

CORRECTION NOTICE

The Agenda as of 2 April 2024 is now correct following legal guidance.

AGENDA

1 Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Public Question Time

To receive any questions relating to items on the agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

3 Declaration of Interest Under the Code of Conduct

To record any interests on agenda matters.

4 Minutes

To consider whether to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.

5 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements which the Chairman of the Council may wish to make.

Unwavering Support for the Westleigh Play Park

Citation 19 Correspondence Classified as 'Sensitive'

We greatly value your support and ideas for Westleigh Play Park's future.

6 Notice of Motions

To receive any motions from members of the council.

Motion to Adopt 'Town Council' Status in Accordance with NALC Legal Topic Note (LTN 74): Alternative Names and Styles for Parish Councils (2008)

Citation NALC Legal Topic Note (LTN 74): Alternative Names and Styles for Parish Councils (2008)

Burlescombe is considering becoming a town to match its growth and evolving identity. Its rich history and industrial past support this change. The council's responsibilities have also expanded significantly, from managing four areas to 14. Becoming a town could boost business, development, and local services without any direct downsides and no costs, as it's mainly a change in name. The process requires following specific legal steps and council approval. The change will not affect the council's powers or duties but could introduce new opportunities.

ADVISORY

A public consultation on becoming a town starts on 2 April 2024:

Public Consultation Related to Town Status

This public consultation will be open for your input from 2 April 2024 until 30 September 2024.

<https://burlescombe.org/2024/03/26/public-consultation-related-to-town-status/>

Motion to Adopt a New Brand Identity for Burlescombe Town Council

Statutory Provision Local Government Act 2003, Section 142

If the Council adopts the style of a town it would need a rebrand to reflect the new, development-focused council. This includes a new logo, colours, and design. The goal would be to make the council more visible and strengthen community. The outcome should make the council's image more vibrant and aligned with our goals, emphasising our dedication to the community.



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Motion to Implement the 2024 Comprehensive Governance Framework and Operational Guidelines

Statutory Provision Local Government Act 2000

The 2024 Burlescombe Parish Council's Governance Framework aims to uphold high standards in conduct and operations. It covers council conduct, elections, meetings, finances, and community engagement. The framework will enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in council activities. It sets clear standards for council members and staff. The expected result is improved council standards and community-focused governance.

Motion to Establish an Investment Fund

Statutory Provision Local Government Act 2003, Sections 12 and 15

The Council proposes an investment fund for 2025/2026 to support community projects, and is completely separate from the proposal to become a town. This fund will not directly increase local council tax, with increases only considered as a last resort. The fund aims to back important community projects, with the community selecting these projects to ensure transparency and inclusivity. The initial focus will be on Westleigh Play Park, with future projects to be determined by community choice.

ADVISORY

A public consultation on the investment fund for community projects starts on 2 April 2024:

Public Consultation Related to Investment Fund (Westleigh Play Park)

This public consultation will be open for your input from 2 April 2024 until 30 September 2024.

<https://burllescombe.org/2024/03/26/public-consultation-related-to-investment-fund/>

Motion to Award 'Contract for the Implementation and Maintenance of the Compliance Management System'

Statutory Provision Local Government Act 1972, Section 111(1)

A Compliance Management System (CMS) would ensure we follow all laws as is required. It would include clear guides and updates on laws for easy use.

It would also hold all legal documents in one place and provide guides and tools to help councillors and staff understand complex legal topics.

It will have templates and tools to help us work legally and help protect councillors from legal risks by keeping us compliant.

Motion to Address Anti-Social Behaviour

Statutory Provision Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Policing Act 2014

There has been more anti-social behaviour in our area recently. We plan to use the 2014 Act to tackle this issue. The 2014 Act gives us ways to deal with problems like vandalism and will look to use Civil Injunctions, Community Notices, and Area Restrictions.

This enable us to:

- Use Injunctions to stop harmful behaviours.
- Give Notices to people or businesses causing trouble.
- Set Area Restrictions to control harmful activities in certain places.

Our goals are to:

- Cut down on anti-social behaviour.
- Make our community safer and better.
- Encourage everyone to act responsibly and respectfully.

We will use the 2014 Act carefully, respecting rights and keeping the public informed. We aim to make our area safer and reduce anti-social behaviour. We will keep checking if our methods work and change them if needed.

Motion to Enforce Against Dog Fouling

Statutory Provision Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Policing Act 2014

Dog mess is a problem, causing health risks and mess. We are tackling it with new rules, education, and community help.

We will look to fine people up to £100 if caught not cleaning up, using photos or videos as proof. A campaign like "No dog poo fairy" by Keep Britain Tidy will teach people about this issue.

We will make it easier to throw away dog waste in public bins and might add more dog waste bins. We want people to report dog fouling safely and help us keep areas clean.

Our goals are to reduce dog fouling, improve public health, and encourage responsible pet ownership.

We need everyone's help and clear communication for this to work. Our plan should make our community cleaner and safer, with ongoing checks to keep improving.

Motion to Offset 1 tCO₂e Through Verified Carbon Reduction Projects and the Planting a Tree

Statutory Provision Localism Act 2011, General Power of Competence

Since 2022, we have aimed to offset one tonne of carbon each year. We do this by joining in carbon projects and planting trees locally.

This shows our strong commitment to fighting climate change and improving our local environment. By doing this, we help increase biodiversity and green spaces which are good for the community and nature.

Our plan involves:

- Joining proven carbon reduction projects.
- Planting local trees in areas like parks and community spaces.

Our goals are to:

- Lower greenhouse gases through local actions.
- Increase green spaces and biodiversity in our area.
- Lead by example in environmental care, encouraging others to do the same.

We will work with experts and the community to pick the best projects and places for trees. Everyone's involvement in tree planting is important.

Motion to Review Demand for Allotment Gardens

Statutory Provision Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, Sections 23, 26 and 42

Since the 1908 law, allotment gardens have been key for community well-being and local food. Due to rising interest in Westleigh’s allotments, we are reviewing allotment demand and supply.

Allotments boost biodiversity, community spirit, and food security. With a focus on sustainability and health, it is time to check allotment needs. This reflects our commitment to the environment and community health.

Our plan includes:

- Assessing current and future allotment demand.
- Checking if allotment sites are suitable and can be improved.
- Talking to allotment users and the wider community for ideas.
- Adding sustainable practices like composting and water saving.

Our goals are to:

- Match allotment supply to community needs.
- Make allotments more environmentally and socially valuable.
- Strengthen community links to green spaces and sustainable living.

This might mean investing in allotments, expanding them, or starting community gardening projects.

7 Reports

To receive and consider the reports, minutes and recommendations of the recent meetings as follows:

Clerk’s Report

Council Financial Statement

<i>Treasurer’s Account Balance</i>	£2,876.86
<i>Reserves</i>	£5,766.66

Recent Expenditure

<i>Burlescombe & Westleigh Hall Hire</i>	£30.00
<i>Cemetery Grants</i>	£500.00
<i>Clerk Salary February 2024 - April 2024</i>	£393.38/Per Month
<i>Information Technology Services (Website)</i>	£548.35
<i>SLCC Membership for 2024/2025</i>	£112.00
<i>Westleigh URC Hall Hire</i>	£28.00

Upcoming Expenditure

Clerk Salary May 2024 - June 2024
 DALC Charge 2024/2025
 Information Services (Compliance
 Management System)

	£393.38/Per Month
	£325.99
	£3,300.00*

Planning Committee

Planning Committee Report

Consultation Request	23/01920/FULL 21st December–2023	APPROVED
Consultation Request	24/00148/FULL 7th February 2024	DECISION PENDING
Consultation Request	23/01351/MFUL 8th February 2024	DECISION PENDING
Consultation Request	24/00315/FULL 26th February 2024	DECISION PENDING
Consultation Request	24/00293/FULL 11th March 2024	DECISION PENDING
Consultation Request	22/02102/MFUL 13th March 2024	DECISION PENDING

Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee

Citation Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee - Monday, 4th March, 2024 7.00 pm

Mid Devon District Council reviewed its grants on November 3, 2023. They asked for a submission on the Grand Western Canal by November 24, 2023. A presentation followed on November 28, 2023. Despite some objections, a 15% funding cut was approved on January 9, 2024. This reduces the council's contribution to £38,250 for two years. Devon County Council will contribute £76,000 for 2024/25.

This funding cut challenges maintenance, especially for unexpected damages. The manager is seeking grants for improvements, but core funding is tough. Talks are ongoing to find more funds, including from Tiverton Town Council.

At Ayshford, a digger sealed a canal leak. The area around Ayshford Bridge was also improved.

In Burlescombe, a Rowan tree was planted in memory of a boater.

At Holbrook, part of a landing stage was closed for repairs, with more work planned to remove a trip hazard.

8 Member's Business

To receive any statements made and notice of future questions by Members.

Mid Devon District Council Standards Committee

Citation Standards Committee - Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 6.00 pm

Proposed changes to Mid Devon District Council's Constitution have worried many, including myself. They seem to limit public say and change how council meetings run, which might clash with the council's values of openness and public involvement.

Key points:

- Planning to cut public questions in Planning Committee meetings.
- Updating roles and responsibilities in the Constitution.
- Aiming to make meetings shorter and align with national best practices.

Our goals are to:

- Make council meetings more efficient.
- Shorten meeting times.
- Update our methods to match national standards.

However, these changes might make it harder for people to participate and affect trust in the council. We feel they need to find a balance between efficiency and keeping our council open to the public.

We hope they make meetings more focused and efficient. But, it's important for them to keep an eye on how these changes affect public involvement and trust.

Request to Aggregate Industries for Volunteer Hours

Citation Building Progress for a Sustainable Future, Aggregate Industries Sustainability Strategy

Aggregate Industries aims to boost their community volunteering to 4,000 hours by 2025 and we want their help to improve the Old Railway Line.

Our plan is to ask Aggregate Industries to spend some of their volunteer hours on this project. Activities could include cleaning, developing, and planting trees.

Our goals are to:

- Get Aggregate Industries to agree to help.
- Work together for mutual community benefits.
- Use their skills to enhance the Old Railway Line.

This partnership could make the railway line better and strengthen community bonds. It might also encourage more local business support.

We hope this project will show how companies can help their communities and lead to a better Old Railway Line.

Request to the Church of St Mary the Virgin for Churchyard Records

Citation 1 Correspondence Classified as 'Sensitive'

St Mary's Church is key to our heritage, holding many ancestors' graves. There's growing interest in viewing these burial records online, for family history and research.

We want to:

- Ask St Mary's Church for a full and updated grave list.
- Suggest making these records digital for easier access.
- Offer help with recording and preserving these details.

Our aims are to:

- Keep our local history and genealogy safe.
- Help with research on those buried there.
- Respect and maintain the burial grounds properly.

This project might need teamwork with the church, funding for digital work, and helpers for recording. We will plan for these needs.

If successful, digitizing these records will link us closer to our past, support research, and keep the burial sites respected and well-kept. This shows our dedication to preserving our heritage.

9 Date of Next Meeting

To agree the date of the next meeting.