

Burnham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th January 2025 at 7:00pm in Burnham Park Hall.

Members of the Council present:

Cllr Marie Hammon (Chair)	Cllr John Carey (Vice Chair)	Cllr Carol Linton
Cllr Ekta Kaur Ross	Cllr Judith Foster	Cllr Pat Bird
Cllr Terence Gamble	Cllr Jackie Slater	Cllr Graham Mummery
Cllr David Pepler	Cllr Alexa Collins	Cllr Rukhsana Pasha

Officers of the Council:

Adam Killeya (Parish Clerk)
Rupinder Gaidhu (Finance Manager)

Public and others:

Councillor David Moore (Buckinghamshire Councillor)
4 members of the public.

FC2425/83 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Stewart, Kelly, Bunce and Chatralia.

FC2425/84 Declarations of interest

Cllr Gamble declared an interest in agenda item 9 relating to Grants (minute FC2425/91), as the grant applicant for Burnham Lighthouse and a member of the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches, and left the room for this item.

Cllr Foster declared an interest in agenda item 9b relating to Grants (minute FC2425/91), as a member of the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches, and left the room for this item.

FC2425/85 Public Forum

A member of the public raised a concern as a resident of Littleworth Road about the volume and speed of traffic in the area, particularly in close proximity to a school and a nursery. They requested improved signage in the area. It was agreed to refer the matter to the appropriate meeting for consideration once further details have been sent to the Clerk.

Another member of the public raised a concern over the plans by Buckinghamshire Council to close an adult day care centre in Burnham, and asked the Council's position. Cllr Linton replied that the Council had submitted a strong opposition to the consultation plans; and Cllr Hammon reiterated that this was the position of the Council.

FC2425/86 Police Report

The written report was **NOTED**.

FC2425/87 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th December 2024, subject to an amendment on FC2425/81 to read 'reported' rather than 'report'.

FC2425/88 Minutes of Parish Council committees

The following minutes were **NOTED**

- Planning Committee – 16th December 2024.
- Planning Committee – 13th January 2025 (draft).
- Burnham Park Management Committee – 14th January 2025 (draft).

The Council **NOTED** their thanks to the Hall General Manager for her excellent start in the role, addressing a number of issues that had built up over a period of time.

FC2425/89 Finance

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the list of payments and receipts for November 2024 and December 2024. The total of the payments for November 2024 was £56,101.01 and for December 2024 was £61,252.48.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the November 2024 and December 2024 bank reconciliations.

FC2425/90 Recommendations from committees

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £1,000 from the 2025-26 budget for Legal and Professional Services to commission Gardner Leader to undertake preliminary work to confirm if it is feasible to register the various parcels of land at the hall, village green and park with the land registry.

The Clerk reported that they were not yet able to bring final proposed terms for a management agreement and license on the Pond at Lent Green Lane from Buckinghamshire Council, as Buckinghamshire Council were still considering the matter. They further reported on a constructive meeting with a Community Manager from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to discuss possible projects, should an agreement be successfully concluded. The report was **NOTED**.

The written update on the proposal for Padel Courts at the George Pitcher Memorial Ground was **NOTED**. Cllr Hammon reported that there had been a very successful site visit to a nearby Padel Court last week by four councillors, the Clerk, and one of the proposers. It was **RESOLVED** to agree the proposed exclusivity agreement to run to 31/12/2025.

The report on proposed lease heads of terms, agenda item 8 c iii, was moved to the end of the agenda to allow for consideration in confidential session.

The Clerk reported that they were not yet able to bring an offer for the installation of EV Charge points in the Burnham Park Hall Car Park, as there had been a delay in receiving these terms. The report was **NOTED**.

FC2425/91 Grants

The Clerk noted that there was £932 remaining in the grants budget but, as the council had decided going forward to only run cash grants against this budget, they considered it reasonable to allocate a larger amount if it was in-kind. The Clerk also noted that both applicants had been very helpful in answering queries and resolving any matters in connection with their grants.

The Clerk clarified that the Burnham Lighthouse application was towards a dinner to raise funds for the Children's Activity Week, rather than part of the week itself. It was **RESOLVED** to grant a donation in kind to Burnham Lighthouse to cover the use of the kitchen and hall for a fundraising dinner towards their Children's Activity Week; and to additionally make a cash grant of £450.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant a donation in kind to the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches towards the Almost the Donkey Derby for the use Burnham Park; and to additionally make a cash grant of £450.

It was **RESOLVED** to take only the cash elements of these donations from the grants budget for 2024-25. The Clerk confirmed that there would be no further funding available for cash grants until the new financial year in April.

FC2425/92 Reports from working groups

Cllr Linton and the Clerk reported on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan working group that the Regulation 14 consultation responses to the plan had been reviewed, and that our consultants ONH were in the process of updating the plan. No major changes were needed, and it was intended to bring the updated draft plan to the council for approval at an extraordinary meeting on Thursday

27th February. It was hoped that if the process ran smoothly the plan might be put to referendum and adopted by the end of 2025.

The Clerk further reported the successful award of £2,601 from Locality Funding towards the neighbourhood plan process. This is the final possible award from this fund as the council has now reached the maximum, but it will enable further work towards submission. The report was **NOTED**.

There was discussion around the proposal from a think tank which had been reported in the press to construct a 'Taplow New Town'. It was confirmed that this proposal currently appeared to have no official weight, and had not been discussed with the Parish Council. However, the Clerk relayed that it had been reported that the government was intending to make an announcement shortly concerning new towns, although it was not known whether this proposal would form part of that. They further reported that the North-East Burnham Residents Association (NEBRA) had asked the Council to sign up to representations against the proposal.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**:

- a) To formally oppose any proposal for a New Town in the area.
- b) To support the representations from the North-East Burnham Residents Association (NEBRA) opposing the proposal.
- c) To write to Buckinghamshire Council to state the Council's position on this matter.
- d) To delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Hammon to make further representations and issue publicity on this matter as appropriate in line with the council's view.

Cllr Carey reported that the Sustainability, Ecology and Climate Emergency Working Group (The Eco Group) was making progress on a number of projects, and was hoping to work with local groups. Cllr Gamble further reported that it was hoped to hold another litter pick in the early Spring. The report was **NOTED**.

FC2425/93 Burnham Library

Cllr Hammon, Cllr Slater and the Clerk reported back on constructive a meeting held with the Friends of the Library, and referred to the update circulated by email. It was felt that the regrettable decision by Buckinghamshire Council to reduce the library opening hours was unlikely to be reversed, but that the council should still make its views clearly known and that there was some potential for exploring options around volunteering. The report was **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To write to Buckinghamshire Council to strongly protest the decision to reduce the hours at Burnham Library and seek guarantees about the library's future, and to issue a press release.
- b) To delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Hammon to make further representations and seek further publicity on this matter as appropriate.

FC2425/94 Consultations

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with Councillors listed below, to make a response to the following consultations:

- a) From Buckinghamshire Council on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), in consultation with Cllr Carey.
- b) From Buckinghamshire Council on the Admissions Policy for Schools 2026, in consultation with Councillor Linton and in discussions with the New School for Burnham Campaign.
- c) From Healthy Dialogues, on behalf of local councils in West Berkshire, Reading, and Buckinghamshire, to understand how pharmacy services meet the needs of residents, in consultation with Councillor Linton.

FC2425/95 Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr David Moore, Buckinghamshire Council, drew councillors' attention to the following points:

- his support to the request from residents in Littleworth Common for a permanent MVAS sign (minute FC2425/85);
- the need for more foster carers in the county;
- his strong concern about the proposal to close the day care centre in Burnham;
- his further strong concern about the think tank proposal for a new town at Taplow, and his support for strong design standards for all developments;
- the For Buck's Sake campaign against litter;
- the reduction in Bucks Councillors at the elections in May;
- that he had recently sought action on improving access to the local recycling centre;
- his support for recent actions in favour of a new school at Burnham.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Kelly had asked them to draw Councillors' attention to the fact that there is £50,000 of Section 106 funding available, currently held by Buckinghamshire Council, 'towards the general improvement of pedestrian/cycling facilities on Stomp Road'. This contribution came from the development on the former police station site and does not have a specific expiry date. Cllr Kelly suggested that the council may wish to take a view on how this money should be spent. The Clerk stated that they would add this item to the next Policy & Resources Committee, and Recreation & Amenities Agenda. The report was **NOTED**.

FC2425/96 Chair's report

The Chair, Cllr Hammon, reported that it had been a relatively quiet time since the last meeting, due to the time of year. Her engagements had included representing the council's position at a Buckinghamshire Council Planning Committee meeting; and hosting the Chairman's reception for councillors and staff.

She further reported that the Chairman's fund had now been spent for the year, and was supporting a number of very worthy local organisations.

The report was **NOTED**.

FC2425/97 Reports from outside bodies

Cllr Carey reported that there had not been a meeting of BMKALC recently. The report was **NOTED**.

FC2425/98 Clerk's report

The Clerk's written report was **NOTED**.

The report of the urgent spends outside of budget made under financial regulation 5.18 in connection with the Christmas were **NOTED**, and it was **RESOLVED** to reallocate these costs to the High Street Land Securities Fund.

FC2425/99 Padel Court lease heads of terms

It was **RESOLVED** under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the public for confidential business to be considered; on the grounds that the following item included sensitive information around staffing matters.

A number of Councillors raised queries about whether the terms of the lease should be more robust. The Clerk advised that there had been a robust negotiation, and they felt that a fair deal had been negotiated.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To approve the Heads of Terms for a lease, subject to a full lease being drawn up and approved, and to planning permission being granted, delegating authority to the Clerk to negotiate any further details that arise prior to lease approval.

- b) To approve the expenditure of funds from the Professional Services budget for this purpose; utilising the 2025-26 budget if possible, and otherwise authorising an overspend from the 2024-25 budget.
- c) To approve issuing of appropriate publicity around the project, in consultation with Padel Powerhouse Limited.

The Council **NOTED** their gratitude and appreciation to the Parish Clerk for their hard work on the preparations for the Padel Court lease terms presented in item FC2425/99.

The meeting closed at 9:06pm

Dates of next meetings:

Thursday 27th February 2025, 4:30pm – planned Extraordinary Council Meeting to consider approving the updated Neighbourhood Plan

**Monday 10th March 2025, 7pm – regular Full Council Meeting
(the final scheduled Full Council Meeting before the May 2025 Ordinary Council Elections)**