

Burlescombe Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting of Burlescombe Parish Council
on Tuesday, 21 April 2026 at Westleigh URC

Present: Councillors Forward (Chair), Downing, Elliss-Brookes, McDonald, Smith and Walker together with MDDC District Councillor Westcott, and the Clerk, Mrs S McGeever.

Councillor Forward opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed the councillors present and members of the public.

011/2627/1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Box together with MDDC District Councillor Lock and DCC County Councillor Clist.

011/2627/2 Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations.

011/2627/3 Minutes of Previous meetings

The draft minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2026 had been circulated to all councillors and published on the website and noticeboards. These minutes were approved then duly initialled and signed by the Chair.

011/2627/4 Public Participation

Members of the public present raised the following matters:

Precept increase

- Why had the precept risen over the past two years?
- Was there sufficient communication surrounding the setting of the budget?

Quarry

- Given the Parish Council's involvement with the quarry over the Old Railway Line, was this indication that it was 'in bed' with Holcim?
- Nightworks and the number of lorries and bright headlights/other lights

FVEG

- What is the relationship between the Parish Council and FVEG?

Newsletter postcards

- Why had the sign up not worked?

The Parish Council advised that many of these issues were on the agenda and would be discussed under the appropriate items.

The precept increase was not on the agenda and given its importance, the Chair advised that the Parish Council had deliberated on the budget and subsequent setting of the precept at several meetings as well as holding a public event at Burlescombe Village Hall to encourage residents to come forward and discuss the figures which had been published on the website and noticeboards. Information had also been put up on social media, provided to Mid Devon District Council and published in the Parish Magazine. However, the Chair acknowledged that not all residents had access to computers and not all residents were mobile. Communications on such an important matter as the budget would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

As to the budget figures, the Chair advised that the primary fiscal responsibility of a Parish Council was to ensure that it would not face bankruptcy. In 2024, the bank balance had been below £5000 and this did not meet best accountancy practices where a reserve should be held equivalent to one year's precept together with reserves for statutory requirements such as elections.

The holding of a contingency reserve to cover unforeseen expenditure was also recommended.

Following on from a resident's survey, key areas of improvement had been noted such as replacing the fencing at Westleigh play park. With no reserves, the Parish Council had had to increase the 2025/26 precept to cover known statutory and non-statutory expenditure.

For the year 2026/27, the Parish Council had included sums to cover the build up of the reserves required for best practice as well as sums to cover the maintenance of assets to the correct health and safety levels. The understanding was that Local Government Reorganisation could see non-statutory assets and services currently held or undertaken by Mid Devon District Council pass to the Parish Council but with no associated funding, so a contingency fund had been set up so that if this was the case, the Parish Council could secure those assets and services for the residents of Burlescombe Parish.

Any excess funds would always be moved into reserves, which could result in the precept being lower going forward if expenditure continued at its current levels. The Parish Council had also worked hard to bring in other monies such as VAT refunds and grants for footpaths.

The Annual Parish Meeting would be taking place on 20 May 2026 and all residents were welcome to come and engage with members of the Parish Council.

011/2627/5 Matters arising from the last minutes

Updates on matters arising from the last minutes will be raised under the appropriate agenda item.

011/2627/6 Emergency Planning

Councillor Forward noted that the Clerk was updating the draft Emergency Plan. Once all the information was in place then the maps to accompany the Emergency Plan could be generated and the Community Response Team set up. The team would be comprised of Parish Councillors and, hopefully, volunteers.

Councillor Forward also advised that discussions on muster points was ongoing.

A date for a public meeting would be set after the May annual meetings but was likely to be mid-September.

The key outcomes from the Devon Community Resilience Forum was that each community needed to be prepared and a recommendation had been to appoint a Flood Warden.

Councillor Forward proposed and Councillor Elliss-Brookes seconded the proposal that Councillor McDonald take on the role and this was unanimously agreed.

Funding was available for two-way radios which could be used if power/phone networks were lost. The funding could be accessed when the Emergency Plan was complete.

011/2627/7 Community Mapping

Councillor Forward advised that the project was ongoing and it was noted that the parish was unique in having three quarries within its boundary.

Review of risk register

The updated risk register would be circulated prior to the May meeting.

011/2627/8 Training

The Clerk had forwarded the National Association of Local Council's IT Policy. It was a 'fits all' policy and would need to be adapted to meet the working practices of the Parish Council. It would also cover the Bring Your Own Device policy.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to adopt the policy duly adapted to meet working practices and this would be approved at the May meeting.

MDDC Planning Training

Councillors Elliss-Brookes and Forward had attending the free online event that focussed on the National Planning Policy Framework and the presentations given had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The planning training had been more related to the various roles with Mid Devon District Council such as conservation and enforcement rather than actual training.

There was no doubt that the parishes surrounding Tiverton Parkway and M5 junctions 27 and 28 would be targeted to meet the new housing numbers set by Government.

In response to the Chair, the Clerk advised that it was highly likely that Burlescombe Parish Council would be invited to join the Joint Traffic Committee which comprised of Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand Parish Councils. The next meeting was on 2 June 2026.

011/2627/9 To receive a report from the Chair

Delivery of fast fibre

Whilst BT were working in the area, there was no information on delivery times.

VE Day Flag

Councillor Forward advised that the 80th anniversary commemorative-flag was with the Craft Club who would utilise it in their Remembrance Day display.

Neighbourhood Plan / Housing Needs Survey

The Housing Needs Survey was now live and was being promoted through social media.

This survey together with input from residents would form the basis of a Neighbourhood Priority Statement which would be taken into consideration by Planning Officers but did not carry the same weight as a Neighbourhood Plan. However, until the National Planning Policy Framework and Mid Devon District Council's Neighbourhood Plan were in place, a Neighbourhood Plan could not be written.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to set up a working group of Councillors Elliss-Brookes and Smith together with the Clerk to move forward on the Neighbourhood Priority Statement. The initial survey of residents could take place over the coming months.

Business Continuity Plan

The Clerk had almost completed the plan which reflected the Parish Council year with daily, weekly, monthly and yearly tasks.

Registering assets of community value

Councillor Forward advised discussions were ongoing.

Spring Clean Up Day

Parish Councillors would be attending the Spring Clean Up Day on 26 April 2026 which would tackle litter-picking and tidying jobs on the ORL and the cleaning of the safety matting at Westleigh Play Park.

Risk assessments had been written and it was noted:

- Children must be accompanied by an adult who was responsible for them
- No power tools would be used
- No 'sharps' should be picked up but they would be reported
- Volunteer forms would be printed off and signed
- Individuals would be responsible for their own first aid, if required
- Holcim were providing refreshments.

- Biodiversity Net Gain and Promoting Nature
This item would be covered under the ORL.

- Meetings

Councillor Forward put forward the proposal to move to a 6-week cycle for full parish meetings and to revisit Planning Committee members at the May meeting. Monthly meetings did not leave a great deal of time for actions to be undertaken in between or for Working Group meetings to be arranged.

The Clerk advised that of the councils she worked for some met on a monthly basis, some on bi-monthly meetings but had dates for additional meetings should planning applications need to be considered and some looked not to meet in January and August.

Parish Councillors would consider the options open to them and make a decision at the May meeting and operate any new system on a trial basis.

011/2627/10 To consider the Parish Council's response to the following planning applications and receive decision notices:

26/00368/TELECOM

Proposal: Prior notification for the installation of 1 20m monopole, 3 antennas, 1 600mm dish and 1 equipment cabinet and associated ancillary works following removal of 1 17.7m monopole, 3 antennas and 2 cabinets

Location: Telecommunications Mast at NGR 307009 115761 Pound Farm Burlescombe

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 307009 / 115761

Parish: Burlescombe 06

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it had no objection to this application.

Decision Notices:

The Parish Council noted the following decisions:

26/00151/PIP – REFUSAL – 11 March 2026

Proposal: Permission in Principle for the erection of up to 3 dwellings

Location: Land at NGR 305520 114082 North of Waterloo Court Uffculme Devon

26/00061/PNCOU – REFUSAL – 13 March 2026

Proposal: Prior Approval for the change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to 4 dwellings under Class Q

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 306361 116702 Moor Farm Westleigh Devon

25/01740/HOUSE – APPROVED – 27 March 2026

Proposal: Erection of 2 extensions following removal of existing conservatory and erection of outbuilding for storage use

Location: Locks Cottage Westleigh Tiverton Devon

011/2627/11 Highways Matters/Footpaths

11.1 Roads

Councillor Forward would be sending more potential meeting dates to Councillor Clist who was speaking to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to finalise a meeting date.

11.2 Speed Limits / Speeding

The Clerk advised that a response was still awaited from DCC in respect of the cost of introducing a 20mph limit.

Action: Clerk to follow up

20 is plenty signs

Seddons had advised that the Parish Council could either put the boards up themselves or their board person would carry out the work. If the boards were not clean and tidy, new boards could be provided.

Action: Councillor Smith would put out a social media post to ask for residents to come forward to have a sign erected. The Clerk would provide a photograph of one of the boards at Halberton.

11.3 Potholes and other matters

The matters below have all been followed up again with DCC Highways and MDDC.

Brimstone Lane potholes

Parish Council and public to continue reporting potholes online:

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

White lines / slow sign - Primary School, Burlescombe

This is with the white line team – no update received.

Water from the garages, Burlescombe

Ongoing investigations - further update awaited from MDDC.

Councillor Forward noted that the electronic signs on the A38 had been removed and the wires taped.

Action: Clerk to follow up with DCC Highways

Councillor Forward noted that the drains down the hill from Cracker Corner were blocked and there was water running down the road. It was noted that the likely cause for blockage was silt from the quarry

Action: Clerk to follow up with DCC Highways

11.4 Footpaths

Councillor Smith advised that all footpaths had been walked and the P3 paperwork submitted.

Remedial work was already being carried out on the issues identified.

PROW funding

The Clerk was awaiting the paperwork to cover 2025/26 path maintenance of £900.00.

11.5 Road Warden Scheme/Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor McDonald advised there was nothing to report.

011/2627/12 Financial matters:

The Parish Council noted the following:

12.1 Financial Report 2025-26 (Year End)

The Financial Report is provided up to 31 March 2026 as follows:

Lloyds Bank

Current account balance at 28 February 2026	£ 339.44
Less payments	
Service charge (3/3)	£ 4.25
Service charge (31/3)	£ 4.25
Receipts	
Current account balance at 31 March 2026	£ 330.94

The account is being kept open whilst discussions on the complaint are ongoing.

Unity

Current account balance at 28 February 2026			£ 2858.46	
Payments				
02-Mar-26	S/O to: Countrywide	SJB016	-208.80	
16-Mar-26	B/P to: HMRC	475PM01737213	-160.40	
16-Mar-26	B/P to: Clerk	FEB 26 WAGES	-509.62	
24-Mar-26	B/P to: DALC	INV 7235	-42.00	
24-Mar-26	B/P to: Clerk	EXPENSES FEB26	-25.00	
24-Mar-26	B/P to: Tsara Smith	EMAIL POSTCARDS	-25.06	
24-Mar-26	B/P to: Westleigh URC	FEB 26 MTG	-14.00	
31-Mar-26	Service Charge		-7.00	-991.88
Receipts				
10-Mar-26	DEVON CC	2603062-44	280.00	
Current account balance at 31 March 2026			£ 2146.58	
Deposit account balance at 28 February 2026			£17710.25	
Less Payments				
Plus Receipts				
Interest			£ 97.04	
Deposit account balance at 31 March 2026			£17807.29	

The cumulative bank reconciliation for March 26 had been completed and was duly signed by the Chair.

The budget monitoring information for the 12-month period had been produced and circulated to Parish Councillors and duly noted.

The year end information had been produced and circulated to Parish Councillors and was duly noted. This information would form part of the report to the Annual Parish Meeting and be part of the financial transparency documentation.

Financial Report 2026-27

Payments made prior to the meeting not shown above:

Clerk wages	£278.48
HMRC PAYE	£ 69.60
Countrywide DD (grass cutting)	£208.80 (should be £216.84)

Payments to be authorised:

URC (Meeting room)	£ 14.00
Clerk expenses/mileage	£ 31.10
Countrywide (new contract)	£ 8.04

The standing order will be amended to reflect the 2026/27 contract.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the above listed payments.

Burlescombe & Westleigh Village Hall has been booked for the Annual Parish Meeting at a cost of £36.00.

Agreed change to clerk's hours:

The Clerk's hours would increase to 28 hours per month from 1 April 2026.

The number of hours would be kept under review and could be reduced if the perceived workload does not increase through Local Government Reorganisation. It was noted that certain tasks were undertaken on behalf of all the Parish Councils the clerk worked for and this provided economies of scale. 28 hours x 17.85 = £499.80 per month

The Clerk worked an additional 14.5 hours over the agreed 19.5 hours to 31 March 2026 following the previous agreed additional payment.

12.2 Review of Asset Register

Councillor Forward referred to the return of Parish Council Hardware and this would be covered under other matters.

12.3 Computer

The Clerk would purchase the computer early in the financial year 2026-27.

Action: Clerk

Other matters:

Jackalope Grant and Confirmation of Outcomes

and

Historic website / emails

Further correspondence had been received and it was highly unlikely that a satisfactory outcome could be achieved without appointing a solicitor, which did not make financial sense given the sums involved. Advice would now be sought as to whether there was any alternative to civil redress given the decisions taken by the then elected officials.

Defibrillators

The Clerk advised the invoice was awaited for spare defibrillator pads.

Contact with Lloyds Bank/Financial Ombudsman

The case is ongoing – further information awaited from Lloyds Bank.

- Noticeboards and their upkeep
- Grants and sponsorship – next steps
- Repairs to Westleigh Telephone Box (glass ordered)

011/2627/13 To receive a report on Parish Council Communications

Communications report

Councillor Smith's Communications report forms part of these minutes.

The Parish Council noted the comments made in the Public Forum and further means of communication would be considered, particularly at the time Council Tax bills are received by residents.

Promotion of the Annual Parish Meeting would be increased.

Email newsletters and mail drop

Councillor Smith advised that 35 people had signed up to the email newsletters through social media. Further information would be generated regarding the need to check spam/junk folders and click on the 'reply link' to sign up as highlighted in the Public Participation. Some 14 people had not clicked on the link which provided confirmation of the email address – this is necessary to meet GDPR requirements.

Volunteers

Those expressing an interest in volunteering had been sent the information on the Spring Clean Up.

The goal posts at Westleigh had been mended by a volunteer and the Parish Council expressed their thanks.

011/2627/14 To receive a report on the Councillor Advocate Scheme/local crime

Councillor McDonald advised there was nothing to report that was relevant to Burlescombe parish.

011/2627/15 To receive a report on the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee
In the absence of Councillor Box, no report was given.

It was noted that a car had been abandoned in the canal car park.

Action: Clerk to contact Canal Manager

011/2627/16 To receive a report on the Quarries

Councillor Elliss-Brookes gave a verbal report on the Quarry Liaison Meeting on Monday, 20 April 2026 and the written report forms part of these minutes.

The key take aways were:

- Following social media posts by the Parish Council on who to contact regarding quarry complaints, Holcim was receiving more contact from residents
- A number of drain covers had been damaged and these were being reported
- FVEG had reported lorries travelling in the wrong direction
- It had been noted that the wheel washing did not appear to be working correctly and lorry drivers would be asked to drive slowly for the wheel washer in the hope it would be more effective
- The use of full headlights and other lights on the front of lorries had been noted and a message would go out to drivers
- Nightworks showed that in 2025 120 nights had been used out of a maximum limit of 160 days. For the first quarter of 2026, 40 nights have already been used
- Meetings were usually attended by Environmental Health (but not this time) and the question was raised if the Environment Agency should also attend
- Councillor Downing had raised issues pertaining to the asphalt plant in regard to higher bitumen content and the use of recycled materials

The Parish Council had written a formal letter to Holcim regarding the relocation of the asphalt plant.

The Parish Council noted that the quarry paid at levy to the Government and questioned if they could have some financial input into road repairs and drainage maintenance.

Councillor Downing's report on her meeting with the representative from Heidelberg on Friday, 20th March 2026 forms part of these minutes.

Councillor Downing's report on the Hillhead and Broadpath Quarry Liaison Meeting on Monday, March 23rd 2026 forms part of these minutes.

011/2627/17 To receive a report from the Amenities Working Group

Councillor Forward's report on her meeting with Holcim's Biodiversity expert at the ORL was informative and forms part of these minutes. There was considerable scope to improve the area and improve the biodiversity and wildlife in the parish.

Councillor Forward advised that the work on the oak tree had not been yet been carried out by the appointed contractor.

Action: Clerk to chase

Quotations for the works to the leylandii were awaited. There was the potential that the waste wood could be used as bio-fuel. In the meantime, the Clerk would report the trees to the National Grid as they were touching wires.

Action: Clerk

011/2627/18 To receive a report from MDDC Councillors Westcott and Lock

Councillor Westcott raised the following items:

- Consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework
- Business rates
- Southwest Water and overflows and in particular Exmouth's civil action against them. A film would be shown at Uffculme next week entitled Class Action.
- DCC had voted in favour of the rights of nature and the rights of rivers.

011/2627/19 To receive a report from DCC Councillor Clist

In the absence of Councillor Clist, no report was given.

011/2627/20 Items for next meeting

As detailed in these minutes.

011/2627/21 Dates of the next Parish Council Meetings

Meeting dates are as follows:

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 May at 7.30pm in Burlescombe and Westleigh Village Hall and be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm.

Councillor Forward closed the meeting at 9.03pm.

Signed _____
Chair

Date: _____

APPENDIX

Emergency Plan

On Thursday 26th March I attended the Devon Community Resilience Forum at Teign Valley Village Hall which was hosted by Devon Communities Together.

There were several stands in the hall where I spoke amongst others with a representative from Devon County Council Highways - who advised that potholes are fixed on a strictly prioritised basis according to risk. She also said that any pot holes that a Road Warden filled in would be covered by DCC insurance. Mentioned that having a Flood Warden was also a good idea in response to the changing climate and that there were funds that could be applied for to help with training and equipment.

Flooding was a recurring theme on a number of other stands and it's apparent this will be an increasing problem so perhaps the council should consider whether we want to specifically nominate a flood warden? I picked up a number of leaflets which I will share.

There was also a company there who are based in Willand and sell radios. We talked about how important communication is in an emergency and how difficult it can be should there be a long term power outage. My key takeaway is whether the council should consider applying for funding to buy radios. And also whether that should be extended to the Clerk's other Parish Councils therefore creating a wider communications network that could be used in the event of an emergency?

There were a number of talks - a presentation on Community Emergency Hubs and we as a council are already putting in motion discussions on how these might work in our Parish. Another talk was on wildfires on Dartmoor which although not relevant for our Parish was interesting nonetheless. They talked about how new fire risk warning signs were going to be put up ahead of the summer and also how dangerous portable bbqs were, especially when not used with care. It was mentioned that more should be done at point of sale to educate people on their responsibilities and what can happen should they not be put out properly which I thought was a great idea.

I also made contact with a representative from Devon Communities Together who has specific responsibility for community buildings - I discussed our thoughts about trying to have Westleigh URC Hall designated as an asset of community value and some suggestions were made which I will be following up on.

Interesting event with more food for thought to help us along in our Emergency Planning journey

Emma Forward

Chair

Burlescombe Parish Council

Burlescombe Parish Council communications update

April 2026

Communications since last meeting

1. Parish magazine

A summary of March's meeting will be in the May issue of the magazine, which will be out in the next week or so.

2. Website and Facebook

Our standard approach for significant updates is to add a news item to our website, share that story on our Facebook page and share into the local Facebook Group. This month we have shared:

- Updates from the March meeting.
- Spring clean-up day advert and poster.
- How to raise questions/concerns with/about the quarry
- Housing Needs Survey information.
- Agenda for the April meeting.

3. Noticeboards

Notices, agendas and minutes continue to be posted in the Westleigh, Burlescombe, Appledore and Ayshford noticeboards, where space allows.

The Spring Clean-Up poster was also placed in them, except Appledore.

4. Email newsletter The summary of the March meeting.

Links to news articles on: Spring Clean-Up, April meeting date, March summary, Annual meeting.

Links to news articles on: April meeting agenda, How to raise quarry questions/concerns, Housing Needs Survey, Spring Clean-Up.

We have sent three **editions** since the last meeting, containing:

Subscriptions

- 35 residents are subscribed to the newsletter.
- A further 14 have filled in the form but not confirmed their subscription.
- We will communicate the importance of looking out for the confirmation email and that clicking the link is essential to signing up.
- Councillors continue to deliver postcards around the parish to spread awareness.

5. Volunteers

- The details of the Spring Clean-Up Day were sent out to our volunteer list.
- The goalposts in Westleigh Playpark have been fixed by a kind volunteer

QUARRY

Meeting with the representative from Heidelberg (Friday 20th March 2026)

Representative for Heidelberg (formally Hanson Quarry) re- town farm Sand Quarry (on the left as you go towards A38 from Burlescombe). This Quarry is 'Mothballed' at present.

Ian will contact the company Landscape Architect as to the trimming back of Chestnut trees and he will contact Mid Devon Council as to trimming the verge and cutting back the self-seeded Blackthorn bushes near the road on the left before the woodlands Industrial Unit.

In discussion he also said if required this site will open again in the distant future, especially if building work advances.

Ian showed me where a plan and information is available in emergencies- this should be included in the Emergency plan as silt/sand (quick sand) lakes are a danger for anyone trespassing (especially children) .

It would also be helpful if BPC sent an email to MDDC as well as the quarry company to ask for blackthorn and verge to be trimmed as it is close to a busy road used by the Quarry Lorries as well as village traffic.

Cllr Judy Downing

Report- Hillhead and Broadpath - Quarry Liaison Meeting - Monday March 23rd 2026

Broadpath Landfill Site

A report had been sent by Valencia- now own the site (previously owned by Viridor) and a report was also received by the Environmental Agency.

There was much discussion by the liaison Group about concerns as to leachate from the site and it was felt the report from Valencia was inadequate.

The committee requested that both a representative from Valencia and the Environmental Agency attend the next meeting.

DCC will not permit planning permission for the solar panel site (on the landfills site) until all the problems of leachate etc are dealt with.

Hillhead Operations report

Forty-two and half thousand tons of sand and gravel quarried between January and February 2026.

There was a problem with flooding in the floor of the quarry because of excessive rain this winter - problem receding.

A still press plant was added in January.

Houndaler

Now working on Phase 8- soils will be removed in the Summer with attention to Dormice Protection.

Vegetation to be trimmed.

200 young trees have been planted on Quarry land (behind the Old Well Garden Centre).

I bought up again BPC's concern about no date for the new Asphalt plant to be put at the old composting plant and the Asphalt plant being de-commissioned in Westleigh.

Next Liaison meeting will be in July at 3pm- date to be confirmed.

These are the notes from the Westleigh Quarry Liaison Group meeting held on 20th April, 2026, covering updates on quarry operations, environmental concerns, highway matters, traffic, and planning issues. Cllr Lucy Ellis-Brookes and Cllr Judy Downing were in attendance for Burlescombe Parish Council.

- **Meeting attendees and apologies:** Representatives from Holcim UK and residents' associations attended, with apologies noted for Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed with one amendment.
- **Operations:** blasting nearing completion at Rocknell; Westleigh extraction continuing through Fenacre ridge/development works.
- **Replanting & monitoring:** Knowle Farm plantation replanting agreed (2,000 trees over 4 winters, starting winter 2025); vibration monitoring equipment to be used for a future blast at a nearby property.
- **20mph / VAS:** Noted that BPC DCC correspondence ongoing; cost of VAS signs noted.
- **Drain/leak concerns (Burlescombe Church area):** JD shared reports of HGVs striking drain covers plus possible leak/sinking; Holcim to look into the location.
- **HGV behaviour in villages:** reports of wrong-way routing through Burlescombe and beacons left on; request to brief contractors/drivers and reinforce compliance.
- **Mud on road / wheel wash:** recurring wet-weather mud reported by LEB and other members; options discussed include slowing throughput and/or a temporary second wheel washer.
- **Road condition:** ongoing pothole concerns (quarry–A38) from BPC meetings; highways prioritisation/funding constraints noted.
- **Night movements:** JD concern that night operations are trending high against the 160/year cap; request for clearer reporting (including separating asphalt-related movements), which Holcim indicated should be feasible.
- **Reporting:** LEB confirmed that Holcim contact details are now on the BPC website; EA did not attend and complaints/monitoring were discussed.
- **Water/wildlife:** wider concerns raised about local water quality and whether surveys are taking place (referenced in the context of GWC activity).
- **Planning & investment:** Broadpath asphalt plant progress stalled pending S106 deed variation and land/charge issues; community concerns strongly reiterated and BPC letter of complaint to Holcim CEO and Rachel Gilmour MP noted.
- **Materials:** concern raised about Prolay/recycled inputs; Holcim noted any changes would require appropriate testing/assurance.
- **Community clean-ups:** BPC spring clean (26 April); request for Holcim support (refreshments) and quarry-side litter clearance around fences/laybys.
- **Next meeting:** 20th July 2026.

ORL

Biodiversity

On Thursday 26th March I had an opportunity for an impromptu site visit with Holcim's Biodiversity expert, to the ORL. We walked the length of the path and discussed our proposed works at the Spring Clean Up Day as well as giving advice on what else we could consider to promote Biodiversity in the area.

Wildlife area

Fenced off area on the left between the path and Bray Close would benefit from having more light let in. This could be achieved by coppicing some trees and clearing some glade areas of ivy and undergrowth. Recommended then plug planting with native woodland species to create diversity of habitat. Consider removing the hawthorn trees. These actions would then encourage more butterfly life and other insects. Installing birch bird boxes which are made from hollowed out silver birch branches.

Hole in bank

Recommendation was to fill the hole with wood first and then dig round with the soil that's already there to alleviate the issue

Buddleia by old Tar Plant

Recommendation here was to cut down the stems and then treat the stumps using something like round up. If the stumps were drilled or cut first this would make the treatment more effective.

Picnic area

Advice was to define a boundary around the tables and then stick to keeping just that area clear of growth.

I then asked if he thought there were any other quick wins that we could consider and he suggested bat boxes and planting bulbs for flowers in spring.

Suggested that we should apply to the Holcim Wildlife Enhancement Fund again for money to help with the improvements.

I asked if he had any concerns with any of what we were proposing to do on our Clean Up day and he said that as long as it was done as soon as possible and with care then there were no issues.

I thanked him for his time and he said he'd be happy to help guide us with our efforts. Next steps are to undertake the Spring Clean Up activities and review quotes for the outstanding tree works so we can then decide what else we can achieve and when.

Emma Forward

Chair

Burlescombe Parish Council