



BURNHAM ON SEA AND HIGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007

Some general information on how to contact us, and keep in touch with what we do.

Write to the Town Clerk at:

Burnham on Sea and Highbridge Town Council
The Old Courthouse
Jaycroft Road
Burnham on Sea
Somerset
TA8 1LE
Tel: 01278 788088
e-mail: townclerk@burnham-highbridge.org

For those of you who have access to a computer browse our website: www.burnham-highbridge.org

Here you will find agendas of all Town Council meetings, and the meetings of its committees (so that you can find out what is being discussed) and once approved, copies of the minutes from all our meetings.

All our agendas are also published on our public notice boards at the following locations:

- The Council offices in Jaycroft Road, Burnham
- The Princess (opposite the library) in Burnham
- The Community Hall, Market Street, Highbridge.

All council and committee meetings are open to the public, and provided that you give proper notice to the Clerk, you may address the council for three minutes on any issue of local concern.

May 2007 Elections

Local council elections are due to be held in May 2007, when all existing members of the Town Council will need to decide whether to seek re-election.

Do you think you would make a good Councillor? Why not find out how you can help your community? Any present councillor would be happy to tell you what is involved. This is your opportunity to be part of local democracy.

Accounts

The audit on the Town Council's accounts for 2005/6 has now been completed.

Anyone wishing to inspect the accounts may do so by making an appointment by telephoning the Town Clerk on 01278 788088.

The audit of the 2006/7 accounts will take place towards the end of 2007.

Budget for 2007/8

After careful consideration of its budget for 2007/8, members of the Town Council this year agreed to a net budget of £293,486 for 2006/7, of which a net figure of £127,906 is the Town Council's contribution towards the expenditure incurred for the Burnham Joint Burial Committee. By careful management of its reserves and prudent management of the budgetary requirements for the coming year, the Town Council has been able to keep its precept requirement (ie the figure the local taxpayer has to bear) to a total of £279,486 (including the budget for the Burial Committee) which equates to £41.65 pence per household per annum for an average band D property, an increase of just £1.39 or 3.45% for the year.

The minutes of the Town Council's budget setting meeting may be viewed on the Town Council's website (www.burnham-highbridge.org) by following the link to minutes and agendas, and then going to the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 18 December 2006.

Town Council Grants

For the financial year 2006/7, the Town Council set a budget of £10,500 for grants to local organisations, as follows:

Miscellaneous grants	£2500
Grant to the Cultural Arts Development Society (CADS)	£1200
Community Initiatives (Town Christmas trees)	£1000
Britain in Bloom	£ 800
Chamber of Trade BOS (for Christmas lighting)	£1200
Chamber of Trade H/B (for Christmas lighting)	£ 800
Burnham Community Centre	£ 800
Highbridge Community Centre	£ 800
British Legion (Poppy Wreaths)	£ 200
Grant to the CAB to assist with the costs of an outreach office for Burnham & Highbridge	£ 600
Town twinning (Fritzlar)	£ 150
Town twinning (Louvigne du Desert)	£ 150
Expenses for the Town Crier	£ 300

Planning: The Town Council has been pressing Sedgemoor District Council for a review of the overall strategy for Highbridge in terms of planning as members are concerned about the volume of new housing development without any improvements to the infrastructure (leisure facilities, schools, doctors' surgery, transport).

A new consultation document on the appraisal of the conservation area boundaries in Burnham on Sea has been issued by Sedgemoor District Council, with a deadline for responses of 12 noon on Wednesday 7 March. A copy of the document may be inspected at the Town Council offices in Jaycroft Road.

The Princess: Discussions continue on the way forward for the future management of the Princess. Members of the Town Council have visited the building and are currently looking at ways of improving facilities there, and formal negotiations continue with Sedgemoor District Council as to the terms and conditions to be attached to the acquisition of the building.

Burnham Joint Burial Committee is made up of representatives from Burnham and Highbridge Town Council and Burnham Without Parish Council. It is responsible for the management of three cemeteries—Highbridge, Burnham on Sea (Westfield Road) and the new cemetery at Brent Road, Berrow, which will eventually serve all the residents of Burnham and Highbridge and residents from Burnham Without Parish once the cemeteries in Burnham and Highbridge are full.

At Brent Road, we have recently introduced a new Rose Garden where ashes can be interred and marked by a commemorative stone.

For information on any of the cemeteries, please contact the Clerk to the Burial Committee, tel 01278 795111, or visit the Burial Committee office at the Council office in Jaycroft Road.

Forthcoming Events

- The Farmers Market—4th Friday of each month Burnham High Street, 9am-1pm.
- 2 June—Vale of Avalon Vintage Vehicle Run
- 10 June—Burnham on Sea Triathlon
- 3 August—Seaside Fun Day 11am to 4pm Beach and Esplanade
- 3-5 August—Stert Island Swim, Burnham Beach and Esplanade
- 31 August –2 September, Burnham on Sea Folk Fest

Many of these events are sponsored by the Town Council, or supported by grants from the Town Council.

If you wish to make any comments on this newsletter, please contact the Town Clerk.

Burnham & Highbridge Youth Town Council, acts on behalf of the young people within the two towns. We continue to meet once a month to discuss issues which affect young people and our community. We have recently held a sponsored stay-awake to raise money for Children's Hospice South-west (final total tbc) and are currently joining in with a regional youth campaign about public transport and access for young people. We welcome new members of 10 years and over. Our current chairman is James Ballantyne and secretary is Andy Burland.

Contact us:

- Via the Town Council Offices
- The Town Council Web-site

Poster Points. We have two of these, one outside Alpha House on Market Street, Highbridge, and one at the junction of Marine Drive and the High Street in Burnham. These are provided to promote community events. If your organisation wishes to use these, please supply 2 posters (preferably colour, A3 and in landscape format) to the Town Clerk's office. Please allow at least 2 weeks before your event. (The Highbridge Poster point was damaged during the recent storm but we have arranged for it to be re-erected.)

Esplanade lighting: Sadly some of the Esplanade seasonal lighting was damaged by heavy winds in mid January and had to be removed.. The Town Council's contractors are currently reviewing the extent of the damage so that an accurate estimate of the repair costs may be sent to our insurers. We are confident that the lights will be reinstated, if not in time for Easter, then certainly in time for the first May Bank Holiday weekend. Any local business wishing to sponsor this lighting should contact the Town Clerk.

Your Town Councillors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>Contact</u>
P Clayton*	North	787432
D Davey*	North	780591
E Gill	North	783570
J Hodge	North	
N Jones*	North	785905
D Parry	North	786162
J Morgan	Central & South	785466
Mrs H Rose	Central & South	784198
A Thorogood*	Central & South	785454
M Mansfield *	East	783271
C Williams	East	787274
Miss L Parkin*	West	795342
A Smout	Burnham Marine	786003
Mrs P Burge	Highbridge	788134
Ms J Burridge	Highbridge	780130
D Cooper*	Highbridge	789773
D Poole	Highbridge	793321
Mrs J Whitehouse*	Highbridge	793674

County Councillors

Mrs R Parsons	Burnham South & Highbridge	785427
M Facey	Burnham North	788169

Other District Councillors

M Brown	Highbridge	787588
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**Denotes also a member of Sedgemoor District Council*