

BURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance & General Purpose Committee** meeting of Tuesday 14th October 2025 held at the Centenary Hall, Smallfield

OPEN FORUM: No members of the public attended

Attendance: Cllrs Bob Locke, Ashleigh Bolton, Alison Lewis, Andrew Gilbert, Debbie Hale, and Mr Alan Jones

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Eddie Lord, Cat Dodman, Donna Morris, John Carney and Nick Bush for reasons noted in the attendance book and accepted by Committee.
- 2 **Declarations of interest – either personal or prejudicial on any agenda item:** None
- 3 **The minutes of Tuesday 10th June 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting**
- 4 **Matters arising from the minutes:** None
- 5 **GatCom report – (full report can be found at the end of the minutes)** Mr Jones reported that GACT will be closing and replaced by Gatwick Airport giving money to the three county councils, Surrey and the Sussex's. There are no details as yet what will happen with the charitable funds as Surrey CC is to be replaced by unitary authorities. Gatwick Airport's CEO, Stuart Wingate is leaving to become the MD of Edinburgh, Belfast and Gatwick airports. Pierre Hughs Schmit is to be the new CEO.
- 6 **Clerks Report –**
Solar Panels – Professional advice stated that while solar panels can help with utility costs, the battery cost can end up with no net saving being made as the lifespan of the panels and batteries is likely to equal the 'pay back' time. Just as the system would be beginning to. Pay for itself both would in all probability need replacing. In addition, a secure storage area would be required for the batteries and if this was outside, then the space would need some heating. Council agreed to proceed without batteries. The heating consultant did recommend an 'i-boost' for hot water heating if Council installed solar panels. He also recommended replacing the existing boilers with gas boilers next year at an approximate cost of £7,000.
- 7 **Emerging Neighbourhood Plan -** Cllr Hale reported that the NPlan Chairman, Mr Bond, has been in contacts with Mr Perrins of TDC. Mr Perrins has asked the committee to review the maps, NHS boundary, Green spaces and allotments as part of the process. Mr Perrins is also recommending some re-wording of policies.
- 8 **Men's Shed –** Cllr Gilbert and the Clerk are to meet to discuss what grants to apply for. The Clerk was asked to contact Surrey CC and see if they would be willing to 'asset transfer' the bungalow to the parish council.
- 9 **British Gas Volunteer Day –** The day seemed to pass successfully. The volunteers worked over three sites and did painting of the Golfing Dreams simulator room, bramble and weed clearance at the allotment and painting and compost area construction at the Centenary Hall. The volunteers seem keen to make it a regular event.
- 10 **Cllr Locke – Drainage –** all seems to be working well.
Cllr Bolton – Centenary Hall is ok, the clearing of the entrance to the Nature Garden and Volvo car park will take place later in the year.
Cllr Hale – Playgrounds – Some repairs are being carried out today of the skate ramp. Unfortunately, the contractor was not given a full list of the remedial work required by the TDC officer and so will need to return later.

The safety matting around the crow's nest has been replaced but unfortunately wasn't raised above ground level so will still flood. The zip-wire seat and protective covering have been replaced. But the football goals still appear loose in the ground.

- 11 Budget 2026/27 – no additional items to be added
- 12 There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.45. The next scheduled meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 9th December 2025.

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