



ANNUAL REPORT

2025-6

Chair's Report

The past year has seen the culmination of years of dogged work and aspiration with the grand opening of the Community Garden. This was a considerable feat that we hope will benefit and stimulate the whole village into the future. Similarly, the new hourly train service in each direction from Burton Joyce station was a significant achievement and improvement in our public transport provision, after some seven years of lobbying by the BJ-Train Action Group, with a particular thanks to Chris Helmore for his tireless background work.

Managing our vast range of facilities in Burton Joyce, such as the Poplars Sports Ground, Roberts Recreation Ground, The Grove, the Allotments and Cemetery, along with organising events and supporting the community at large, also remained at the forefront of our work.

We look to promote and develop a village that retains a friendly, caring, and vibrant community, where businesses can also thrive. In addition to our own Fireworks and Beacons Display, Christmas Lights Switch-On and the Pop-Up Food Fayre, we continue to encourage and support the successful Community Market, The Magazine and The Village Hall. Crucially, we continue to **actively encourage volunteering** in all its forms within the village for the tremendous contribution it makes to all our lives.

My thanks as always must go to the incredibly small team of fantastic staff of the Parish Council, and of particular note, the Parish Clerk, Jessica Sherrin and Grounds & Amenities Manager David List. We are fortunate to have them all, and their incredible hard work in delivering the services, amenities and facilities we all enjoy, and in particular this year the delivery of the Community Garden. We were delighted to welcome Lesley Wright to the staff team in the role of Operations Manager and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). To achieve all our goals and maintain our ambitious business activities, the Council has recognised the need for greater resource and is in the process of recruiting additional grounds/facilities management personnel.

Thanks also to the dedicated effort of my fellow parish councillors and to all those individuals in our village who put in voluntary time and effort to benefit their community, such contribution is amazing and invaluable. It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Steve Wright, who has made such a hugely significant and constant contribution to the village where he was born, raised and lived. We were sad to see Cllr Georgie Hadjigeorgiou move away from the village – her energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the Council will be greatly missed. We were however pleased to welcome Cllr David Eite to the team in October, who grew up in the village and brings a wealth of local knowledge and skill to the Parish Council, particularly with his building and renovations background.

The Council plays a very important role in village life and needs a full complement of councillors to support the staff and activities. We currently have a councillor vacancy, so would warmly welcome applications for this interesting and highly rewarding role for our community - we need you.



Cllr Laurence King
Chair of the Parish Council

Finance & General Purpose Committee

Chair - Cllr Paul Hyde

I am pleased to report that we remain in a strong financial position. From our annual turn-over of £400,000 we carried forward a surplus of £3,900 into our General Reserve this year. We also continue to build financial stability for the future by contributing to the 'Earmarked Reserves' for the assets we manage, ensuring our funds remain robust and able to cope with any unexpected events. We aim to continue to invest in our facilities and equipment to maintain a high standard and are currently in the process of prioritising the next phases of work.

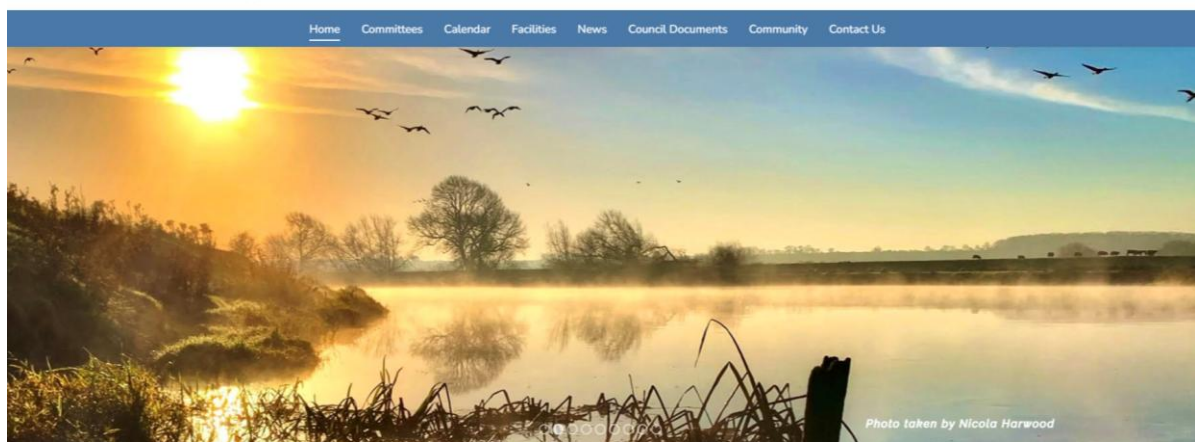
Our biggest expenditure this year was for the brand new Community Garden (pictured on the front cover). The final total cost for the garden, including the redevelopment of the front area, installation of a new electrical supply unit and refurbishment of the gates was £215,912 which was funded by grants, donations and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) with no impact on the annual precept.

On the recommendation of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) we took the decision early in the year to change our website hosting and emails to a .gov domain, making our electronic communications safer and more secure. Our website has now changed over to this, as have all staff and councillor emails. During the transition all our .org.uk emails will be forwarded, but please make a note of our new addresses when you receive emails from us and start using our new .gov ones.

This year we have also focused on ensuring that all our facilities are utilised to their maximum. To this end we are encouraging greater use of the Poplars Pavilion, the Old School Building Main Hall and the Small Meeting Room for events and activities. We were delighted to welcome the Guides recently who have started hiring the Main Hall for their activities.



admin@burtonjoyceparishcouncil.gov.uk
0115 9314084



New ".gov.uk" web and email hosting

Community Garden Committee

Chair – Cllr Yvonne Greenfield

The completion of the Community Garden this year marks the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication, made possible thanks to the vision and determination of our staff, volunteers and my fellow councillors, for which I extend my sincere thanks. We celebrated the garden's official opening on Saturday December 6th as part of our annual Christmas lights switch-on event.



The Community Garden is officially opened as part of our Christmas celebrations with the ribbon cut by Rt Hon Michael Payne PM and the Parish Clerk, Jessica Sherrin

The major source of funding for the garden was our successful £100,000 grant application from FCC Communities Foundation. The FCC Grant Manager, Cheryl Raynor said on the opening:

"We're thrilled to see the project completed and to know the community can now enjoy this wonderful new space. Thank you to everyone who helped turn this vision into reality. FCC Communities Foundation is proud to have supported such a long-awaited and meaningful initiative."

Whilst we awaited confirmation of this grant funding, our talented grounds team revitalised the front area of the Old School Building, to ensure that the whole site looked attractive on completion.



Refurbishment of the front area by our grounds staff David List and Danny Riley whilst we awaited receipt of the £100k grant



Contractors Whiting Landscapes begin work on the new pathways in September 2025



The canopy is delivered and installed

The garden, installed by contractors Whiting Landscape Ltd, includes:

- A canopy over hard standing
- Resin-bound pathways providing full accessibility
- A variety of styles of curved and straight bench seating
- A discreet, low-impact lighting scheme
- Soft landscaping with sensory and bee-friendly planting
- A 'community information' noticeboard, finger post and 'brass rubbing' posts

Additionally we have the family of three deer generously bequeathed to the Parish Council by the late Dorothy Pinkett and a new water feature, installed by our grounds team.

On completion of the project, Richard Thomas of Whiting Landscape Ltd said:

"It has been a great pleasure to be involved in a project which is of such importance to the local community. The area has been transformed into a multi-use space, which we hope can be enjoyed by many people over several years. We look forward to returning in the future to sample the food and drink!"

We were also grateful to Bentley's Project Management who ably assisted with the tendering process, price negotiations and ensuring compliance with the necessary regulations as well as ensuring the project was delivered on time. Their support was invaluable. Our thanks are also extended to Influence, the designers of the garden.



Works completed in December 2025



First users of our new facilities!

We are already delighted to see the garden being regularly used by a wide cross-section of people as a meeting place, somewhere to enjoy a take-away or just a place to sit and ponder!

Planning Committee

Chair – Cllr Hazel Chadbourne-Doyle

The Planning Committee of the Parish Council, as a statutory consultee, has undertaken a significant effort in reviewing applications over the past year and have examined thirty-five applications in total, ensuring that each proposal is evaluated with thorough consideration and care. Of these, thirty have been granted ‘conditional permission’ by Gedling Borough Council, one has been withdrawn and the remaining four have an ‘unknown’ position. The Parish Council objected to five of the thirty-five applications. The applications reviewed have encompass a diverse range of projects and initiatives.

There have been a number of important consultations over this past year, including ‘*Local Government Reorganisation*’ and the ‘*Gedling Local Development Plan*’ both with closing dates in September 2025. Gedling Borough Council launched the consultations in August, a period when most Parish Councils are in recess and members of the public are on holiday, so the timing itself was objected to by many. Despite this we held an extraordinary meeting to consider our position and give the community opportunity bring any comments or concerns to our attention. The Village Society also held a public meeting to gauge opinion on these issues, which was supported by the Parish Council and well attended.

Poplars Sports Ground Committee

Chair - Cllr Richard Rolls

It is always nice to be writing this when the sun is shining again, and the Poplars is looking resplendent. David List and team work so hard to create a superb space for the community.



Grounds Team Jed Riley, David List and Danny Riley

Internally we have refurbished and repaired items in the bar, carried out electrical safety testing and repaired some of the changing room flooring. Outside the 3G pitch is holding up well despite its age and we have tarmacked the area between the bowls green and the pavilion.

On the pitches, this year has seen some great activities and the participation across all age groups, enjoying the outside air and the great club sports.

This year we have seen a highly competitive bowls season, including bowls by candlelight and a great prize ceremony. With the decline of many bowls grounds, it was fantastic to hear the positive feedback from the club.



Presentation Day at the Bowls Pavilion, with our very own Jed Riley receiving his award

BJ Football Club had a great summer event, and have made full use of the pitches, helped by a brilliant partnership with the new pitch coordinator, the football free-play facility has also gone down well with the community.



BJFC Presentation Day

The cricket teams are going from strength to strength and an under 15 team has started up which is great to see. Archery Club continues to be successful too.

We were delighted to see such high attendance at our annual Fireworks Night at the Poplars Sports Ground and were glad to receive the feedback that holding the event on 5th November was a good decision. We have received nothing but a positive response to the evening, particularly on the quality of the display and organisation of the event, for which we are incredibly grateful! We have already booked in next year's display for Thursday November 5th, so hold the date!



Deputy Clerk, Jayne Savage with volunteers and councillors at the Fireworks Display

Amenities Committee

Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde

Our Amenities Committee has a broad remit, with oversight of the Cemetery, Allotments, The Grove, Roberts Recreation Ground, The Old School Building and the floral displays in the village. Going forward, now our Community Garden is complete, this will also fall within the remit of this Committee.

We were pleased to see the Commonwealth War Graves sign installed at our Cemetery in November, to mark that the graves of Private E Shaw of the Durham Light Infantry and Gunner W Reed of the Royal Artillery, who fell in the First and Second World Wars respectively, are located here.

Our sincere thanks were extended to the late Steve Wright, who was Chair of the Burton Joyce and Bulcote Local History Society for his instigation of this project.



**Newly installed Commonwealth War Graves Sign
Cllrs P Hyde and G Hadjigeorgiou pictured with the late Steve Wright**

The Allotments have gone from strength to strength since the new Garden Holders' Association (GHA) Chair, James Sylvester has been in the position. His drive and energy to improve this facility has resulted in the site now looking the best it has in many years, for which we are extremely grateful. The Association have received a £10,245 lottery grant to invest in the site. To support this we have allocated one of the allotment plots as a 'Community Plot' for the duration of the project.

In the cemetery we have needed to limit vehicular access from St Helen's Crescent due to incidents of cars driving on the grass of the graveyard and causing damage. The pedestrian access remains open, so we hope this has provided a suitable solution to this issue. The portacabin has had some remedial work carried out to keep it as a functioning mess room for grounds staff.

At the Old School Building we are continuing to invest in its maintenance and upkeep, with the installation of double glazed windows in the front to improve heat efficiency. A leaking section of roof and skylight will be replaced imminently.

We were pleased to take part in the the Nottinghamshire-wide unveiling of the Sherwood Forest Plaque, on 20th February, to mark the celebration of 'Sherwood Forest Day'. The event, organised by the Village Society represented by Cllr Richard Fife (below), recognised the forest's rich history and cultural significance. Cllr Laurence King, Chair of the Parish Council provided an introduction and the proclomation was read by special guest Simon Rogers who attended in costume. This was followed by the unveiling of the plaque, marking Burton Joyce as part of the historic Sherwood Forest area.



Cllr Laurence King, Simon Rogers and Cllr Richard Fife Unveil the Sherwood Forest Day Plaque

Community Engagement Committee

Chair – Cllr Yvonne Greenfield

I would like to thank all the regular contributors who attend the Community Engagement meetings or send in reports. So many thanks to Karen Taylor from Burton Joyce Community Market, members of BJ Climate Action Group and occasional news from BJ Flood wardens and PCSOs.

The Burton Joyce Pop-Up Food Fayre has been taking place on the 4th Sunday of the month in the Community Garden. Following their temporary pause whilst the garden works were underway, we were pleased to see their return in January 2026. The venture has now been outsourced to Sharon Astill of Meraki markets, who takes responsibility for organising each event. It is a lovely, friendly event to meet up and enjoy a changing array of very tasty treats.



Pop-Up Food Fayres Returned in January 2026

The Magazine continues to supply Burton Joyce community with news of events and articles with thanks to Steve Swann for all his hard work.

Burton Joyce Climate Action Group (CAG) now have a formal constitution, which allows them to apply for grants. CAG maintain the flower planters at the Coop entrance. They have also planted bulbs at the sun dial and liaised with us to managed 'No Mow May' on selected verges again in the village. They are currently raising funds for water sampling kits and training to measure the river water quality for the Rivers Trust.

Karen Taylor has reported regularly on the success of the Community market through the year. The market continues to be a bustling place to be on the second Saturday of the month in Burton Joyce.

Burton Joyce Flood Wardens thanked the Parish Council for hosting the Flood resilience stores, they continue to feedback reports to us. Our thanks are extended to the Friends of Burton Joyce Station for the maintenance of the station platform and garden.

Burton Joyce Open Gardens took place in June 2025, when eleven gardens opened and raised over £5k for Maggie's Cancer Care charity. Many thanks to the Hickling family for all the organising and hard work.

Sadly the ever-changing weather caused unfortunate postponement of 'Picnic in the Park' last year, so this has been rescheduled for June/July this year.

Burton Joyce Village Hall achieved its centenary and celebrated with a weekend of events in November. They are still raising funds for a new roof. Thanks to Hazel Chadbourne-Doyle for her hard work and feedback reports.

On Remembrance Day a gathering at Burton Joyce war memorial saw Burton Joyce Parish Council lay a wreath to honour the fallen.

In December the switching on of the Christmas lights event merged with the opening of the Community Garden to welcome the Christmas season. The children from Burton Joyce Primary school arrived from the school's Christmas fair to join the festivities. Father Christmas and his elves arrived in style on Severn Trent Water Farm's tractor with Harley motorbikes.



Arrival of Father Christmas for the annual Christmas Lights Switch-On



BURTON JOYCE PARISH COUNCIL



Contact us:

Burton Joyce Parish Council
The Old School Building
Main Street
Burton Joyce
Nottingham
NG14 5DB
Tel: 0115 931 40 84

Email: admin@burtonjoyceparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.burtonjoyceparishcouncil.gov.uk/>