

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at The Jubilee Pavilion, Bunbury, on

Thursday 19th December 2024 at 7.20pm

Present: Councillors: Pamela Brookfield (Chair), Nick Parker, Matthew Randall, Richard Slater, Phil Spencer, and Andrew Thomson.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council

Dec24-1. Apologies

Councillors Peter Gorman and Mike Thomas tendered apologies and the Council resolved to approve the reasons. Cllr Randall apologised that he would have to leave the meeting early.

Dec24-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

Dec24-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th November 2024 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Dec24-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Posnett had sent apologies that she would be late due to attendance at the meetings of other parish councils but in the event she was unable to arrive before the meeting had been closed.

Dec24-5. Public Forum

A resident raised the issue of heavy traffic on Wyche Road/ Wyche Lane causing damage to walls and this would be discussed with the Ward councillor.

Dec24-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

Cllr Spencer - pointed out that during the recent power cuts it had become apparent that some residents were unaware that if they are elderly or vulnerable they can register as a priority household and therefore be given extra support by utility companies, such as being provided with a generator.

Cllr Parker - reported that careless and illegal parking continued to be a problem and encouraged the Council to seek the presence of the locality PCSO (Sharon Jones) at a variety of different times of the day.

Cllr Slater reported that the new difibrillator at the school and the new cabinet at the Dysart Arms had both been installed and were up and running.

Dec24-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

i. 24/4701/HOUS - Norbury Cottage, Bunbury Lane.

Renovation of existing dwelling to include replacement extension off West elevation.

Following discussion, the Council resolved to offer no objection.

b. Updates on Application Consultations considered previously or other planning matters:

i. Cllr Thomson gave a brief summary of the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework announced by the Government and would circulate a summary to Members. Key points were the diminished influence of local councils in the planning process, an

increased emphasis on Neighbourhood Plans and the increase in housing targets.

- ii. The Clerk had circulated information about the proposed installation of an Active Cabinet for gigabit-capable broadband, in advance of the meeting. Following discussion it was resolved to seek a positioning of the new cabinet further back from the road than was proposed, near to the existing cabinets. The proposed position was felt to be unnecessarily prominent, such that it would have an urbanising effect at one of the main entrances to the village, and would also make the cabinet vulnerable to damage from careless lorries turning into School Lane.

Dec24-8. House Style

Councillors reviewed the House Style for its communications and other documents and resolved to confirm the use of the style for all Council documents as follows:

- ◆ The standard blue is used for headings (as at the head of these minutes).
- ◆ Top headings (such as the name of the Council and the name of a document) use centred and emboldened Goudy Old Style.
- ◆ When the name of the Council is the heading it is both centred and underlined with heavy-over-light double underscore to the same width as the text.
- ◆ Body text uses black in Gill Sans font, at a minimum of 12 point font.
- ◆ Body text is always justified other than longer quotations within the body text, which can be indented and aligned left.

Dec24-9. Resilience Planning

Recent events during storm Darragh had demonstrated the desirability of having a resilience or emergency plan. In discussion, the possibility of having reciprocal arrangement and shared equipment with neighbouring villages was mooted and it was resolved that the Clerk would draft a Plan, following consultation with Cheshire East Council's (CEC's) emergency planning officer and a review of some of the the plans of comparable villages. The draft would be presented to the February meeting for consideration.

Dec24-10. Grant Request

The Council recieved a request for financial support from the PCC of St Bonifcace church but was unable to consider it due to statutory proscription of grants to the Church.

Dec24-11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ He had been notified by CEC that any contested elections for Parish Councillors would cost £806.40.
- ◆ Last year the Council had donated the proceeds of the Christmas Eve Carols collection to the Tuesday Alive/ Warm Hub lunch club and the Nantwich Food Bank but had not yet decided the beneficiaries of this year's collection. The Council resolved to split this year's collection equally between the same two good causes.
- ◆ He had received several appreciative messages and calls from residents about the Council's action on poor parking.
- ◆ He had been surprised to discover that, contrary to the decision of the Council, the draft 20mph request submission had not returned to Council for final approval but had been sent to CEC unofficially, rather than from the Council. The Council noted that this was a regrettable breach of proper procedure which should not recur.

Dec24-12. Finance & Governance

- a. **Receipts and Payments** – The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.
- b. **Summary Accounts to 30th November 2024** - The Council received the summary accounts and bank reconciliation and resolved to approve them.
- c. **Budget for 2025/26** - The initial draft was considered by the Council. In discussion it was noted that repair and replacement of play area equipment is expensive and Significant repair or replacement would be needed over the coming five years. Although there is a restricted

reserve in place this had almost halved over the past two years and a plan to top-up the fund needed to be considered in the new year for future maintenance and replacement.

Dec24-13. Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxies at Council Meetings

The Council discussed the Government consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxies at Council Meetings and noted that if either were to be provided for in new legislation, it would then be up to individual councils to determine how they would be used, by updating their Standing Orders.

The Council resolved to submit a response supportive of remote attendance but opposed to proxy voting and express support for the submission made to the Consultation on the 17th December by the National Association of Local councils.

Dec24-14. Allotments Working Group

Cllr Thomson, Chair of the working group, reported that quotations for the preparatory works were awaited but that it had been difficult to obtain three quotations. The Clerk felt that this may be possible by early mid January and it was agreed that the Cllr Thomson would consult on dates for the working group in the week commencing 13th January.

Dec24-15. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin

It was resolved to disseminate information after the holidays, on the new defibrillators and the discussion about the siting of the Active cabinet for gigabit capable broadband.

The meeting closed at 8.46pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date **15th January 2025**