



THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELECTORS

HUNTERCOMBE HALL, BURNHAM PARK

7.00pm on MONDAY 11th May 2015

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014/15



Welcome to the 2015 Annual Meeting of Electors of Burnham Parish Council. The object of this meeting is to allow the residents of Burnham to ask questions of the Parish Council about the work it has been doing over the last year. It is also an opportunity for the Parish Council to report back on the work it has achieved over the last year. As the year has progressed the Council has identified a number of opportunities, and has acted on these to increase our role in the community, to develop access to more events and improve our financial position.

Parish Councillors

The Parish Councillors are all volunteers and are bound by legislation for their rules and regulations (the Local Government Act 1972 and the Localism Act 2011). Councillors were elected to their Parish four years ago in 2011 and the next Council elections will be very soon on 7th May 2015. Parish Councillors also agree to represent the whole parish, not just their own ward and are accountable to the whole electorate.

The Councillors at Burnham Parish Council have put in many hours over and above the scheduled meetings that they attended. They have supported working groups, assisted and organised internal and external events, represented the Parish at other outside bodies, as well as liaised with the electorate. Their work behind the scenes has been enormous. Ian Foster was co-opted onto the Parish Council in May 2014.

Burnham Park

The number of bookings for regular classes, private parties, weddings, wakes and conferences have increased exponentially and beyond our expectations under the expert guidance and the team of the General Manager (Halls), Louise Reid. The regular bookings for the four rooms (Dropmore, Huntercombe and Meeting Rooms 1 & 2) have increased from 20% of capacity in September 2013 to just over 80% in March 2015.

In early 2014, Burnham Park started to offer monthly Band Nights, which have proved very popular amongst the local band followers and in November 2014, Burnham Park was announced as Lemonrock's venue of the week, chosen from over 4000 listed nationwide. October 2014 saw the first 'Burnham Rocks' event, a music talent competition for the under 21's and the event was a resounding success, so is scheduled again for this year.

Other highlights of the past year included the first ever Burnham Food Festival which will be back in 2015. The Panto was again very popular and the same company will return in 2015 with Sleeping Beauty. For the first time in the new hall, we were open on New Year's Eve and 150 people came along to join the party, which was another event that will be repeated this year.

A gap in the market was spotted in late 2014 for soft play for the under 5's and we teamed up with the local company 'Big on Bouncing' to offer this facility every Thursday morning. In addition to this, we have also provided activities for the older children in the summer holidays, both of which have proved very popular.

All these events are advertised regularly on village noticeboards, on the Burnham Park website, via e-mails, MailChimp, Facebook, the local press and in the village magazine 'Round & About'.

Events March 2014 to March 2015

- April 2014: Live Music - Disfunk
- May 2014: Live Music - Gary Roman
- June 2014: Live Music - Dizzy Fish
- June 2014: World Cup on the large screen
- June 2014: Children's Show - Charlotte's Web
- June 2014: Food Festival
- July 2014: Live Music - Swipe
- August 2014: Live Music - Nik Turner & Death Pop
- September 2014: Live Music - Cool Beans
- September 2014: Wedding & Party Fayre
- October 2014: 80s Night
- October 2014: Theatre show - Keep The Home Fires Burning
- October 2014: Half Term Fun
- November 2014: Barn Dance
- November 2014: Live Music - Dacoda
- November 2014: Panto - The Wizard of Oz
- December 2014: Light Up The Village
- December 2014: Christmas Gift & Craft Market
- December 2014: Movies & Musicals
- December 2014: Live Music - Frankie The Fish
- December 2014: New Year's Eve Party.....

- January 2015: Live Music - The PFJ
- February 2015: Live Music - Swing Night with Anna Nightingale
- February 2015: Old School Disco night
- February 2015: Live Music - The Rock Doctors
- March 2015: Live Music - Money on the Drum

Outside Services

We are very proud of the excellent condition and high usage of all our grounds, not only Burnham Park and the football grounds at the George Pitcher Memorial Grounds but also the Trim Trail and the nature park at the Cherry Orchard. The playgrounds at St Peter's and the Stomping Ground are well-maintained and the re-furbished playground at Hag Hill Lane is now open and being enjoyed by many local children and their parents.

Both the Donkey Derby in May and the Carnival in July took place in glorious sunshine and were extremely well attended.

Planning

During the past year the members of the Planning Committee considered more than 200 applications. The Committee made recommendations to South Bucks District Council and has an excellent record of having its decisions upheld. These meetings, as for all our meetings, are open to members of the public and any written comments received on Planning applications are always taken into account when the Parish Council makes its recommendation to the District Council. Planning applications are available for residents to inspect at the Parish offices during office hours but the last of the paper applications will be used in April 2015. Future meetings will use downloaded applications only from the South Bucks District Council website.

The Bishop Centre redevelopment

The newly redeveloped Bishop Centre finally opened in late 2014. The anchor store is a large Tesco supermarket and there are other outlets including Nike, Mountain Warehouse, Frankie & Benny's, Majestic Wines, Evans Cycles and Costa Coffee. A new set of traffic lights and a main entrance has been added on the A4 to divert the traffic in through the front entrance.

The developer, Land Securities, as part of the S.106 planning consent, donated four significant funds for the benefit the community of Burnham. All of these funds have been administered by the Parish Council.

1. The Community Assistance Fund has been fully distributed to 28 organisations that help children.
2. The Playground Fund has been almost fully used to replace all the play equipment and re-landscape the grounds at the Hag Hill Lane playground.
3. The High Street Fund has so far only commissioned a professional report on ways to improve Burnham High Street. A Working Party is currently studying the report before Implementation of the recommendations begin, hopefully from mid-2015 onwards.
4. The Highways Fund is being used to collect data on traffic volume and speed in Hag Hill Lane, before decisions will be made on future traffic calming measures.

Finances

The Parish Council funds the services it delivers to the Parish of Burnham mainly through the Precept, which is raised only from the residents of Burnham. The Precept of £495,000 accounts for approximately 65% of the total income received with the remainder coming from renting out the facilities at Burnham Park; and the pitches and pavilion at the George Pitcher memorial ground. Income from investments is no longer significant and no income is received from local businesses or from central government.

It should be noted that any comments on the Council's reserves in this section of the report exclude the monies received in respect of Land Securities, which are restricted funds and held in separate and segregated bank accounts.

Each year the Council needs to service £122,000 of loan and interest repayments on the long terms loans taken out from the Public Works Loans Board that funded part of the rebuilding of Burnham Park. The remaining funds came from the Council's accumulated reserves.

In April 2014, the Precept was not increased to the residents but actually fell by £29,000 due to the withdrawal of a one-off grant provided the previous year. The Parish Council is pleased to report that the reserves will have grown for the financial year 2014/2015 (ie year ending 31st March 2015). The exact increase is dependent on finalising the year end accounts and subjecting them to audit.

For the second year running the Council's operations and services have performed better than budget due to the ever increasing utilisation of the facilities at Burnham Park, combined with prudent cost management and the results of restructuring.

The Council's reserves would have grown even faster but for some exceptional costs incurred during the financial year just ended, of which the major item was the cost of replacing vandalised street lights

In April 2015, the Precept was not increased for 2015/2016. The underlying business performance, assuming it continues, should allow a further increase in the reserves during the year as well as allowing the provision of more community events.

Rebuilding the reserves is important to ensure that the Parish Council has the funds available to maintain and renew the assets and facilities used and appreciated by the residents of Burnham.

Twinning with Saint Denis de l'Hotel in France

Our twinning partner is Saint Denis de l'Hotel, which is a town in an area overlooking the Loire valley and is part of the Canton of Chateauneuf-sur-Loire. It is an ancient village of winemakers and sailors located 1 ½ hours from Paris and 20 minutes from Orleans.

In November 2014, a small group of BVTA members and friends travelled to the Memorial Day celebrations in St Denis, where they were welcomed with customary generous French hospitality. The BVTA held a very successful Petanque event in September 2014.

The Twinning Association continues to use the video-conferencing equipment donated by Polycom and meets 'virtually' in Burnham Park Hall with the residents of St Denis.

Parish Council Offices

Parish Clerk/RFO Haydn Selwyn-Jones joined in August 2013 and the Assistant Clerk is Mrs Jacqui Mansford. The Office Administrator Colette Whelan joined in December 2014 and the Financial Accountant Julie Pope joined in November 2014.

The Parish Council office can be contacted by telephone on 01628 661 381, email clerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk or via the two web sites www.burnhamparish.gov.uk and www.burnhampark.co.uk

Members of Burnham Parish Council 2014-2015

Penny Plant	Chairman
Alan Samson	Vice Chairman
Perry Davies	Chairman of Burnham Park Management Committee
Jean Horwood	Chairman of Land Securities Committee
Hilary Evans	Chairman of Planning Committee
William Plant	Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee
Judith Foster	Chairman of Recreation and Amenities Committee

Haydn Selwyn-Jones Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Members of Burnham Parish Council 2014-2015

Collins Shelley	11 Sands Farm Drive, Burnham, SL1 7LD	01628 604684
Davies Perry	45 Tockley Road, Burnham, SL1 7DQ	01628 667771
Evans Hilary	14 Long Drive, Burnham, SL1 8AL	01628 602120
Foster Ian	23 Milner Road, Lent Rise, Burnham. SL1 7PA	01628 542726
Foster Judith	23 Milner Road, Lent Rise, Burnham. SL1 7PA	01628 542726
Gibson Jean	42 Eastfield Road, Burnham, SL1 7PE	07872 017162
Glover Edwina	16 Eastfield Road, Burnham, SL1 7NZ	01628 548749
Hammon Marie	9 The Green, Burnham, SL1 7BG	01628 663768
Hazell Lin	42 Oxford Avenue, Burnham, SL1 8HR	01628 661628
Hewitt Marcus	39 Lent Green Lane, Burnham, SL1 7AS	07972 630125
Horwood Jean	105 Wyndham Crescent, Burnham, SL1 8HJ	01628 681952
Kelly Paul	49 Wyndham Crescent, Burnham, SL1 8HS	01628 416957
Naylor Nick	Rose Hill House, Rose Hill, Burnham, SL1 8NN	07986 023722
Plant Penny	84 Dropmore Road, Burnham, SL1 8AU	01628 669175
Plant William	84 Dropmore Road, Burnham, SL1 8AU	01628 669175
Pepler David	54 Hag Hill Rise, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0LT	01628 663593
Samson Alan	16 Middle Walk, Bucks SL1 7ER	01628 666121
Slater Bob	3 Ramsey Court, Burnham, SL2 2PB	01628 603504
Wallis Paul	Dawes East House, 28 High Street, Burnham, SL1 7JH	01628 664336

Members representing Burnham on South Bucks District Council

Beeches Ward

Hazell Lin 42 Oxford Avenue, Burnham, SL1 8HR

Church Ward

Kelly Paul 49 Wyndham Crescent, Burnham SL1 8HS 01628 416957

Plant Penny 84 Dropmore road, Burnham SL1 8AU 01628 669175

Samson Alan 16 Middle Walk, Burnham SL1 7ER 01628 666121

Lent Rise Ward

Rose Hill House, Rose Hill, SL1 8NN 07986 023722

Naylor Nick 54 Hag Hill Rise, Taplow SL6 0LT 01628 663593

Pepler David 28 High St, Burnham, SL1 7JH 01628 664336

Wallis Jane

Burnham South and Dorney Ward

Dhillon Aman 17 Long Close, Farnham Common SL2 3EJ 01753 647658

Members representing Burnham on Bucks County Council

Dhillon Dev 17 Long Close, Farnham Common, SL2 3EJ 01753 64765

Hazell Lin 42 Oxford Avenue, Burnham, SL1 8HR 01628 661628