

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



www.burnhamparish.gov.uk

A message from the Chairman— CIIr Marie Hammon



Welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting of 2024; it is wonderful to see you all here. As we have experienced before, it has been a roller coaster ride this last year. Just as our new Clerk, Louise Hayday, had successfully ensconced herself into the heart of our council, having been our General Manager beforehand, Louise was lured on to a bigger Council. So we turned to our very reliable Locum Service where our lovely new Locum Clerk Karen Crowhurst parachuted from blue skies onto unknown territory and got to know all the staff at break-neck speed, calming the waters very quickly. Karen has been a wonderful influence on all of the council. Then Karen had a bit of an accident; she is fine, but had to leave us for a while. Thankfully another Locum Clerk then arrived, Steve Milton, who has continued the good work meantime. Steve gave a particularly good Councillor training session, which was both serious and entertaining, where we learnt many new rules and regulations within the role. Now thankfully, we have appointed our brand new Parish Clerk/RFO, Adam Killeya, who will be starting in June. Adam is very personable and comes with a wealth of experience within councils and a great deal of enthusiasm and energy. He is positively chomping at the bit in anticipation of the role and we are very lucky to have him.

At this point I would like to thank all of our staff for the hard work, loyalty and enthusiasm they have shown in the past year. In the office, our Assistant Clerk, Laiba, has worked exceptionally hard fulfilling lots of the Clerk's duties and work during the last few months. Laiba has been a true star. Rupi, our Finance Officer, has also worked extremely hard bringing our finances up to date with a clean audit; Rupi is another true asset. Halima has also worked hard in administration. I would like to thank the Grounds Staff Team Tim, Barry and Tom for their diligence and smooth running of the recreational grounds and playgrounds, keeping them beautiful and safe. They have succeeded in achieving runner-up for the last two years in the Best Kept Village competitions and I wish them the best of luck in this year's Pushman Cup. I would also like to thank Amanda and Zoe for all their hard work at the successful and popular Pitch Side Cafe.

Burnham Park Hall staff have continued to work very hard in maintaining the successful running of the halls, bookings and events that have occurred during the last year. The General Manager Alex has moved on to fresh fields; meantime our Locum manager Bruce has been efficient and professional in his role by supporting the staff very well. Thanks also to Nikki for her ever warm and welcoming presence to all our visitors where she fulfils a vast variety of high quality skills. Our great thanks also to Neil, Darren, Denise, Ella, Martyn and Boris for their continuous devotion to their roles. All the staff, Cllr Carol Linton and I attended an 'Employee Appreciation Lunch' in May to thank everyone for their support and hard work over the past year. I delivered a speech, enclosed in this report, thanking them and it was well received by all. I now wish to thank all the hard working Councillors for their contribution to the last year. Cllr Carol Linton has worked exceptionally hard over the past two years as Vice Chairman. Carol has worked on different projects, especially The Neighbourhood Plan, and has used a great deal of her time devoted to the council. I therefore wish to thank Carol very much; her expertise and knowledge will always be greatly appreciated. I also wish to introduce our new Vice Chairman John Carey and welcome him to his new role within the council; John has also greatly contributed to many committees since he became a Councillor. I am grateful to all the Chairs and Vice Chairs for their leadership and support during the last year; these include Cllrs Alexa Collins, Ekta Kaur Ross and Paul Bunce. We have lost no Councillors this year, and have welcomed new Councillors Terry Gamble and Rukhsana Pasha to our Council.

Burnham Parish Council is still working hard on achieving new goals and plans for the future. A new path has been created on the front green. We installed new Christmas lights in front of Burnham Park Hall and all down the high street. We had many posts on social media praising us for the lights, some saying that they were better than the Christmas lights in Oxford Street! We are continuing to work hard on the Neighbourhood Plan, with recent focus on the Design Statement, maintaining the conservation areas and the Metropolitan Green Belt where possible. We are now looking forward to the 80th Anniversary 'D' Day Commemorations on Thursday the 6th June. At 11am Bob Slater of the Burnham Royal British Legion and I shall be observing two minutes' silence and, at around 9pm, we shall be lighting a beacon. I shall be reading the National Tribute with Mayors and Chairs situated all over the country.

Thank you very much.



An Introduction to Burnham Parish Council

Councillors

Burnham has 19 Parish Councillors who are elected for a term of 4 years. There are currently 17 Councillors and 2 vacancies. If you're interested in serving as a parish councillor and making a positive impact to your community, consider applying for one of the available vacancies.

- Burnham Lent Rise Ward x 1
- Burnham Beeches Ward x 1

Councillor resignations in 2023-24 Councillor Co-options in 2023-24

None Cllr Terry Gamble

Cllr Rukhsana Pasha

Councillors are responsible for making key decisions and deciding on Burnham Parish Council's spending plans and budget for the financial year ahead.

Councillor wards can be seen on page 5.

Council & Committee Meetings

Full Council meetings are held throughout the year to carry out the Council's business. These meetings are supported by four other committees:

Policy and Resources Committee

Recreation and Amenities Committee

Burnham Park Management Committee

Planning Committee

Members of the public are very welcome to attend all Council and Committee meetings. 15 minutes is allocated for public participation at the start of every meeting. Members of the public have the chance to address councillors on any matter relating to policy or decisions made by Burnham Parish Council.

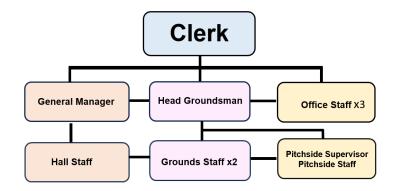
Parish Council Office Staff

Parish Clerk & RFO - Karen Crowhurst and Steve Milton (Locums)

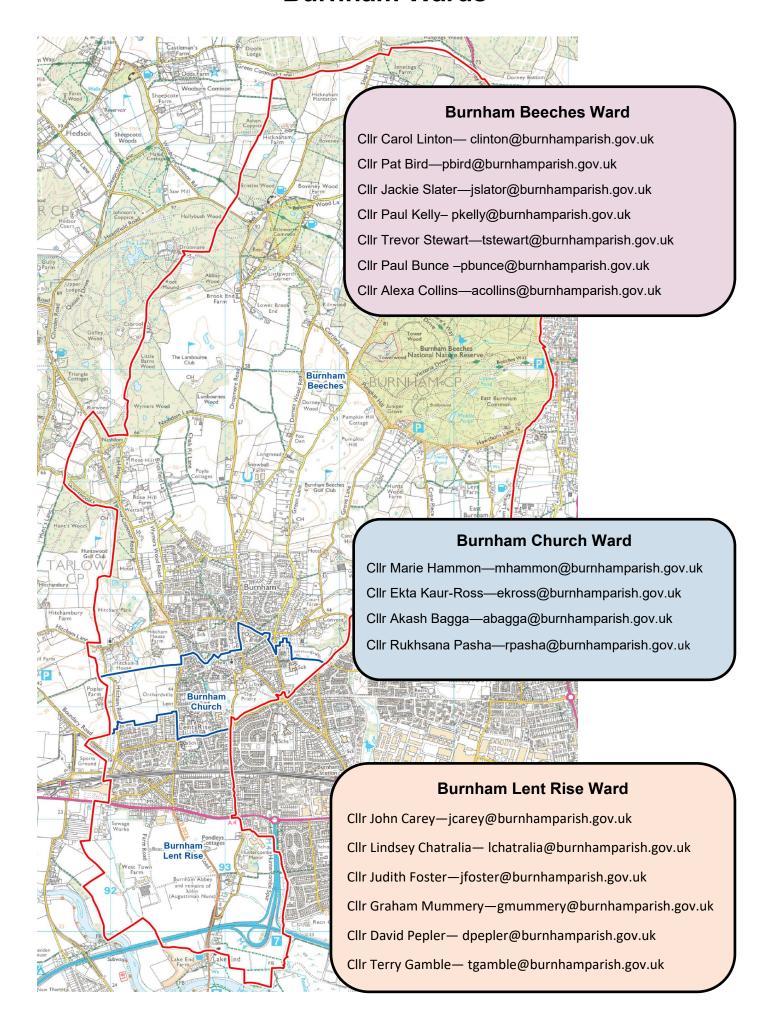
Assistant Clerk— Laiba Malik

Finance Manager - Rupinder Gaidhu

Admin Officer - Halima Begum



Burnham Wards



Goodbye Louise

We bid a fond farewell to our Parish Clerk, Louise Hayday, who has been a huge part of Burnham Parish Council and the Burnham community.

Councillors and council staff were joined by members from organisations, community groups and residents who have fondly worked with Louise to say goodbye and wish her all the best in her new role, where we are sure she will excel! Louise has been at the forefront of several projects and accomplishments within the Council which has been highlighted by Burnham Parish Chairman, Marie Hammon in her very apt speech. Although Louise will be sadly missed, we are all very proud and would like to congratulate and thank you on behalf of Burnham Parish Council!



...and Alex

It was with great sadness that the Council bid a fond farewell to Alex Thame after so many years of dedicated service to the Council. Alex started working shortly after the fabulous new hall was built and rose through the ranks to take over as Operations Manager. His good humour and dedication to the role saw the venue filled with activities and events. We will certainly miss his cheery smile around the place.

With Alex leaving, we have brought in the services of the Local Government Resource Centre to provide interim management until a new manager is appointed in June. Our locum manager Bruce has made an immediate impact, reviewing operations, updating fees and charges and steadying the half's finances. Thank you Bruce and LGRC.

During this period of change, we have had to reduce the number of events promoted in the hall and the park. This is a temporary measure until our new GM is in post and we can begin to build up the fantastic programme of events of which we are all so proud.

Hello Adam

Any period without a Clerk at the help is unsettling for a parish Council. With the departure of Louise, we acted quickly to bring in additional support for our staff team. The Local Government Resource Centre was engaged to provide interim locum services. Karen Crowhurst and Steve Milton came in after Christmas and have guided us through this uncertain period with aplomb, ensuring we have a seamless transition from Louise to our new Clerk, Adam Killeya. We were absolutely delighted to welcome Adam to our meeting on 20th May and to confirm his appointment as our new Clerk, Proper Officer and Responsible Finance Officer. A teacher by profession, Adam brings a wealth of management and local government experience to the role and we are all really looking forward to getting to know him better when he starts his new role at the beginning of June.

Employee Appreciation Lunch

Welcome everyone. This celebration is exactly as it is headed, 'The Employee Appreciation Lunch'. I, on behalf of the entire council, want to thank each and every one of you personally for your unstinting, positive, dedicated and sterling work that you have contributed to the successful running of Burnham Parish Council and Burnham Park Hall. We have, through the passage of recent times, had many ups and downs that you are all familiar with. We had a run of less successful clerks, and then the return of our wonderful former Burnham Park Hall Manager, Louise, as our new Parish Clerk. However, before two years were up, Louise was drawn to a more challenging role and promotion, so we were plunged into another vacuum of no clerk, and this has been followed by the loss of our former Halls Manager, Alex. This has happened before and we pulled through, and we shall successfully move forward again.

Our wonderful new Locum Clerk Karen has filled the role of the Parish Clerk extremely well. By parachuting out of blue skies onto unknown territory she has targeted the support that is needed in certain areas and has got to know all of us personally with her fantastic, uplifting spirit and wonderful sense of humour. Our other part time Locum clerk Steve has also supported her role with equal humour and ability, our Locum Manager Bruce has also began to help us continue running the halls with his years of experience and knowledge.

I want to thank the Groundsmen for all their extremely hard work on maintaining and ensuring the safety of our grounds. Tim, Tom and Barry have succeeded in achieving runner up for the last 2 years in the Best Kept Village competitions and I wish them all the best of luck in this year's Pushman Cup. Let us hope that no resident leaves a cigarette butt on the grounds and that everyone shall take pride in our outside areas. I walked around The Cherry Orchard over Easter and noticed how clean, well kept and beautiful it all was. I saw well cut grass and healthy trees bursting out into blossom. A peaceful place to read or picnic. Burnham Park is also pristine and well kept as well as all of our play areas. I shall look forward to future plans in our parks. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda and Zoe at the Pitch Side Cafe for all their hard work and success at creating such a popular and highly valued food outlet. I have heard wonderful comments for the delicious food with is served with enthusiasm and happy faces.

I would also like to thank the staff at Burnham Parish Council for all their hard work and fortitude at this more challenging time. Rupi is such an excellent asset in finance, I am forever grateful for her diligence and knowledge. Laiba has also been outstanding for all her hard work in supporting and managing a great deal of the clerk's duties and I wish her well in her determination in obtaining the high CiLCA qualification. Halima also has worked extremely hard in supporting the administration of the office with her high level of experience and ability. I also have to say a big thank you to Denise for the constant hard work at keeping our offices and halls spotlessly clean and pristine; it reflects our high standard of morale and faith in our work place.

Nikki in Burnham Park Hall is always such a warm representative and support to our visitors, I often have people complimenting Nikki with her everlasting smile and lovely attitude. Nikki describes Burnham Park Hall as 'her home', that is the best compliment one could ever wish for. Nikki is a true asset. I also want to thank the workers in Burnham Park Hall, including Neil, Darren, Martyn, Ella, Boris and all the staff. I am amazed how much physical work is required in running a venue such as ours. Neil always shows good nature and grace when he is trying to move us councillors out as we chat after our meetings. Every single employee in Burnham Parish Council and Burnham Park Hall are a real asset in the true meaning of the word. We are sincerely grateful to you all and fully appreciate all that you do; every person supports one another, there is a magnificent feeling of teamwork amongst you all.

Thank you once again!

Cllr Marie Hammon

Chairman

New Path at Burnham Park

We have recently completed the construction of a new path through Burnham Park. It was clear that residents were taking a short-cut across the grass and this was beginning to wear out the turf, so by popular demand, the Council decided to replace this informal route with a brand new path.



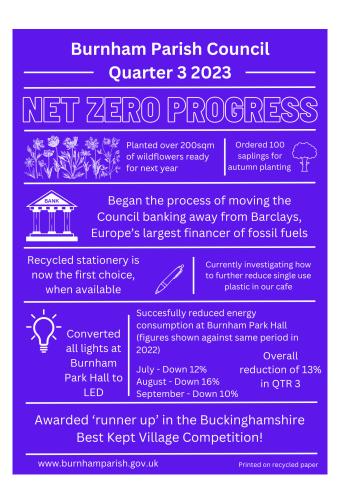


Climate Emergency

Burnham Parish Council is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Our mission is to integrate environmental protections into all council activities and promote decarbonization, environmental enhancement, personal well-being, and economic growth.

This solution-based approach highlights community involvement and mutual support to create a sustainable local environment.

After a small period of inactivity due to some internal staffing changes, the council are due to take significant actions to address the climate emergency and work towards net-zero emissions.



Outside Spaces

Parish Council Grounds Staff

Head Groundsman - Tim Garrett

Groundsman - Thomas Shakespeare

Groundsman - Barry Fitzgerald

Our groundsman plays a crucial role in maintaining outdoor spaces such as sports fields, parks, and gardens, ensuring they remain safe, attractive, and functional. Their tasks can include mowing lawns, planting flowers, trimming trees and shrubs, repairing irrigation systems, and managing pest control. This work often requires a combination of physical labour and technical skill, involving the use of various machinery and tools.







Outdoor spaces that are looked after by the Grounds team are: The George Pitcher Memorial Ground, Burnham Park, The Village Green, Hag Hill Playground, St Peters Recreation Ground, The Stomping Ground and The Fairway.

The Grounds team are assisted on Fridays by the Community Payback scheme, the workers have been busy clearing footpaths, litter picking and removing graffiti. If you know of a footpath that is in need of clearance please let Laiba know on Assistantclerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk

Best Kept Village



The Council were proud to be awarded a certificate of merit in 2023 for finishing runner up in the Best Kept Village Competition.

The highlight the importance of community involvement in maintaining public spaces and recognise the hard work and dedication of local councils and residents in making their villages beautiful and welcoming.

In addition, The council are proud to have such dedicated community members, and we look forward to continuing to work together to keep our village beautiful. Thank you for making a difference!

New School Campaign

The Council working group continue to challenge both local and national government over the lack of secondary school provision in Burnham.

More parents are needed to help the campaign on the ground, applying pressure to Buckinghamshire Council and raising awareness around the very real issues that parents and children are facing in Burnham.

To get involved please email:

newschool@burnhamparish.gov.uk



BURNHAM SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR ALL

Neighbourhood Plan



Burnham Neighbourhood Development Plan!

Your Plan
Your Parish
Your Future

Help needed to produce the Burnham Neighbourhood Plan!

The Burnham Neighbourhood Plan will put in place planning policies for the future development and growth of the parish.

Work is continuing on the Neighbourhood Plan for Burnham, but we need your help!

Buckinghamshire Council have recently released the results of their initial call for sites and there are some worrying inclusions within the Burnham greenbelt.

With the South Bucks local plan being so old and the emerging Buckinghamshire local plan being a long way off, Burnham is currently left with little protection against development.

If you would like to contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan and help shape the future of Burnham please get in touch.

clerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk

GRANTS AWARDED IN 2023-2024

Burnham Community Association - £500 for Burnham Village Fete

Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches - £1000 for Burnham Donkey Derby





To find out more about applying for a grant from Burnham Park Council please see the Council website or contact the Clerk on clerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk

Memorial Bench Programme



Burnham Parish Council's Memorial bench programme involves the installation of benches in public spaces, such as parks, gardens, or other community areas, as a way to honour and remember loved ones who have passed away.

Interested parties would submit an application to the organisation or government entity responsible for managing the programme. The application would include information about the individual being honoured, as well as their preferred bench location, design preferences, and inscription details.

If you are interested in providing a long-lasting memorial to a loved-one, please email:

Assistantclerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk.

Burnham Park Hall

Burnham Park Hall Staff

General Manager - Bruce Burry (Locum)

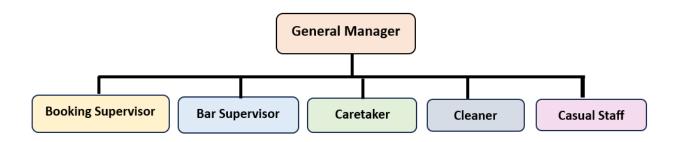
Bookings Supervisor - Nikki Kipping

Bar Supervisor - Darren Kenny

Caretaker - Neil Lewis

Cleaner - Denise Zaman

The permanent BPH staff are supported by a team of casual staff working weekends, evenings and



The Closing of Burnham Lions Club

Due to a sudden recent loss of members with President Phil Whittaker moving back to the North and the sad demise of Lion Marilyn Rolfe, Members have decided that the club cannot carry on without a major, highly unlikely, influx of new members. Regretfully, the club will therefore cease supporting our local communities from the end of June 2024.

After 25 years it was a sad decision to make, but it was apparent that the club could no longer manage the various things they did to support our communities, especially the bigger events such as the Christmas Fayre and Santa's sleigh rides around the villages.

Despite the closure, Burnham Lions Club legacy and impact on the community may endure. The organisation has played a vital role in supporting and improving the lives of individuals and families in the Burnham community through its dedication to service, philanthropy, and community engagement.

We would like to thank the club for being a beacon of hope and support, consistently stepping up to address the needs of our community with compassion and Integrity.



Burnham Park Hall Events

Here's a recap of some Burnham Park Hall events which were enjoyed over the year.







































We have entered the Best Kept Village competition again this year! Judging is due to take place between 1st June- 14th July.



Burnham Parish Council - Precept Leaflet 2024-2025

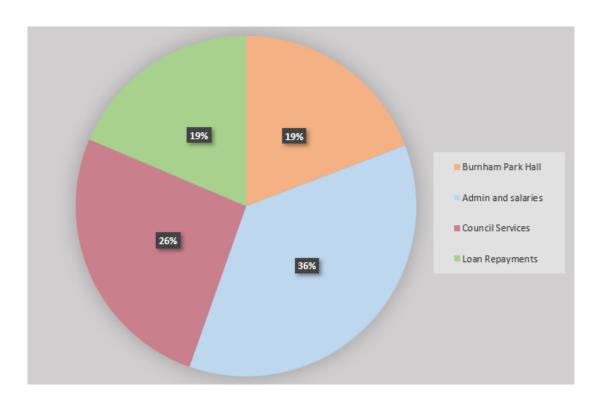
How does the precept work?

Burnham Parish Council provides public services to the residents of the village of Burnham and the surrounding Parish of Burnham. We are responsible for local issues in the Parish on behalf of these residents and to do this we raise our own form of council tax which is known as the precept. The precept is collected on our behalf by Buckinghamshire Council and is included in your council tax bill. In preparing its budget for 2023-24, Burnham Parish Council has looked hard at where it can make savings by reducing costs and focusing on efficiencies, while at the same time providing the projects, functions, and services that the community of Burnham expect to be delivered by the Parish Council.

The 2024-2025 precept

The average whole household (ie. Band D) will contribute £130 per annum (£2.50 per week) through the precept portion of Council Tax towards funding all of the projects, functions, and services that Burnham Parish Council provides for the community. This gives the Council £673,203 plus any income we receive to invest into the village.

Burnham Parish Council Precept Breakdown



Council Services includes all parks, playgrounds, George Pitcher Memorial Ground, public toilets, street lighting and street furniture.

If you would like any further information on how your money is spent please contact the Parish Clerk at: clerk@burnhamparish.gov.uk

Calendar of Meetings 2024/25

Burnham Parish Council - Meeting Calendar 2024/25			
All Council and Committee meetings take place in Burnham Park Hall			
	Date	Time	Meeting
June 2024	Monday 3rd June		Planning Committee
	Tuesday 11th June		Recreation & Amenities Committee
	Tuesday 18th June		Policy & Resources Committee
	Monday 24th June		Full Council (+ AGAR)
	Monday 24th June	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
July 2024	Tuesday 9th July	6 30 PM	Burnham Park Management Committee
	Monday 15th July	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
	Monday 29th July		Full Council
	Tuesday 30th July		Policy & Resources Committee
	rucsuay sour sury	0.50 T W	Tolicy a resources committee
August 2024	Monday 5th August	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
riaguot zoz-	monday our ragost	4.001 111	. Idaming Committee
September 2024	Monday 2nd September	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
	Monday 9th September		Full Council
	Tuesday 10th September		Recreation & Amenities Committee
	Tuesday 17th September		Burnham Park Management Committee
	Monday 23rd September		Planning Committee
	Tuesday 24th September		Policy & Resources Committee
October 2024	Monday 14th October		Planning Committee
	Monday 21st October	7:00 PM	Full Council
	Tuesday 22nd October	6:30 PM	Recreation & Amenities Committee
November 2024	Monday 4th November	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
November 2024	Tuesday 12th November		Burnham Park Management Committee
	Tuesday 19th November		Policy & Resources Committee
	Monday 25th November		Planning Committee
	Tuesday 26th November		Recreation & Amenities Committee
December 2024	Monday 9th December	7:00 PM	Full Council
	Monday 16th December	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
January 2025	Monday 13th January	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
	Tuesday 14th January		Burnham Park Management Committee
	Monday 27th January		Full Council
	Tuesday 28th January	6:30 PM	Recreation & Amenities Committee
February 2025	Monday 10th February		Planning Committee
	Tuesday 11th February		Policy & Resources Committee
	Tuesday 25th February	6.30 PM	Burnham Park Management Committee
March 2025	Monday 3rd March	4:30 PM	Planning Committee
	Monday 10th March		Full Council
	Monday 24th March		Planning Committee
	Tuesday 25th March		Recreation & Amenities Committee
	T 1 50 4 0		
April 2025	Tuesday 8th April		Burnham Park Management Committee
	Monday 14th April		Planning Committee
	Tuesday 22nd April	6:30 PM	Policy & Resources Committee
			Di
May 2025	Monday 12th May		Planning Committee
	Monday 19th May	7:00 PM	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
	Tuesday 27th May	7:00 PM	Annual Parish Meeting

Public Participation at Meetings

All meetings are open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons (i.e. confrontational, abusive etc.)

The public's exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.

Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included on the agenda. The period of time which is set aside for public participation is at the Chairman's discretion but in general should not exceed 15 minutes.

The opportunity to speak is on a first come first served basis. Each member of the public is entitled to speak only once and for no longer than 3 minutes. Therefore if more than 5 people have signed in to speak it will be the first 5 given this opportunity unless it is all on the same subject.

Questions asked by a member of the public during a public participation should NOT require an immediate response.

The Chairman may at any time choose that a question asked by a member of the public be directed to another Councillor for an oral response or to an employee for a written or oral response.

The Chairman can elect whether or not to hear a member of public speak if they feel the subject in question has already had enough hearing.

If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings at any meeting the Chairman may, after warning, order that they be removed from the meeting and may adjourn the meeting for such a period as is necessary to restore order.

All public participation will be included in the minutes for that meeting.

All comments need to be addressed to the Chairman.

Only one person may speak at a time.

For an enquiry not relating to a current agenda please write to the Clerk for a written response after the next meeting of the full Council.







Burnham Parish Council

Burnham Park Hall

Windsor Lane

Burnham

SL1 7HR

01628 661381

office@burnhamparish.gov.uk