



BURSLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Annual Report

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of Electors, this is my opportunity to tell you what we have been doing and your opportunity to ask me and the Council questions about the work of the Parish Council.

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2017/18 Annual Report of Bursledon Parish Council,

HOW IS BURSLEDON PARISH COUNCIL STAFFED?

- 12 unpaid volunteer councillors
- 2 paid admin staff working (20 hours each)
- 1.5 paid ground staff (Working 40 and 16 hours per week)
- 36 Library Volunteers
- 1 Volunteer Tree Warden

COMINGS AND GOINGS

In the last year Cllr Mark McCormick resigned for personal reasons and we advertised a vacancy in November last year. An election was called, and we were pleased to welcome Cllr Boma Simo- Hart as a councillor.

We also had a change in our outside work force and we welcomed Matt Docking to take over as our full-time member of the team. Matt brings with him many years of experience as a qualified groundsman and a new direction to the work the staff undertake.

PUTTING OUR TROUBLES BEHIND US

The challenges of the previous two years have continued to follow us regarding our lease and the previous BDCA management. However, with a new management team in the BDCA we feel that we may be seeing light at the end of the tunnel. In the last week the Council, has approved an agreement between both parties that all the issues raised in the mediation have been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties. Now we will be working to address outstanding issues within the lease to make joint working easier and more transparent.

BOUNDARY CHANGES

In January Eastleigh Borough Council started a local Governance Review and asked the Councils to consider their current boundaries. The Council decided by a majority that it would put forward a proposal to change our boundaries to include Old Netley as we believed the community of Old Netley is an integral part of our community and residents primarily use services such as schools, library, community facilities and shops in the Bursledon area. We did after taking advice and conceded that the part of Bursledon between the M27 and hedge end would see significant housing growth over the next three years and is primarily an urban extension of Hedge End that will look to Hedge End for local services and that the M27 provides a natural and permanent boundary between the two communities.

Currently the area of Old Netley are being asked to vote on where they wish the parish boundary to be. However, if there any changes these will not take place until May next year.

WEB SITE

In the last year we have had to change our website provider and the new web site was launched last Friday, but we have had a few teething problems however, we are always willing to accept constructive comments to help us improve the content.

The site has been developed to focus on two areas the Councils work and the Community. There is no doubt that Council news is not very exciting and that is why we have two news areas one dedicated to the council news and one to community news.

If you have community news please send it to the Council offices.

There are currently many hidden pages waiting to be released and you will see the website grow over the next six weeks.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING

Despite all the upheaval our services have continued

- Allotments
- Cemetery
- Maintenance of the closed cemetery and the Mausoleum.
- Open Spaces at Long Lane Recreation Ground and Great Down Park
- The pavilion and sports facilities
- Play Areas
- The Refurbishment of Parish Council Notice boards
- Tree Planting
- Ecology areas

THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We continue to provide a Community Library with the support of a solid group of Library volunteers who provide an important service to the community.

They give on average 22 hours per week to keep the library operating and without them this service would not be available to Bursledon and the surrounding community areas.

They have been badly affected by the legal disputes of the past as have the number of people visiting the library, however we hope that now this will improve as we have everything on a more solid footing.

There are currently three groups running in the library, Knot and Natter, Creative Writing and Scrabble.

If you would like to join come to the library better still if you would like to volunteer to ensure the library stays open volunteer at the Library.

WHATS IN THE PIPE LINE

This year has been all about recovering from three years of legal difficulty and preparing for the current year.

- We are in negotiations to transfer the ownership of Pilands Wood Open space to the Parish Council and we anticipate this happening soon.
- We have received developer's contributions to resolve the land slip issues in Lionheart Way and to place a new young children's play area on the Pilands Wood Open Space.

- We will continue to refurbish noticeboards
- Enter the Cemetery of the Year Competition
- Develop a capital programme of renovation for our other play areas.
- An accessible roundabout in Long Lane play area
- Renovation of cemetery footpath and gates to provide better access.

Finance 2017/18

WHAT DOES IT COST TO RUN THE PARISH COUNCIL?

This year despite a number of unexpected expenditures we have managed to balance our budget for 2017/18.

As a result, this year the Parish Council decided not to increase its precept and it now cost you £61.84 per Band D Household.

During 2017/18 we have funded several projects within the community.

- Two new memorial benches in remembrance of the end of the WW1 hostilities which will be put in place in October 2018 partly funded by a county council grant from Cllr Tonia Craig
- Two new notice boards for the Pilands Wod area, one to be located outside the community centre and another in Reeves Way area.
- Small grants have been given to
GAF
Bursledon Village Hall
Long Oak Pre School
Swanwick, Bursledon & Warsash Regatta
Woodland Walks
- In addition, we have funded £10,000 for youth services in partnership with the other parish councils, Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council.

What we did not plan for was

- Urgent drainage works in Great Down Park £3,200
- An election £6,934
- Legal fees £2,262