

BURTON BRADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Special Council Meeting

Monday 24th September

To consider purchase of Land at Burton Bradstock, known as 'Corncrake' by auction on October 11 2012

At a special meeting on 24th September the Parish Council agreed to seek the necessary borrowing approval from central government to allow the Council to take part in the auction of the land known as 'Corncrake' taking place on October 11th 2012.

The Council agreed to pursue purchase of the 7 acres Lot alongside the river Bride for three reasons:

- 1) The land is an asset of community value; it is well used for informal recreation and provides the undeveloped, rural setting for the Village Conservation Area including the church.
- 2) The land is adjacent to the Parish Recreation Field and offers a range of options to the community for extending recreation provision in the future.
- 3) The land would enable the Parish Council to secure a car-free pedestrian route from the School to the Recreation Field and give the Parish Council options for enhancing the riverside walk, wildlife corridors and tree planting.

The land at 'Corncrake' falls outside the village development boundary and is wholly within the designated flood plain. These planning restrictions should be sufficient to prevent inappropriate built development. However, the Parish Council is concerned that there are a range of 'permitted developments' available to new owners that could compromise the social and environmental benefits provided by 'Corncrake' – Such activities include equine developments, moves to long cycles of arable or fodder maize crops or temporary use for camping or caravanning.

The Parish Council concluded that seeking to purchase "Corncrake" presented a unique opportunity to safeguard an important parish asset and retain options for future community initiatives.

Parishioners who feel strongly that "Corncrake" should be safeguarded for the community and can help the Parish Council raise funds either through fundraising events, donation or interest free loans should contact the Parish Council ASAP.

Parish Council contacts:

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