

# Burwash Parish Matters      January 2025

*following their meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January*

## **The Community Hub Project**

You may have read elsewhere that the Government is changing the way local government is organised and has invited councils, including East Sussex (ESCC), to be considered for the Government's Devolution Priority Programme, indicating support for a Sussex Mayoral Strategic Authority. East Sussex would become a unitary authority, taking on responsibility for the services provided by the current Districts – such as Rother District Council (RDC)- and Boroughs which along with the County Council would cease to exist. The most likely model is that the new Mayoral Strategic Authority would be 'light touch' with most of the services for residents provided at Unitary level.

The immediate implications for the Parish Council are that sources of funding identified as potential options for supporting the Burwash Community Hub are unlikely to now be available. The Parish Council has, therefore, paused the project until the Unitary Authority has been established and it considers how it might support local community projects.

However, the Parish Room and Hall remain in a very poor condition: an up-to-date building survey has been commissioned by Coppard Giles Ltd and when the results come back, plans will be shared on what works need to be completed. The Community Hub Alternatives Working Party or the 'Plan B' group will continue to look at all the options, should the present building need to be replaced. All documents will be on the Parish Website so that you can see what is being considered.

## **Grants**

The Council agreed a grant of £1200 to the Burwash Amateur Pantomime Society (BAPS) to cover the rent of the Village Hall for rehearsals and the performances. By the time this appears in the Magazine, I am sure many of you will have enjoyed Hansel and Gretel and appreciate all the work that has gone into the pantomime over the past months.

## **'Drop In'**

We have been advised that fibre Broadband is to be rolled out in Burwash in 2026 for those areas in the parish which at present have little or no reliable internet connection. We also know that landline phones are to be discontinued. We have invited someone from the company who will be carrying out this work to meet with us and share information on how this will effect the parish. This informal meeting will take place at the Blacksmiths' Tea and Coffee Shop, with the Parish Council providing refreshments. Look out for more information about this and, if successful, we would like to provide other support meetings on issues which affect us all. As always, the best way to keep in touch is via the e-bulletin which you can join via the Burwash Parish website: [burwashparish.org.uk](http://burwashparish.org.uk), or by contacting Emma directly on [parishclerk@burwashpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@burwashpc.org.uk).

## **Maintenance of the roads**

The state of the roads in the parish remains a cause of concern and much time is taken up in discussions with the relevant authorities. We are awaiting dates when work on the High Street and at Burnt House Farm is to be scheduled and repairs to the pavers was due to be carried by the second week in January.

If you want further information about the matters discussed at the Council Meeting, all background papers are available on the Council's website under the 'Meetings, Agendas, Minutes' heading on the Parish Council page.

The next full council meeting is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at the Parish Room at Burwash Village and you would be very welcome to attend. The Parish Clerk is Emma Neil, and she can be contacted at the Council Office, High Street, Burwash TN19 7EU or call: 07375 809660. Email: [parishclerk@burwashparish.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@burwashparish.org.uk)