

BURTLE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Burtle Parish Council was held on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

125 PRESENT

Councillor S Bull (vice chairman)
Councillor J Hedges
Councillor N Ponsillo
Councillor J Porter

126 APOLOGIES

None received

127 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

The following were unanimously elected:

Chairman Cllr S Bull

Proposed Cllr J Porter **Seconded** Cllr N Ponsillo

Vice Chairman Cllr J Hedges

Proposed Cllr S Bull **Seconded** Cllr N Ponsillo

128 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS, CODE OF CONDUCT AND FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS

These have been reviewed plus IT Policy, Document retention policy and Media policy. It was noted that Burtle Parish Council does not presently use Facebook. It is felt that this might be a useful tool in a limited and controlled way. Investigations to be made.

129 BURTLE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINEE AND FOOTPATHS LIAISON OFFICER

Chairman of Burtle PC is ex officio member of Burtle Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr S Bull expressed concerns that she would not be able to attend their meetings due to work commitments. It was agreed that Vice Chairman Cllr J Hedges be nominated.

Cllr N Ponsillo expressed that he is willing to continue in the role if there is no one else to take it on. He noted that there are many longstanding issues with most footpaths in the parish but it is virtually impossible to get Rights of Way Dept to take any action.

It was also noted that there is now a footpath volunteer in the Parish.

The Parish Council wrote to the relevant landowners about blocked footpaths several years ago and it was agreed to do this again.

130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr N Ponsillo declared an interest in the agenda item regarding the land for sale adjacent to the Village Hall.

131 DISPENSATIONS

None were sought

132 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2026 were agreed and signed.

133 MATTERS ARISING

Highways – Potholes Still some requiring attention in Westhay Broad Drove.

Bridge in Catcott Broad Drove – plaque collected today bridge repair scheduled for July. Plaque will be embedded into the stonework on the eastern side. Photo to follow. Road will need to be closed

Bridge at Redgate – nothing to report

White Lines – Repainting of halt markings by Black Bull Bridge and missing sections between Black Bull Bridge and Redgate have been requested.

134 FINANCE

Statement of accounts to 31.3.26

Statement circulated Balance in hand at year end £7,841.19

Audit of 2025/26 Accounts

Richard Young has agreed to act as Internal auditor.

Insurance renewal

Basic policy renewal has been checked and as it still meets the needs of Burtle PC, Cllrs unanimously agreed to renew at £214.00 pa from 1.6.26.

Invoices for payment

Zurich Insurance - <i>Premium 1.6.26 – 31.5.27</i>	£214.00
SALC - <i>subscription 2026/7</i>	£190.66
Grass cutting at Sandpit - <i>April 2026</i>	£108.00

Proposed Cllr J Hedges

Seconded Cllr N Ponsillo

135 PLANNING

Applications –

None notified

Decisions -

None notified

136 ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Westhay Broad Drove - Natural England has contacted the owner about the recent tipping. Somerset Enforcement Dept are reviewing case re unauthorised portacabin on the site.

Robins Drive - A new Enforcement Officer has now been appointed. No further information.

Catcott Broad Drove - nothing to report from Natural England or Highways regarding barbed wire fencing.

137 TRAFFIC THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND ROAD MARKINGS

SID data for Southview Farm facing East received and passed to interested parties. SID is still at Southview Farm facing west.

138 CASUAL VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

An election has been triggered as more than ten electors have written to Somerset Elections Dept requesting an election to fill the vacancy. The vacancy cannot now be filled by cooption.

Election Officer is making the arrangements. No dates available yet as they are awaiting response from BVH about booking the hall. Date will be set by the Returning Officer and official notices must be displayed on Parish Council Noticeboard and website.

Election costs must be borne by Burtle Parish Council. Estimated cost supplied for a contested election will be £1,500 - £2,000 depending on cost of hall etc. There is an option to have poll cards issued to each elector but this will be at an extra cost. Councillors agreed that they should be issued in the interests of openness and transparency.

Cost of an uncontested election is around £100

139 CORRESPONDENCE

Email has been received from a member of the Parish asking why Burtle Parish Council have taken no action with regard to trying to purchase the field adjacent to the Village Hall which is currently up for auction to provide a carpark.

Cllr N Ponsillo has expressed an interest in the land and took no part in the discussion. The person who sent the email has asked that his name and details of the enquiry are noted in the minutes

Councillors discussed the points raised in the email from Mr Dean; they were clear that they did not pursue the matter when the land first came up for sale as there was no realistic opportunity for the Parish Council to purchase the land and make a car park for the following reasons:

- The land is subject to a secure long term agricultural tenancy agreement
- The estimated auction sale price is £90,000 - £100,000 and is likely to exceed this. Burtle Parish Council does not have sufficient funds or income to reach such a sum nor do they have resources and income to qualify for a Public Works Board Loan to make the purchase.
- Potential to increase the current precept income of £4,500 to an amount to service such a loan is not possible from a village with about 120 properties paying Council tax.
- No approach has been received from Burtle Village Hall Committee regarding purchasing the land for a carpark.
- The only formal approach from anyone in the village is Mr Dean's email. One informal approach was made to a Councillor who explained the situation to the enquirer.

A copy of the email and the reply is appended to these minutes at Mr Dean's request.

140 ITEMS OF INTEREST

Tessa Munt came to April Café Burtle. It was disappointing that she did not let either the Parish Council or the organisers of Café Burtle know in advance as we could have let people know and given more people opportunity to speak with her.

Fly tipping Westhay Road reported

141 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting.

SignedDate..... Date:

Sat, 18 Apr 2026 12:32:48 +0100

Subject: Burtle Village Council request for Government loan.

Good Morning Maureen,

Would you please pass this email on to councillors.

We all would have noticed various plots of land for sale or lease around Burtle and nearby villages.

For the size of our community and the very high use of our Village hall we are in a minority of not having a car park or amenity space.

Parking along the road outside the village hall continues to be hazardous, with cars passing by at times too close for comfort.

My understanding is that the PC has not made an application to the government under the PWLB scheme to secure funding of land surrounding the hall for the benefit of the community.

I would like to understand why an application was not made, and why there was no consultation with villagers to ascertain support for such an important issue.

These opportunities do not come up often, so I will be very interested in the PC reply.

Kind Regards,

Bill Dean

Land for sale in Burtle
Burtle Parish Clerk <clerk@burtleparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sun, 17 May 2026 2:42:26 PM +0100
Sent
"Bill Dean

Good afternoon Bill

Your email of 18.4.26 was discussed at the Parish Council meeting in May 2026. Councillors do not believe there has been any opportunity to provide a car park for the village hall for the following reasons:

There was only one plot of land for sale in Burtle and that is subject to a secure long term agricultural tenancy. The guide price was £90,000 - £100,000 and, as expected, it actually sold for far in excess of that at auction.

Burtle Parish Council has very limited resources and although Councillors are aware that finance is available to Parish Councils from the Public Works Loan Board, Burtle would not qualify for the size of loan that would have been needed to purchase the land in question even if it would have been possible to build a car park on that land. Proof of resources and income to carry out a project including ongoing maintenance and to service any loan is an essential first step that must be made to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government through the Somerset Association of Local Councils before the request then qualifies to be submitted for formal approval from the Secretary of State.

Burtle Parish Council's current annual income is £4,500 pa and with about 120 properties in the parish, opportunity to increase that income is extremely limited.

No approach regarding the possibility of providing a car park has been received from Burtle Village Hall Committee.

The only contact that the Parish Council has received from parishioners on the matter has been your email and an informal conversation between another parishioner and a councillor. Councillors understand your comments about the desirability of a car park for the Village Hall but unfortunately it was not a viable option to pursue.

Please be assured that Burtle Parish Council will continue to do their best for the village with the very limited powers and finances available to them.

Kind Regards

Maureen Perdue
Clerk to Burtle Parish Council
01278 722395