

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at The Jubilee Pavilion, Bunbury, on
Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.20pm

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

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
Borough Councillor Becky Posnett

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming two new members, Cllrs Randall and Spencer and congratulating Cllr Parker on having been awarded a 30 years service medal by the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, just prior to the meeting.

Nov24-1. Apologies

All members were present and so there were no apologies.

Nov24-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

Nov24-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th October 2024 were a true record, subject to the correction of two typos, and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Nov24-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Posnett had sent apologies as she was away.

Nov24-5. Public Forum

No relevant matters were raised.

Nov24-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

Cllr Thomas - reported that he had noticed that many pedestrians and cyclists were wearing dark clothing at night which makes them difficult to see; he would like to see a 'wear something bright (or reflective) at night' campaign.

Cllr Parker - reported that the erection of the Christmas tree would take place on the 30th November, a day earlier than planned, due to the changed availability of volunteers.

Cllr Gorman - reported that he would be out of action at the time of the distribution of the next newsletter and an informal meeting would be held to discuss distribution arrangements.

Cllr Brookfield - reported that an incidence of poor parking had been photographed and sent to our PCSO who had followed up the matter with the driver.

Nov24-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

There were no applications to consider.

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

Construction had started on the two applications that had been approved on Whitchurch Road.

Nov24-8. Replacement Gate Post at the Playing Fields

Councillor Parker reported that the cost would be between £450 and £500 for the remedial works to the post and to the other gate.

Nov24-9. Traffic Management Working Group Report

Cllr Gorman reported that work on the draft submission was ongoing but that it was felt that some information and education work around the desirability of travelling at no more than 20mph in the village would be helpful, whether or not the submission is eventually successful. This could be achieved by the use of posters, banners and stickers which are produced by the campaign group *20's Plenty*, which produces helpful materials, including stickers for use on wheelie bins, that could also be used as posters.

It was resolved to purchase 200 20mph stickers, at a cost of up to £200, (for distribution on the main arteries of the village and for use as posters) and two banners, at a cost of £100, one for near the school and one for the centre of the village.

Nov24-10. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ He had registered the the problem of trenches being dug and filled with concrete in close proximity to preserved trees at the Oak Gardens development with the Planning Enforcement office. They had responded a week later to say that they regarded the matter as urgent and would aim to visit within one day of the complaint having been registered but it was noted that nothing further had been heard and that work at the site continued.
- ◆ The Police Commissioner's office had announced a fund, using funds recovered from criminal behaviour, for positive action in the community and the Clerk suggested that it could be useful to find out if the fund would cover the cost of a mobile speed indicator sign. Members felt that this would be worthwhile and the Clerk will report back.
- ◆ The Footpath Officer at Cheshire East Council (CEC) had notified the Council that a new stretch of path is proposed, with the support of all concerned, to join Bunbury's Footpaths 31 and 17 (where they meet) with Wardle Footpath 13. The Council warmly welcomed this development, which it had initiated some years previously.
- ◆ CEC has introduced a new Planning IT system with improved search capability and display of relevant information and documents.
- ◆ The Department of the Environment has opened a consultation about the rules and sanctions relating to hedgerow management.
- ◆ The Government is consulting on potential changes to the law relating to remote attendance and the use of proxies at meetings of local authorities. The Clerk said that he was minded to place discussion of this consultation on the December agenda and Councillors concurred.
- ◆ The new website will be launched on the 20th November and the new gove.uk email address will be used from the same day.

Nov24-11. Overgrown Hedges on Whitchurch Road

Following discussion about encroachment of hedges onto the pavements on Whitchurch Road it was resolved to write to land owners whose hedges are encroaching and once this has been addressed the Council will consider how to deal with the matter of encroachment of soil and ground growth with the relevant unitary authorities. Cllr Slater will confirm the problem hedges and let the Clerk know to whom letters need to be written.

Nov24-12. Parking Directional Sign(s) to the Village Car Park

- a. This matter was raised because parking on the lanes through the village had become problematic and the car park is under-used. Following discussion it was resolved to seek agreement from CEC for the placing of a 'P' sign on the post at the triangle, indicating the direction of the car park.
- b. The problem of inconsiderate and dangerous parking connected with school drop-off and pick-up and parking along Bunbury Lane was discussed and it was resolved to ask the PCSO to visit the village regularly to address the problem.

Nov24-13. 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 Clerk highlighted the fact that the first draft of the budget would be discussed at the next meeting and he invited Councillors to consider, in advance of the meeting, whether there were any extraordinary proposals for expenditure and to let him know in time for these to be costed and included in the drafts for discussion.

Nov24-14. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin

It was resolved to include information on road closures and car parking.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date **19th December 2024**