
BURNTWOOD ANNUAL MEETING

17TH MAY 2007



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present this brief Annual Report which gives me opportunity to reflect upon significant events of the year and begin to look forward to the next.

This year has been a very significant year for the Town Council both in terms of new services and internal staff changes. The long awaited opening of the Burntwood cemetery was achieved in the early part of 2007 following protracted negotiations over the very necessary rules and regulations required to govern usage of the site. Necessary restrictions on eligibility to the burial ground can create disappointment and pain for relatives and I know that the Council will want to carefully review the rules governing the site in the coming years and publicise the rules to the public at large. Everyone involved in creating this much needed facility can take pride in this achievement: the creation of a peaceful and tranquil burial site within the Town Council area.

The Wakes festival was seen to be a great success in the summer. The success has given the Council increased confidence to strengthen commitment for future years and seek to deliver an event that is looked forward to and enjoyed by the whole community in Burntwood.

The Town Council saw the retirement of Paul Parnell as Town Clerk at the end of 2006 following a much appreciated period of service. Paul is succeeded by Mary Danby who joins the Council from being Town Clerk at Banbury Town Council. We wish her well in her new role and look forward to working with her for many years to come. The Council took the decision to make the post full-time in order to increase officer capacity to develop the work of the Council as Burntwood hopefully moves forward in the development of new amenity and service to all residents.

Throughout the year the Council has sought to maintain and strengthen links with community organisations by membership of management committees, grant aid and general advice. Membership of community based organisations can, and often does, play a very important part in informing the minds of officers and members in their Town Council work. In addition it informs opinions about matters being dealt with by District and County Councils.

In order to increase the ability of the Council to assist the public a decision was taken to move offices from the Library to the recently vacated district Council Offices nearby. Work is already underway to adapt the building which will open to staff and public in 2007.

As Chairman for the year I have sought to maintain the strong tradition of former Chairman to facilitate effective working of Town Council in full committee and through involvement in community and civic events in the Town and District. I have been ably assisted by John Walker as Vice-Chairman and I would wish to record my appreciation to him for this work.

The Town Council grant aid programme has continued to assist a significant number of organisations in the Town and the chosen charities for the year have benefited from generous donations to the Chairman's fund.

I would also wish to record my thanks to Paul Atkins, Leader, Di Evans, Deputy Leader and all members and officers of the Council for making my year as Chairman so enjoyable.

The year ahead is indeed a year of opportunity. Much needed development on the Town Centre is expected as is a review of new services for the Council. The Council must find ways of becoming more relevant to the people of Burntwood and I know that officers and members will want to maintain a focus on this matter.

May I wish my successor every good fortune for the coming year?

COUNCILLOR R E CAMPBELL
CHAIRMAN, BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL 2006/07