BURSTOW **PARISH** COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance & General Purpose Committee** meeting of Tuesday 14th April 2026 held at the Centenary Hall, Smallfield

OPEN FORUM: Several members of the public attended and said that the Shipley Bridge Inn has announced it intends to close at the end of the month. The residents explained that the pub is very important in their small hamlet, as a place to meet for celebrations, socialising and in times of need. During previous challenging times such as snow or power outages, the pub has opened the door and welcomed all in to shelter, access hot food or broadband and helps bring the community together. They are sad and worried about what the impact will be for them.

Attendance: Vice Chairman Ashleigh Bolton, Cllrs Alison Lewis, Andrew Gilbert, Debbie Hale, Eddie Lord and Nick Bush, Mr Alan Jones

1. Apologies received from Cllrs Bob Locke, Andrew McLean, Cat Dodman and Donna Morris for reasons accepted by Committee
2. No declarations of interest and, therefore, no dispensations required.
3. The minutes of Tuesday 10th February 2026 were signed as a true record of the meeting.
4. No matters arising from the minutes
5. GatCom report from Mr Jones (as previously circulated) – Mr Jones said a discussion had taken place regarding how future meetings would be held, either face-to-face or virtually. Mr Jones has a preference for 'in person' meetings. It was agreed that they would continue with the 50/50 format.

   GatCom has recently highlighted to DfT that the 220 aircraft is emitting a 'whine' when flying over Lingfield.

   Route 4 at Gatwick Airport has planes taking of in a westerly orientation, followed by a 180 degree turn. There has been an issue since the changeover from beacons to on-board navigation and an 'air route change' is required. It is expected this will take a significant amount of time (3 years ish) to implement and they are currently about 18 months into the process. Mr jones has not submitted a comment on behalf of the Parish Council as it will have no impact on the Parish.
6. Update on the draft Neighbourhood Plan (if any). Cllr Hale reported that there is another small delay. It was hoped to proceed to Reg 16 consultation on 25/3 but Tandridge Council now require some additional changes. It is expected the consultation will commence on 11/5.

7. Update on Men's Shed (if any) – Cllr gilbert said that the working party is just waiting on some quotes, having changed approach and now are asking stable & barn companies if they can supply a workshop.

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

Cllr Locke – Drainage - No report

Cllr Bolton – Centenary Hall, Keepers Corner nature garden and car park. The British gas engineers are returning next month for one day. They will focus on the Nature Garden

Cllr Gilbert – Playgrounds – At a meeting with the TDC officer, Catherine Dainkah, she informed Council that she intended to remove the current skate ramp and replace it with a much smaller, concrete one. This is despite telling her that the frame comes with a 25-year guarantee, the wood 'skatelite boards' are relatively inexpensive and that the smaller skate ramp will not challenge any but the smallest children. Again, we explained that we believe that spending money on a 'pump track' would be a far better option, along with keeping the current skate ramp.

The officer said that she may move the existing playground at Plough Road to the most west point of the car park.

Cllr Morris – School Liaison

She did not know if the sports club had taken on the lease of the Plough Road recreation ground.

Cllr Bush – Social Media and Litter Picking – Cllr Bush said the last litter pick took place on the 29/3 and was part of the 'Great British Spring Clean'. Eight volunteers attended and collected rubbish, cleaned all the signs in Smallfield and removed overgrowth on Weatherhill Road on the far side of the motorway bridge. He also thanked Cllr Hale who, when unable to attend on the day, spent time beforehand cleaning and collecting rubbish. The next litter pick takes place on the 24/4 and this will be Cllr Bush's final one. Unfortunately, due to moving home, Cllr Bush will no longer live in or close enough to the Parish to continue in his role. The Committee extended thanks to Cllr Bush for the time and work he has put in during his tenure and said that he will be missed.

Council will need to find a new person to run the litter pick and manage social media.

Cllr Dodman – Dowlands Lane field – No report

Cllr Hale – Hall gardens – due to weather and various life events she has not yet managed to meet up with Mrs Herwig so they can plan what planting is needed for the pots and beds around the Hall. This will hopefully be resolved soon.

9. Items of an urgent nature

I) Committee asked the Clerk to submit an Asset of Community Value application as quickly as possible. This request will be ratified at the next meeting.

ii) Unfortunately, due to moving home, Cllr Bush will no longer live in or close enough to the Parish to continue in his role. The Committee extended thanks to Cllr Bush for the time and work he has put in during his tenure and said that he will be missed. The Clerk was asked to advertise the vacancy

iii) Dog bag dispensers – The Clerk was asked to contact the TDC officer, Simon Mander to find out if it has been TDC staff removing the dispensers. Cllr Hale said a new bin has been installed at Church Lane, Burstow.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.45. the next scheduled meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 9th June at 7pm.

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