

Burton Pedwardine & Burton Gorse Village Meeting - Tuesday 21 Oct 2025

Parish Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Coy, Peter Davy, David & Frances Jerram, Fraser Key, Tim & Sara Marchant, Wayne & Luisa McIntosh, Richard & Ali Sutherland, Martin & Liz Thompson, Andy & Mandy Topp.
(15/88).

Apologies: John & Gill Aguilar.

Item 1. Previous Minutes (04 Apr 2025 Meeting)

Corrections: Present. Add Richard and Ali Sutherland to those present; Delete 19/192, insert 21/192.

Item 3d. Delete £4.50, add £4.25.

Item 8. Add 'Flooding. There was some discussion about flooding and landowners were reminded of their riparian responsibility to maintain ditches and drains.'

Proposed: SM

Seconded: LM

Carried Unanimously.

Item 2. Actions Arising

Item 2. Defibrillator Maintenance. Defibrillator donated to SHOCK Sleaford. Complete.

Item 2. Church Gate access. FK stated that church gate vehicle access would continue to be by negotiation. It was suggested that replacing the kissing gate with wheelchair-friendly version might resolve the issue. FK agreed to investigate costs. **Action: FK**

FK further stated that this route to the church was not a public right-of-way.

Item 3b. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). Submitted with no observations. Complete

Item 4. Planning application 24/1470/FUL Starlight Energy. Parish response submitted. Starlight Community Benefit agreement signed and submitted. Complete. FK stated that this was inadequate. AT suggested that NKDC would receive a rate and the parish could apply for further community benefits from that.

Item 5b. Speeding. Repeater signs purchased for £296 and erected. Complete.

Item 6. Community Emergency Plan (CEP). Ongoing. **Action: AT**

Item 7a. VE80 Day Complete

Item 7b. Summer BBQ. Complete.

Item 3. Digital and Data Compliance. AT reported on the National Association of Local Councils Practitioners' Guide 2025 which highlighted a new Annual Governance and Accountability Return requirement from April 2026 called 'Assertion 10, Digital and Data Compliance'. The parish currently had a partial e-mail list, a newsletter and an unofficial WhatsApp group, none of which were deemed data compliant. Essentially, compliance meant that the Parish had to improve data security and the way that information was provided to residents. It had to be done in a way that demonstrably followed the Data Protection Act and some further rules about transparency and accountability. The Clerk was mandated to have a GOV.UK email address.

There was some choice as to how compliance might be achieved. It could be done on a DIY basis but that would require investment in hardware and software etc. It would also require significant additional skills and a workload that realistically Clerks would find difficult to provide. Or a commercial support service could be used. Agreed that DIY was not viable.

AT had looked at six commercial providers that specifically claimed to provide support to parishes and recommended selecting one that had an easy-to-use but comprehensive product, good support and best value. There would be an estimated annual fee of about £350 per annum. After discussion, it was agreed to proceed in time to meet the AGAR deadline.

Proposed: WM

Seconded: MTh

Carried Unanimously.

Action: AT

Item 4. Roads.

- a. Speeding. RS stated that the 30MPH repeater signs were not making much difference. There was no alternative route for lorries and buses. WM suggested that reporting the VRN of speeding commercial vehicles to their head office would soon have an effect. **Action: All**

The cost of a speed indicator display was currently beyond the scope of the parish. MC suggested that Osbournby might be willing to lend their SID periodically. WM would investigate.

Action: WM

- b. Potholes. MC had contacted Rowan Smith, LCC Area Highways Manager, about surfacing Asgarby Road but had not received a response.

Item 5. Planning Applications

- a. 23/1419/FUL Mareham Lane Solar Limited had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against the NKDC's decision to refuse permission for the installation of a solar farm astride Mareham Lane. The Public Inquiry would commence at NKDC Offices on 3rd February 2026.
- b. 24/1470/ FUL. Solar Farm at Burton Gorse. No documents added since Aug 2025.
- c. Following some discussion, there were no other active planning applications.
- d. Anglian Water Lincolnshire Reservoir. A Community Liaison Group meeting had been held on 25 June – nothing of significance. Next Community Liaison Group meeting Nov 2025.

Item 6. Social Committee. SM reported:

- a. Soldier. This was to be erected before 11 Nov 2025 at a site (or sites) within the parish.
Action: TM & WM
- b. Harvest Supper 24 Oct 2025. Sixty-ish tickets sold.
- c. Book Club. Next meeting 14 Nov, new members welcome.
- d. Pop-up Pub. This had proved quite popular but difficult to break even due to cost of licencing and rent. Licencing was essential but the church wardens agreed to waive rent for future events. Future event TBN.
Action: SM
A bring-your-own event was discussed but not favoured.
FK offered his licenced venue for a further future event.

Item 7. Amenities.

- a. Bench. MC proposed the purchase of a stone bench to be sited on the S side of the church, cost not to exceed £500
Proposed: FK Seconded: PD Carried Unanimously. **Action: MC**
- b. FK offered to donate a further wooden bench for the approach to the church. **Action: FK**
- c. Grants. Various grants were available from time to time to improve parish amenities etc. and should be considered for future projects.

Item 8. Finance.

- a. Balance & Cash Flow. AT reported: Cash in Bank: £2135. Unallocated: £1737. Further items planned: Bench £500; Digital services subscriptions £350.
- b. Precept. The Precept for 2026-27 was set at £1000.

Proposed: TM Seconded: MTh Carried Unanimously. **Action: AT**

Item 9. AOB.

- a. Local Councillor. MC would invite local Councillor, David East (Reform), to speak and answer questions at a meeting in Jan 2026. **Action: MC**
- b. Meeting Procedures.
 - i. Style. AT explained that the Parish Meeting Style (name) had been changed in Nov 2018 to 'Burton Pedwardine and Burton Gorse Village Meeting'. This was administratively cumbersome, and 'Village' was not widely recognised by other entities. Agreed to revert to 'Burton Pedwardine Parish Meeting' and petition the District Council accordingly.
Proposed: LM Seconded: SM Carried Unanimously. **Action: AT**
 - ii. Constitution. AT explained that the parish meeting did not have a written constitution. A constitution would improve transparency and accountability, legal basis, provide guidance on procedures, and improve residents' understanding. A draft document would be produced for approval at the next meeting. **Action: AT**
 - iii. Chairman. AT explained that the Chairman should be elected/re-elected annually (April).

Item 10. DONM. The next meeting would be on 14 Apr 2026 (tbc).

A Topp
Parish Clerk

22 Oct 2025