

BURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance & General Purpose Committee** meeting of Tuesday 11th February 2025 held at the Centenary Hall, Smallfield

OPEN FORUM: No members of the public attended

Attendance: Cllrs Bob Locke, Ashleigh Bolton, Alison Lewis, Debbie Hale, Eddie Lord, Debbie Hale, Linda Herwig and Nick Bush. Cllrs Dodman and Morris attended via Zoom

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Carney and Gilbert, for reasons noted in the attendance book and accepted by Committee. Mr Alan Jones also sent his apologies
- 2 **Declarations of interest – either personal or prejudicial on any agenda item:** None
- 3 **The minutes of Tuesday 10th December 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting**
- 4 **Matters arising from the minutes:** None

GatCom report Cllr Lord reported to Committee that he represented the Council at the last meeting as Mr Jones was unavailable. Cllr Lord summaries the meeting as;
The Gatwick Airport CEO stated passenger numbers for 2024 were more than 43 million. This is 93% of the pre-Covid numbers.
New routes and airlines have been added.
1 security issue during 2024 that was widely reported.
Train fore at the airport station causing issues/delays.
Delays caused by snow and fog have led to a £17m future investment in airport resilience.
The airport is trialling 'smart stand' AI. Technology to improve turnaround times.
Rapid taxiway use is also reducing turnaround times for planes.
A planned refurbishment of the North Terminal is underway/nearing completion and a similar refurbishment is planned for the South Terminal.
February 27th 2025 is the date when the airport will receive a decision regarding the new runway.
Gatwick Airport business rates are set to increase from £200m to £1b overnight.
Biodiversity – lots of airport land is now being used and there has been a big increase in the number and variety of insects and creatures, including some rare domestic snakes.
Travel Care – this is a charity, funded by the airport, which helps passengers with onward to home costs should they return from holiday with medical problems/lost wallets/etc.
The final year of Gatwick Airport Community Trust grants is 2025 with the closing date for applications being 31st March 2025.
The south of airspace changes will be introduced first. This is a long term project covering the UK airspace.

- 5 **Finances** - the Chairman reported the Council held the following cash balances

Unity Trust
Instant Access: £45,179.64
Current T2: £6,652.47

Lloyds
Instant access Saving: £11,890.94
Current £717.93
Car Park Deposit £1,882.42

Cash Available

£64,440.98

Committed Expenditure to end of financial year

Staff: circa £15k including NI and Pensions

Utilities £5k

Insurance for next year nearly £6k

At present the Council is holding money to the value of roughly 6-months running costs though this will be reduced by the end of the financial year. It will be important to work on building reserves slowly over the next number of years having used most of the reserves for the new car park and playground construction.

- 6 Clerks report – Fencing and Doors** - The Clerk has begun the process of getting three quotes for replacement/amended fencing at the Centenary Hall. The work will be broken down into three parts. The first being essential replacement of damaged/missing fencing to the left boundary, around the pond area and replacing the broken rear gates, the second, funded by the Gingerbread Nursery to move a fence line forward giving them a little more garden area for the children and the third a costing for replacing the rear boundary fence, though this one is less essential.

Two weeks ago the main door could not be locked for a short while. It is believed the lock is worn over years of use. However, the door is also ill-fitting now and the entrance is not user friendly for people with mobility issues. Rather than replace the lock in an unsuitable door, the Clerk is getting quotes to replace the door completely. The spec being requested is a 1m wide door, partly glazed, with a lower threshold and an electric opener that will not be damaged if the door is opened manually. There will be a fixed panel to the side. Also needing replacing are the double doors and frame to the baby room of the nursery. They have rotted since their installation in 2016. The Clerk is looking to replace with Upvc to avoid the problem in future.

- 7 Items of an urgent nature** brought to Council's attention for inclusion on a future agenda – No urgent items, however Cllr Lord and Cllr Herwig have been asked if they would like to participate at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 14th April, at 7pm, to talk about Gatwick Airport and the planned VE Day event. The race director from the London to Brighton bike ride will also be attending and will take questions from the residents attending.

Signed..... Dated.....

Meeting Closed at 19.50pm

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th February 2025