



THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELECTORS  
TO BE HELD  
IN THE  
HUNTERCOMBE HALL, BURNHAM PARK  
AT  
7.30 PM ON MONDAY 2 APRIL 2012

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011/12



### Introduction

Welcome to the 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.

This last year has been very much a year of new starts and new opportunities.

We started the year in May with the local elections and the start of a new 4 year term for the Council and a year of opportunity.

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.

## **New members**

This year was an election year and all 19 places were open for election, however as the seats were not contested there was no need for an election. This year saw some new faces and the return of certainly one familiar face.

Cllrs Edwina Glover and Nick Naylor joined the Parish Council in May 2011.

In January 2012 Cllr Ian Hill replaced Cllr Matt Bird who was unable to continue due to business commitments.

## **Parish Councillors**

It is appropriate to point out that, it is no easy task taking on the responsibility of a Parish Councillor, once you are elected; you agree to abide by legislation and policies which govern the operation of the Council. But, you also agree to represent the whole parish not just a ward and you are accountable to the electorate.

The Councillors at Burnham put in many hours over and above the scheduled meetings they attend. They support working groups, assist and organise events, represent the Parish at other outside bodies as well as liaise with the electorate. Their work behind the scenes is enormous.

They each bring their individual expertise and receive no payment or benefit in kind from the Council's funds or other sources for all this dedication and hard work.

## **But now to the past year**

### **Twinning**

For many years the Parish Council had considered the possibility of twinning with another Town or Parish in Europe. At the end of last year, the opportunity arose once again, this time through links with a local business, Polycom Ltd on the Slough Trading Estate.

Twinning became a real option with the introduction of the Polycom Video Conferencing System; this made the opportunity to twin more attractive as twinning could be achieved on a virtual basis.

Due to the generosity of Polycom Ltd in donating Video Conferencing equipment, there was an opportunity to facilitate twinning for community groups, organisations and schools as well as the two councils.

Our new twinning partner was Saint Denis de l'Hotel, which overlooks the Loire valley and is part of the Canton of Chateauneuf-sur-Loire. It is an ancient village of winemakers and sailors located 1 hour and 30 minutes from Paris and 20 minutes from Orleans.

In January 2012 together with Cllrs Naylor and Kelly, I visited our new twinning partner and at a local civic event I signed the twinning oath, while at the same time Burnham Parish Council joined in the event from our own premises through the video conferencing.

Subsequently we have received a return visit at which we entertained our new French partners in March at the Chairman's reception and we look forward to identifying new opportunities to work with our French colleagues.

## **Events**

In October 2011 the Halls Committee decided to take on the responsibility for co-ordinating community events in and around the hall.

November 2011 presented us with another opportunity to host one of the acts from the District wide initiative "Theatre in the Village". On this occasion we were the host to Isla St Clair and her husband Patrick King who presented "Eyes Front" a story of the effect of music in World War II. Over 90 tickets were sold for the event which proved to be a great success.

December 2011 was the Council's contribution to the festive season, the Christmas lights were switched on by Jon Boyton, a Great Britain sprint kayaking champion, watched by approximately 400 residents.

A choral of music was delivered by the Beaconsfield Rock Choir and residents were entertained with free mulled wine and mince pies.

There is no doubt these events would not have happened had not been for the organising skills of your local Parish Councillors, Nick Naylor, Paul Kelly, Penny Plant supported by other Councillors on the night.

## **Outside Services**

The Recreation and Amenities Committee has held several meetings where, amongst other matters, the general maintenance of the village and play areas has been discussed.

We are very proud of the excellent condition our grounds men keep, not only our parks and sports fields, but the closed graveyard at St Peters and nature park at the Cherry Orchard.

Once again in the municipal year 2011/12 the opportunity arose to work with the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches to develop a Community Orchard in the park supported by local schools.

We have also started the planting of 400 saplings at the Cherry Orchard as part of the opportunity to work towards celebrating the Queens Jubilee.

## **Planning**

During the past year the members of the Planning Committee considered 193 applications an increase of 35% over the previous year planning applications. The Committee made comments on their suitability to South Bucks District Council. These meetings as all our meetings are open to members of the public and any written

comments received on 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.

### **Parish Council Offices**

We have also had changes in our officers this year and after many years as the Assistant Parish Clerk; Mrs. Jacqui Mansford has taken over the role of Parish Clerk after the retirement of Mrs. Janet Holmes.

Mrs. Mansford is supported by Joy Cockburn Williams our new part time finance officer and by Jackie Willis in admin support.

### **Burnham Park**

The operation of the Halls over the last 12 months has proved to be a challenging time, as like many other businesses we are working in a time of recession. As a result this year, we have reviewed the operation of the halls and identified new targets and savings within the operation of the Halls. Consequently we have had to release staff and reallocate other staff to deliver a more cost effective service.

The new strategy focuses on delivering a three tier option wedding package throughout the months of April to September, with the opportunity to develop some commercial bookings for conferences. It is through this promotion drive that we intend to support our further investment in the community.

We have already held a successful Wedding Fair in March involving many local Burnham businesses and we will be repeating this event in October.

The Committee has been working on a marketing strategy to promote the halls in these business directions but also as a community hall. You will no doubt have seen our recent adverts in the Round and About and even benefited from our discount tokens.

The popularity continues to grow and with new menus with most of our food sourced from local Burnham suppliers we hope that this will continue to grow.

### **Finance**

The Parish Council funds the services it delivers to the Parish of Burnham through the precept which is raised on the residents of Burnham only and from the letting of Council premises and investment income. No contributions at all are received from local business through the business rate or central government for the services it delivers. The Parish Council has not increased the precept this year and held the rate for a sixth year at £ 472 K.

We are now looking to obtain value for money for the quality and services we deliver and this will be the next phase of our progress.

During the year grants were also given to support a number of local charities including

- Burnham High Street Traders Association
- Royal British Legion
- Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance

- Burnham Bowls Club
- The Samaritans

## **The Future**

The future is also an opportunity for further development and we look forward to this challenge including

- After Easter we will be opening our courtyard café with a new menu.
- Halls Open day 28 April 2012.
- Celebrating the Queens Jubilee, the lighting of a beacon
- A joint Olympic event in the Park with Bucks County Council and South Bucks District Council to provide a big screen and associated events for the final of the Olympic Rowing final
- Entering the Best Kept Village Competition
- Provide a venue for three Theatre in the Village Shows
- Celebrating Christmas with the Parish Council
- The introduction of the Localism Bill and what it will bring to us.

The administration of the Council can be contacted by telephone on 01628 661381, email [clerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk) or via the two web sites [www.burnhamparish.gov.uk](http://www.burnhamparish.gov.uk) and [www.burnhampark.co.uk](http://www.burnhampark.co.uk)

Lin Hazell  
 David Pepler  
 William Plant  
 David Pepler  
 Hilary Evans  
 Perry Davies

Chairman Burnham Parish Council  
 Vice Chairman of the Council  
 Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee  
 Chairman of Recreation and Amenities Committee  
 Chairman of the Planning Committee  
 Chairman of the Halls Management Committee

Mrs Jacqui Mansford Parish Clerk

**Members of Burnham Parish Council**

<b>Collins</b> Shelley J	11 Sands Farm Drive, Burnham, SL1 7LD	01628 604684
<b>Davies</b> Perry A	45 Tockley Road, Burnham, SL1 7DQ	01628 667771
<b>Evans</b> Hilary P	14 Long Drive, Burnham, SL1 8AL	01628 602120
<b>Foster</b> Judith	23 Milner Road, Lent Rise, Burnham. SL1 7PA	01628 542726
<b>Gibson</b> Jean	42 Eastfield Road, Burnham, SL1 7PE	07872 017162
<b>Glover</b> Edwina	16 Eastfield Road, Burnham, SL1 7NZ	01628 548749
<b>Hammon</b> Marie	9 The Green, Burnham, SL1 7BG	01628 663768
<b>Hazell</b> Lin	42 Oxford Avenue, Burnham, SL1 8HR	01628 661628
<b>Hewitt</b> Marcus	39 Lent Green Lane, Burnham, SL1 7AS	07972 630125
<b>Hill</b> Ian	Brookend Cottage, Horseshoe Hill, Burnham SL1 8QE	01628 667101
<b>Horwood</b> Jean M	105 Wyndham Crescent, Burnham, SL1 8HJ	01628 681952
<b>Kelly</b> Paul	49 Wyndham Crescent, Burnham,SL1 8HS	01628 416957
<b>Naylor</b> Nick	Rose Hill House, Rose Hill, Burnham, SL1 8NN	07986 023722
<b>Plant</b> Penny	84 Dropmore Road, Burnham, SL1 8AU	01628 669175
<b>Plant</b> W	84 Dropmore Road, Burnham, SL1 8AU	01628 669175
<b>Pepler</b> David R	54 Hag Hill Rise, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0LT	01628 663593
<b>Samson</b> Alan	16 Middle Walk, Bucks SL1 7ER	01628 666121
<b>Slater</b> Bob	3 Ramsey Court,, Burnham, SL2 2PB	01628 603504
<b>Wallis</b> Paul	Dawes East House, 28 High Street, Burnham, SL1 7JH	01628 664336

**Members representing Burnham on Bucks County Council**

<b>Dhillon B</b>	17 Long Close, Farnham Common, SL2 3EJ	01753 647658
<b>Hazell L K</b>	42 Oxford Avenue, Burnham, SL1 8HR	01628 661628

**Members representing Burnham on South Bucks District Council**

**Beeches Ward**

<b>Hazell LK</b>	42 Oxford Avenue, Burnham, SL1 8HR
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**Church Ward**

<b>Kelly P</b>	49 Wyndham Crescent, Burnham SL1 8HS	01628 416957
<b>Plant P</b>	84 Dropmore road, Burnham SL1 8AU	01628 669175
<b>Samson A</b>	16 Middle Walk, Burnham SL1 7ER	01628 666121

**Lent Rise Ward**

<b>Naylor N</b>	Rose Hill House, Rose Hill, SL1 8NN	07986 023722
<b>Pepler D</b>	54 Hag Hill Rise, Taplow SL6 0LT	01628 663593
<b>Wallis J</b>	28 High St, Burnham, SL1 7JH	01628 664336

**Burnham South and Dorney Ward**

<b>Dhillon Aman</b>	17 Long Close, Farnham Common SL2 3EJ	01753 647658
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