

BURLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

2 April 2024 at 19:00
Westleigh URC

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

ALL MEMBERS of the **COUNCIL** were summoned to attend for the purposes of transacting the business specified in the Agenda:

Please Note: Minutes have been prepared in line with the Comprehensive Governance Framework and Operational Guidelines of Burlescombe Parish Council, Section 3, Standing Order 43.



LEWIS WORROW
Chairman of the Council
12 April 2024

1 Apologies

None received.

2 Public Question Time

1. Maintenance of the Old Railway Line by Aggregate Industries

A member of the public informed the council that Aggregate Industries had agreed to implement a rolling replanting system on the Old Railway Line.

2. Town Status and Investment Fund (Westleigh Play Park)

Members of the public raised question about town status and the investment fund which were answered by the Chairman.

ADVISORY

Two public consultations started on 2 April 2024 concerning these two topics:

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/>

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://burlescombe.org/2024/03/26/public-consultation-related-to-investment-fund/>

3. Burlescombe Parish Council Email Addresses

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the use of email addresses by the councillors. It was confirmed during the meeting that all councillors will use official @burlescombe.org email address for all council-related communications.

3 Declaration of Interest Under the Code of Conduct

The Chairman and Cllr Worrow Snr, during the discussion on “Motion to Award ‘Contract for the Implementation and Maintenance of the Compliance Management System’”, declared a personal interest. They disclosed that Westate Group, with which they are associated, would be bidding for the contract.

Given the quorum requirements for the meeting, both the Chairman and Cllr Worrow Snr were unable to leave the room despite the declared interest. It was noted that for the meeting to be considered quorate and for decisions to be valid, the presence of at least three councillors, including the Chairman, was essential.

4 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 be signed 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'

The Chairman thanked the community for their help and ideas for Westleigh Play Park and spoke about starting the 'Westleigh Play Park Committee' which will be discussed further next time.

Condolences to the Family of Peter Walter

Citation 1 Correspondence Classified as 'Sensitive'

The Chairman addressed the recent passing of Peter Waler, noting their contributions to the community and expressing the council's deepest sympathies.

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)

The Council talked about the motion and decided to pause more debate. This pause lasts until the Public Consultation ends on 30 September 2024.

Motion to Adopt a New Brand Identity for Burlescombe Town Council

Statutory Provision Local Government Act 2003, Section 142

The Council talked about the motion and decided to pause more debate. This pause lasts until the Public Consultation ends on 30 September 2024.

Motion to Implement the 2024 Comprehensive Governance Framework and Operational Guidelines

Statutory Provision Local Government Act 2000

RESOLVED The Council adopted the 2024 Comprehensive Governance Framework and Operational Guidelines.

Motion to Establish an Investment Fund (savings account for Playground)

Statutory Provision Local Government Act 2003, Sections 12 and 15

RESOLVED The Council passed the motion to create an 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)

RESOLVED The Council passed the motion to award the contract subject to guidance from NALC.

Motion to Address Anti-Social Behaviour

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

RESOLVED The Council passed the motion to address the Antisocial Behaviour.

Motion to Enforce Against Dog Fouling

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

RESOLVED The Council passed the motion to enforce against dog fouling.

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

Statutory Provision Localism Act 2011, General Power of Competence

RESOLVED The Council passed the motion to offset 1 tCO₂e through verified carbon reduction projects and the planting a tree.

Motion to Review Demand for Allotment Gardens

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

RESOLVED The Council passed the motion to review demand for allotment gardens.

7 Reports

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

Clerk's Report

Council Financial Statement

Treasurer's Account Balance	£2,876.86
Reserves	£5,766.66

Recent Expenditure

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

Upcoming Expenditure

Clerk Salary May 2024 - June 2024	£393.38/Per Month
DALC Charge 2024/2025	£369.41
Information Services (Compliance Management System)	£3,300.00*

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Lewis Worrow, **SECONDED** by Councillor Luke Trevelyan, and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's Report on Council Expenditure be approved.

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

A MEETING of the **BURLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL** will be held at Burlescombe and Westleigh Community Hall on 16 May 2024 at 19:00.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of **ELECTORS** will be held at Burlescombe and Westleigh Community Hall on 16 May 2024 at 19:00.