

Burnham Overy Parish Council

Meeting 8th February 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Zoom Details:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85458440439?pwd=MUk2WmZCSlBuS1ZSWUIPRnBWajdjQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 5844 0439

Passcode: 784509

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

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Meeting ID: 854 5844 0439

Passcode: 784509

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbGJOHMdxo>

Item 7

Correspondence sent to James Wild MP regarding Business Rates:

Dear Mr Wild

Business Rates Loophole denying our village funds.

I am writing on behalf of the Burnham Overy Parish Council who have raised concerns regarding a loophole in the law which results in the parish being underfunded and yet overused.

In our small village of only 244 registered voters we have over 35 properties registered for business rates but almost all of them have a rateable value of under £12,000 meaning they pay neither business rates nor council tax. They are almost all holiday homes and in most cases mainly used as second homes and rarely rented out.

We are aware that this is a concern in other pretty coastal villages in our area and no doubt an issue across the country - we have diminishing numbers of residents and increasing holiday homes, many of which take advantage of this loophole. Thus they enjoy our village, our infrastructure and facilities but make no contribution to them. Fewer council tax payers does not mean fewer expenses for us as a Parish Council - we still have to maintain the playground, the verges, etc etc, all of which these home owners enjoy. If the businesses were private houses then the Parish Council would be qualifying for a

proportion of the council tax from the precept and if the businesses paid business rates this would go to finances of the Norfolk County Council.

We understand that legislation will be needed to close this loophole and the Parish Council would be interested to learn what you can do to address it.

The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you. The next meeting for the Parish Council is Monday 8th February at 6.30 pm or if this is inconvenient a Zoom meeting can be arranged for a date and time which is convenient to you.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards

Sarah Raven
Clerk to Burnham Overy Parish Council

Response from James Wild MP to BOPC dated 28th January 2021

Dear Sarah,

Many thanks for the email.

This is an issue I've raised with ministers and where I think action is overdue. Here's a written question I tabled last year <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122908>

I would be happy to join the Parish Council meeting on 8 February to discuss this further.

Best wishes,

James

Email to Borough Council Waste Department dated 27th January 2021

The Burnham Overy Parish Council have concerns regarding businesses in the parish using domestic bins each week for their disposal of their rubbish rather than paying extra for the commercial waste bins.

The Parish has over 35 properties registered for business rates but have noticed that not all businesses are paying for the commercial bins to be provided and collected. The Parish Council have noticed some businesses who should be using commercial bins are not and only using the domestic waste bins.

The Parish Council would be grateful to understand how the Borough Council ensures that the businesses are being responsible and paying for and using the commercial bins.. We understand

there are additional charges for businesses and the Parish Council would like to know what attempts are being made by the Borough Council to ensure that the correct bins are being used by commercial properties on business rates.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards

Sarah Raven
Clerk to Burnham Overy Parish Council