

BURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting of Tuesday 10th February 2026 held at the Centenary Hall, Smallfield

OPEN FORUM: One member of the public attended but did not speak.

Attendance: Chairman Bob Locke, Vice Chairman Ashleigh Bolton, Cllrs Debbie Hale, Andrew McLean, Eddie Lord and Nick Bush, Cllrs Dodman and Morris attended via Zoom.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllrs Gilbert, Carney and Lewis for reasons accepted by Committee
2. No Declarations of interest and therefore no dispensations required.
3. To minutes of Tuesday 9th December 2025 were signed as a true record of the meeting
4. Matters arising from the minutes – for information only
5. Chairmans Announcements – The Chairman informed all that he has set the date of the Annual Parish Meeting for Monday 30th March 2026 at 7pm.
5. GatCom report from Mr Jones

Passenger numbers are now at 43 million having recovered to 93% of the pre-covid travellers. The airport has added new routes and new airlines. There has been one security issue, a train fire and some fog and snow. The company is investing £17m in future resilience. Currently there is a trial of a 'smart stand' AI system to improve times.

A refurbishment of the north Terminal is underway, and a South terminal refurbishment is in the pipeline. The use of rapid taxiway has made turnaround times quicker.

GACT has confirmed that this will be the final year for grant applications before the grant pool is devolved to the local authorities.

Financing continues to be a problem, for example the recent government changes to business rates has resulted in the airport rates rising from 32m to 31b overnight.

Work to improve biodiversity on unused land has seen an increase in the numbers of insects and creatures, including some rare snakes.

The incoming changes to airspace will be brought in gradually starting with the south of the country.

6. Update on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (if any)

Cllr Hale reported that they have been working through all the consultation responses received. Over one hundred and seventy responses were received and all of these need to be taken into account and either changes made to the Plan or an explanation as to why the comment is noted but no change made. Once all of the data has been processed and any changes made the next step is to submit the final documents to Tandridge District Council. They will then take control of the NDP and carry out the Regulation 16 consultation. The TDC officer, Rebecca Landman, has been very helpful to date. Tandridge Council will fund the referendum when it reaches that point.

7. Update on Men's Shed (if any) - None

8. Update (if any) from Councillors areas of responsibility

Cllr Locke – Drainage - all is well

Cllr Bolton – Centenary Hall, Keepers Corner nature garden and car park – the entrance to Keepers Corner has been cleared. A site visit needs to be carried out to plan future work and then quotes can be sought.

Cllr Gilbert/Hale – Playgrounds – The QE2 site continues to be very well used. Cllr hale has asked about the bin emptying schedule as she noted the bins were full over the weekend

Cllr Morris – School Liaison - None

Cllr Bush – Social Media and Litter Picking – Cllr Bush reported he had signed the litter picking up to the 'Great British Spring Clean' and was hoping to expand the scope of the group beyond litter picking to include sign washing, perhaps pavement clearing and other items depending on the number of volunteers who attend on the day. He will also need to arrange purchase of some cleaning materials/equipment with the Clerk.

Cllr Dodman – Dowlands Lane field - None

11. Items of an urgent nature brought to Committee's attention for inclusion on a future agenda – None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40pm. the next scheduled meeting takes place at 7pm on Tuesday 14 April 2026

Signed Dated