

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.20pm

Present: Councillors: Linda Barton, Leslie Bottomley, Pamela Brookfield (Chair), Peter Gorman, Nick Parker, Richard Slater, Mike Thomas and Andrew Thomson

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
CEC Councillor Becky Posnett (part)
Four members of the public

Nov23-1. Apologies

All members were present and so there were no apologies.

Nov23-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

Nov23-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th October 2023 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Nov23-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that it has been busy time, with Cheshire East Council (CEC) under severe financial pressures.

Following the estate agents for the developer of Pulford Place marketing the new houses on the development by a different name, it had been clarified that Pulford Place was the correct name. The Clerk had spoken to the Estate Agents and they had agreed to use the correct name.

The sink hole on Wyche Lane had been fixed but several pot holes and faulty drains still remain. The drain jetting on School Lane had revealed three blockages which should be attended to by CEC as will the cause of the flooding near The Dysart Arms and near the Yew Tree – pot holes near the latter had been properly repaired. B Cllr Posnett drew attention to the review of maintenance of open spaces and this would be discussed under Item 11, below.

Nov23-5. Public Forum

The new owners of Norbury Cottage attended, with the intention of introducing themselves and informing the meeting that they were developing plans to demolish the existing house, build a replacement and revert the property to a smallholding. The Chair welcomed them to Bunbury.

A trustee of Bunbury Mill reported that the trustees had removed the dog-waste bin by the Mill, on Footpath 23, because it was being so well used that emptying it had become too burdensome and asked whether it would be possible to have a Council-funded bin placed there instead. The meeting noted that the former CEC ward councillor had undertaken to arrange three new bins (two replacements for broken ones, at the end of Darkie Meadow and close to the Yew Tree and one on Bowes Gate Road) but that this had not happened and it could be that the Mill would be a better location for the new bin. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Nov23-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

- ♦ Cllr Gorman reported that he had publicised the date for the public meeting to discuss achieving Objective 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan, which will be on the 22nd November.
- ♦ Cllrs Barton reported that the leaking defibrillator cabinet at the Village Hall had been fixed by Cllr Slater and that the Re-Start a Heart sessions had been well attended and successful. The Chair noted that very positive feedback had been received.

- ◆ Cllr Parker (as Chair of the Playing Fields Charity) reported that the light on the end of the Pavilion had been repaired but that the sensors under the front canopy had stopped working.
- ◆ Cllr Thomson reported that the Levelling Up Bill, that proposed to remove consultation on many larger planning matters about which he had sent a circular to Members, had now successfully passed through parliament. He would keep an eye open for information about the plans for implementation and would update the Council as matters became clear.

Nov23-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

i. 23/4022N – Land at Bunbury Heath, Whitchurch Road, Bunbury

New detached house with detached garage and associated boundary works and landscaping.

It was noted that, although this is a large house, the proposals are for a highly energy efficient design which replaces a previously approved application which was larger. The Council resolved to offer no objection to the application.

b. Updates on Application Consultations considered previously:

23/2313N – Methodist Chapel. It was noted that work to level the ground had been completed, ahead of any permission for development. An eye would be kept to ensure that there were no further works, pending any approval; the planning authority's Enforcement team would be contacted if anything that constituted development were to take place.

Nov23-8. Christmas Tree and Christmas Arrangements

After discussion the Council resolved to order a 20ft Christmas tree from Darlington's and to make arrangements for the erection and illumination of the tree, as well as its removal in the new year. Cllr Parker would liaise with everyone to implement arrangements. The Clerk reported that the Brass Band had reserved the date and it was resolved to confirm the booking.

Nov23-9. Allotments Working Group

The Notes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2023 were received by the Council.

Nov23-10. Correspondence and Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported correspondence from:

- ◆ The school, to thank the Council for the bulbs and bulb-planting at the play area;
- ◆ A resident of The Hawthorns, to highlight the need for property owners with riparian responsibilities to fulfil their obligations in order to avoid flooding – the Clerk proposed to write to all the residents affected and remind them of their obligations and the potential implications of not doing so.
- ◆ The Police Commissioner, to inform us that the police had acquired land off David Whitby Way in Crewe for a new hub for the Crewe local policing team.
- ◆ Cheshire East Council to notify a consultation on the final draft of the Biodiversity Net Gain Planning Document which is open for all;
- ◆ Cheshire East Council to notify that College Lane will be shut for up to a week from the 9th January 2024 – The Clerk will use the WhatsApp Group to inform residents during the week ahead of the closure;
- ◆ The school, seeking help to find parking for staff by reaching agreement for use of the cricket ground car park. However, it was noted that the surface would need considerable work to make it suitable for traffic in wet conditions;
- ◆ Cheshire East Council, seeking an update on the progress of Neighbourhood Plans due to forthcoming issues with their Plan monitoring software.

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ Our handyman contractor had rescinded his resignation, as his plans had changed, and that this meant that work to improve the planting around the play area (agreed some months ago) would now be able to move ahead as planned.
- ◆ The Bank had finally agreed, verbally, that the updated details that we had provided to them on several occasions were satisfactory but had warned that the type of account that we have may need to be changed.
- ◆ The funds that are in the closed account, relating to the play area, were in course of being

recouped into the Council's main account but, once again, the Chair had to present confirmation of her identity.

- ◆ The first draft of the budget would be discussed at the next meeting and so Councillors should highlight to him any areas of likely exceptional spending in 2024/25 at least a week before the meeting.
- ◆ Register of Interest forms were well overdue so if any Councillors had not yet submitted their forms, either to him or directly to the Monitoring Officer, they should do so without delay in order to avoid criminal prosecution.

Nov23-11. Green to the North of St Boniface Churchyard

The meeting noted that a tree on the Green had been felled by the Unitary Authority, due to rot. The Clerk reported that Cheshire East Council had stated that, contrary to popular belief, they do not own the Green and that the site is not registered to anyone at the Land Registry. This presents an opportunity to try to take over ownership on behalf the village and the Council resolved to take steps to achieve this. The Clerk will seek formal confirmation that Cheshire East do not claim ownership of the land and, assuming receipt of that confirmation, seek to register the land in the Council's name.

The Council heard that Cheshire East is likely to discontinue maintaining any land that they do not own; this would affect the Council in relation to the Green and the playing fields.

Nov23-12. 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 31st October 2023** – The Council received the summary accounts and bank reconciliation. Following some questions of detail it was resolved to approve them.
- c. **Standing Orders** – The Council reviewed the revised and updated Standing Orders and, after discussion, resolved to adopt them as drafted;
- d. **Complaints Procedure** - The Council reviewed the draft Complaints Procedure and resolved to approve it.

Nov23-13. Autumn Newsletter

The content of the newsletter was discussed and it was agreed to include items on the allotments working group, the Re-Start a Heart Training sessions, the Objective I meeting, bulb planting, Christmas, play area maintenance, a note on bonfire night and why it will no longer happen, and the WhatsApp Group. Arrangements for distribution were discussed and agreed, with Councillors each taking on clusters of houses or roads

The Winter edition will be published in February.

Nov23-14. Items for WhatsApp Bulletin

It was agreed to communicate the following via the WhatsApp Group: Carols Around the Tree and forthcoming Newsletter (the Clerk), Objective I Meeting (Cllr Gorman).

Reserved Business

Nov23-15. Buildings at the Playing Field

The Council conducted a lengthy discussion about public and quasi public buildings around the Pavilion and decided on a course of action.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date