

BURSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 September 2024, 7.30pm at Burstall Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Gasper (Chair), Cllr A Kerrison (Vice- Chair), Cllr S Main, Cllr K Raby, Cllr L Raby,

In attendance:

Mrs S Frankis, Clerk & RFO to Burstall Parish Council
District Cllr John Whyman

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Gasper.

404 APOLOGIES: to RECEIVE and APPROVE Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Godfrey for his absence due to work commitments, however he was present for part of the meeting via a mobile phone link. The Council unanimously agreed to approve the absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Petersen for his absence due to a personal commitment; the Council unanimously agreed to approve the absence.

405 DISPENSATIONS: to RECEIVE Declarations of Interest and/or to APPROVE such Dispensation Requests

None were received.

The meeting was adjourned.

406 REPORTS: to RECEIVE the Reports of the County and District Councillors

A report had been received from District Cllr Whyman and circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

Cllr Gasper asked Cllr Whyman what he is doing in response to the difficulties with the Babergh District Council (BDC) planning procedures and the 'calling-in' of applications. Cllr Whyman responded that he has only been in the position of vice-chair of the Babergh Planning Committee for two months, in which time, there has been one meeting. He advised that when a ward councillor considers it proper for a particular application, or when asked by parishioners or a parish council, said councillor can request for an application to be called in for determination by Committee. Cllr Gasper expressed his frustration that there appears to be no action from BDC for change within their planning system. Cllr Whyman responded that it is down to perspective; his presence at parish council meetings is to represent BDC and parish councils, acting as an intermediary; he is only able to respond to matters raised with the facts that he has from BDC to then feedback to the parish councils.

Cllr Main asked what the Planning Charter is and what 'pushback' BDC is receiving? Cllr Whyman responded to advise there appeared to be no real resistance, and that he is broadly in favour of planning considerations being put before the Planning Committee for determination.

Cllr L Raby left the meeting.

Cllr L Raby returned to the meeting.

Cllr Whyman sympathised with the Parish Council and their experience of being faced with numerous large-scale infrastructure developments; he considered the BMSDC decision of the Enso solar farm application had been handled badly, wasting over £130k of council money. He advised that he has been trying to pull together both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to look at the cumulative impact of developments in Burstall.

Cllr Whyman advised that a successful judicial review of the Suffolk County Council approval of the Brockley Wood quarry has recently been quashed by the Courts.

Cllr Kerrison referred to the “2024 BMSDC Town and Parish Council Survey (Planning)”, the introduction of which suggests that the questionnaire is seeking views on a parish council’s “experience of working with [the] planning service at Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils and how [they] can better improve [their] relationship with [their] Parishes.” However, when looking at the questions being asked, it would appear to be a fact-finding exercise by which parish councils will be attacked and criticised for how they deal with planning applications. He expressed his disgust at the survey questions, a sentiment which was echoed by Cllr Gasper.

Cllr Gasper stated that ‘all in all’ there seems to be no ability for our representatives to influence the planning department or senior officers in a meaningful way.

No report had been received from County Cllr Hudson.

407 COMMENTS: to RECEIVE Comments from Residents of the Parish on Current Agenda Items
None were received.

The meeting was reconvened.

408 MINUTES: to RECEIVE and CONFIRM the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 July 2024

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 July 2024, having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, were confirmed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

409 MATTERS ARISING: to CONSIDER Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 July 2024

Re. minute number 395: Cllr L Raby asked the Council to consider purchasing replacement toughened glass units for the door of the BT Information box. The cost for a full replacement would be £250 +VAT however only the units for the door are needed.

ACTION: Cllr L Raby is to contact K2 (the supplier) to ask if we can purchase replacement, toughened glass units for the door only. Cllr Gasper suggested that Cllr L Raby also contact Ipswich Glass for a price comparison.

410 PLANNING:

(i) BMSDC Town & Parish Council Survey (Planning)

The Parish Council considered the survey questions appeared to be designed to tease out information unrelated to the association between the district council’s performance as a planning authority, and a parish council; a contradiction of BDC’s assertion of the purpose of the survey. The Council agreed not to complete the survey.

(ii) Babergh District Council Response to Burstall Parish Council’s Letter and the EADT Article

This item was missed.

411 FINANCE:

(i) to APPROVE the August and September 2024 Schedules of Payments

The Council unanimously approved the following payments:

P26. Mrs S Frankis / broadband (POA 1954, s51)	£15.00
P27. ICO / annual membership (LGA 1972, s139)	£35.00
P28. Mrs S Frankis / July salary (LGA 1972, ss101,111,112)	£299.55
P29. Nosegay / grass cutting (LGA 1972, s139)	£525.00
P30. Suffolk Preservation Society (LGA 1972, s139)	£30.00
P31. Adnams / thank you gift (LA 2011)	23.81
P32. HP Instant Ink (LGA 1972, s139)	£3.99
P33. HP Instant Ink (LGA 1972, s139)	£3.99
P34. Green's Landscape Services / BT box refurbishment	£636.00
P35. Suffolk cloud / web host and support	£120.00
P36. Mrs S Frankis / broadband (POA 1954, s51)	£15.00
P37. Mrs S Frankis, August Salary (LGA 1972, ss101,111,112)	£114.11
P38. HP Instant Ink (LGA 1972, s139)	£3.99

(ii) to AGREE the July and August 2024 Budget and Precept Reports

The July and August 2024 Budget and Precept Reports, having been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting, were agreed. The bank statement balances were verified by Cllr L Raby.

(iii) to AGREE precept budget heading virements

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to vire £5.00 from 2024 Precept Budget Heading 'Audit Fees' to 'General Power of Competence', £5 from 'ICO' to 'General Power of Competence', £5.41 from 'SALC Membership' to 'General Power of Competence', £8.40 from 'Training' to 'General Power of Competence', £30 from 'Insurance' to 'SPS Membership' and £636.00 from 'General Reserve' to 'BT Box Refurbishment'.

412 BANKING PROVIDER

The Council unanimously agreed to change banking provider from Lloyds Bank to Unity Trust Bank, and to also open a Unity Trust Bank savings account.

The Council agreed the bank signatories will be Cllr Gasper, Cllr Kerrison, Cllr Main and Cllr Petersen.

ACTION: The Clerk is to arrange for the Parish Council's banking provider to be transferred from Lloyds Bank to Unity Trust Bank, and to also open a Unity Trust Bank savings account.

413 CORONATION CORNER: to AGREE tree works at Coronation Corner

The Council unanimously agreed to order works to be carried out at Coronation Corner.

414 NEXT MEETING: to CONFIRM the Date and Time of the next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 13 November 2024.

415 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS: to CONSIDER Matters Raised by Members, including Agenda Items for the Next Meeting

Cllr Gasper advised he has been passed historic records of the Parish Council; the Clerk asked that he deliver them to her in order they can be archived.

ACTION: Cllr Gasper is to deliver the Parish Council records to the Parish Clerk.

The Clerk advised that Mr S Hicks had contacted the Parish Council to say that the drainage ditches, at The Street / A1071 junction, had recently been cleared by the farmer, exposing blocked pipes. The Clerk had contacted Suffolk County Council (SCC) Flood team, who visited the site the following day. SCC has confirmed that the pipes which go under the road and the entrances are their responsibility

whereas the drainage ditched which run down to the entrances are the responsibility of the farmer/s. It is hoped that SCC will take this opportunity to clear the blocked pipes.

Cllr K Raby advised that 2025 will be VE Day 80 and that commemorations similar to those that have gone before, we be held. The Council agreed to register an event and agreed, in principle, to fund a village event up to £200.00

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.41pm

Signed

Date

Sue Frankis, Clerk to the Parish of Burstall, 24 Church Crescent, Sproughton IP8 3BJ
Email: burstall.pc@btinternet.com
<https://www.burstall.suffolk.cloud>