

# Bunbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

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

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.20pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Pamela Brookfield (Chair), Peter Gorman, Matthew Randall, Richard Slater, Phil Spencer, Mike Thomas, and Andrew Thomson.

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council and 2 members of the public.

### **Jan25-1. Apologies**

Councillor Nick Parker tendered apologies and the Council resolved to approve the reason.

### **Jan25-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Jan25-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

### **Jan25-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett had sent apologies as she was engaged in Cheshire East Council (CEC) business.

### **Jan25-5. Public Forum**

A member of the public spoke to thank the Council for organising what he felt to be a very successful Christmas Eve Carols event.

### **Jan25-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

Cllr Gorman reported that:

- ◆ In relation to the matter raised under the final bullet point of Item Dec24-11, he had understood that the submission of the council to CEC's Head of Road Safety seeking a 20 mph speed limit would not come back to Council unless changes had been made; as changes had not been made, he had not brought it back to Council but he apologised for sending the document himself.
- ◆ He had had a not entirely positive meeting with the Head of Road Safety in which the latter had stated that the primary consideration in fixing speed limits was the speed of traffic.
- ◆ The fallen trees in Oak Gardens had not been properly protected, and brought the total number of trees lost in the village to six since November 2024.
- ◆ Village Day would be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025; the Committee had requested that the Council consider the funding of the annual workshop and the installation of bicycle parking hoops. The Clerk suggested placing these items on the agenda of the next meeting

Cllr Thomas reported that a small sink hole had appeared on White Road and that he had reported it to CEC, who had placed a cone in it, pending repair.

Cllr Slater reported that the new defibrillator batteries that the Clerk had procured had now been received and that the heater in the Pavilion defibrillator cabinet had stopped working. He would investigate the cause but noted that a replacement heater may be needed.

Cllr Brookfield reported that:

- ◆ She and Cllr Spencer would be attending a Police Cluster meeting on the 22nd January.
- ◆ The removal of the Christmas tree had been delayed but would take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Jan25-7. Planning**

#### **a. Responses to Application Consultations:**

- i. 24/4856/HOUS - Cobblestones, College Lane. - Proposed Rear extension.*

Following discussion, the Council resolved to offer no objection.

**24/5172/CLPUD - Foxdale, Vicarage Lane,**

*Certificate of proposed lawful development for application under s192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to confirm lawfulness of the formation of a new access and driveway and laying out of formal landscaped area, including excavation of lake and formation of footways.*

The application had been received late in the day of the meeting, and a response was therefore delegated to the Clerk, after consultation with Members. Members with any comments would contact the Clerk by the 24<sup>th</sup> January.

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

There were no reports.

**Jan25-8. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ Following the fall of a large tree on the boundary of Oak Gardens and a property on Wakes Meadow, he had visited the residents at Wakes Meadow. It seemed likely that the actions of the construction company, which had piled heavy material at the base of the tree on one side and run water down the other side, had contributed to the fall. The tree was subject to a TPO and should have been protected by the construction company in line with their own commissioned tree management plan.
- ◆ In relation to the above, after a great many enquiries, he had been informed that an Enforcement officer had visited the site following the previous complaint about works within the root area of the tree but had not found anything untoward. The Council noted that this was incomprehensible, given the developer's own tree management plan.
- ◆ The Carols on Christmas Eve bucket collection had raised £500.97, which all agreed was a very pleasing amount.
- ◆ Consultations were ongoing in relation to the Cheshire budget for policing and CEC's strategies for its 3 year housing plan and Climate emergency planning.
- ◆ He had received a request for interesting objects, pictures, stories, myths, legends or festivals from local villages for a forthcoming exhibition.

**Jan25-9. Finance & Governance**

- a. Receipts and Payments** – The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.
- b. Budget for 2025/26** - The final draft was considered by the Council and it was resolved to adopt the draft as the budget for the coming year.
- c. Precept for 2025/26** - The Council resolved to set the precept at £43,582 which would represent a very small increase in the Band D rate.

**Jan25-10. Allotments Working Group**

Cllr Thomson, Chair of the working group, reported that there had been a meeting of the Working Group and that, following consideration of costings for the work necessary to fulfil the agreed plan for allotments, the Working Group requested agreement to start working on funding applications for up to £18,000. The Council resolved to support the proposal. It was noted that the draft applications would need to be reviewed and submitted by the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

**Jan25-11. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin**

It was resolved to report information about utility companies' priority schemes for vulnerable groups and the sum raised by the Christmas Eve collection.

**The meeting closed at 8.21pm**

*Signed as a true record by authority of the Council*

*Chair*

*Date*

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**