

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 12th October 2022 at 7.20pm

Present: Councillors: Pamela Brookfield (Chair), Liam Anderson, Linda Barton, Nicholas Parker, Michael Thomas and Peter Gorman.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
District Cllr Sarah Pochin (part)
One member of the public

Oct22-1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Oct22-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

Oct22-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Clr Gorman noted that his report to the previous meeting had been omitted. Subject to the addition of that report, the Council resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on the 13th June were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Oct22-4. Appointment of Clerk to the Parish Council and RFO

- a. It was resolved to approve the recommendation of the Appointment Panel to appoint Maximilian Clay;
- b. It was resolved to authorise the Chair to sign the Contract of Appointment (based on the national template);
- c. It was resolved to approve the change of official address for the Council to Mossley Hall, Biddulph Road, Congleton, CW12 3LZ.

Oct22-5. Cheshire East Ward Councillor Report

District Cllr Pochin gave a verbal report including:

The walnut tree in the grounds of the soon to be auctioned Methodist chapel had been protected under a Tree Preservation Order.

Thanks to members of the council and public for reporting problems using the 'Fix My Street' facility as this enables her to follow-up effectively any matters that are not dealt with satisfactorily.

Cheshire East, along with all councils, is being financially squeezed, with costs spiralling.

There is £28m of CIL funds in the reserve at present and Cllr Pochin was keen that this should be claimed; she will send the Clerk the current position relating to Bunbury.

CEC is developing a ten year recycling strategy as there is a large gap in relation to recycling centres in the middle of the borough.

Oct22-6. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

Oct22-7. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

a. The following matters were reported:

- ♦ A faulty stile on FP3 I had been mended and that trees blocking footpaths had been resolved (Cllr Gorman).
- ♦ The developer at Bowgate should be constructing a footpath down to Wych Road

but has applied to eliminate this from the plan and has suggested unsuitable alternatives (Cllr Gorman).

- ◆ The information about road closures added to the website was very useful (Cllr Gorman).
- ◆ It was felt that the permission granted for a very large lay-down yard off the A49 (outside the parish boundary) would have a significant impact on the level of heavy traffic locally (Cllr Anderson).
- ◆ The tradesmen working on the house extension on Bunbury Lane were parking carelessly (Cllr Anderson).
- ◆ Comments from residents had been received about the size of the truck serving current developments (Cllr Thomas).
- ◆ Highlighted a previous commitment from the ward councillor to provide three new dog waste bins - he had followed this up and action was now in train (Cllr Parker).
- ◆ There had been an incident of vandalism at the pavilion, on the bowls green and in the paly area resulting in damage to planting and play equipment. The Police liaison officer, Sharon Jones had visited the village and was investigating this, in combination with other criminal activity in the village (Cllr Brookfield).
- ◆ Speed Gun training is available, to re-launch the community speed watch (Cllr Brookfield).
- ◆ Difibrillators - A review is needed to ensure that they are all in working order; one has gone missing (Cllr Barton).
- ◆ Trees - Some residents feel that the village should do something to mark the Jubilee; the Queen's Jubilee Canopy is continuing as a project through to March 2023.
- ◆ A vote of thanks to Sue Briggs-Harris for her service to the village in producing 'The Paper' (which was now having to fold) was proposed and resolved.

b. Future Agenda Items

- ◆ Sheep on land at Tweddle Close.
- ◆ Proposal for a Jubilee Tree as part of the Queen's Canopy (Cllr Barton will cost the tree, protection and plaque).
- ◆ Methods of publicising the work of the Council and communicating with residents as a council.
- ◆ Electric vehicle charging in the village.
- ◆ Difibrillators (Cllr Barton will provide a summary paper).

Oct22-8. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

i. 22/3422T - Church Farm, Vicarage Lane, Bunbury: *Fell tree (TPO)*

In discussion, it was agreed that the damage that the tree had caused was evident and it was resolved to raise no objection.

ii. 22/3586N - Manor House, Whitchurch Road, Bunbury: *Erection of New dwelling.*

In discussion various observations were made, including that the scale of development was oversized, that the proposed dwelling was too high, that the privacy of neighbours would be adversely affected, that the development lay outside the settlement boundary and that a further access onto the A49 would be highly undesirable for safety reasons. A neighbour to the site had also raised a number of these points with a Member. It was noted that Mayfields, opposite the proposed development site, may be cited as a precedent but it was agreed that it was important to note that that house had been developed at a time when the local plan had not identified an adequate supply of future housing. The Council resolved to object to the proposal.

b. The Council noted the following updates on applications considered previously:

i. 22/0940N - Witch Hazel, Bunbury Lane:

Variation of condition 2 on application 21/4845N - Internal alterations and ground floor extension to front of house and first floor extension to side and rear. Approved

ii. 21/6148N - Acton House, School Lane:

Change of use of land to equestrian and erection of a stable accommodation for two horses. Approved

Oct22-9. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Report

The initial draft was now complete and would be augmented with pictures, graphs and maps. It was noted that some funds had been earmarked for future publicity costs at the time of the original neighbourhood plan and the Clerk was asked to research this.

Oct22-10. Insurance

The Council approved the insurance arrangements for the year from 1st October 2022, at a cost of £3,603.15 (£3,217.10 plus Insurance Premium Tax), under the final year the three year agreement with Ecclesiastical Insurance (via Gallagher Brokers).

Oct22-11. Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence:

- ◆ From Cheshire East Council, highlighting the date of elections next year - 4th May - for 52 borough council wards and around 175 town and parish council wards. There will be briefings for candidates and clerks in the run-up to the start of the nominations process.
- ◆ From a resident complaining about the disrepair of the zip wire in the play area and other repairs needed and also suggesting that consideration be given to the provision of electric vehicle charging points in the village.
- ◆ From the 20s Plenty for Cheshire East Campaign, inviting members to presentation sessions later in the month - registration details were available for any member wishing to attend.
- ◆ From ChALC, inviting members to their Annual Meeting on the 27th October.

Oct22-12. Play Area Equipment

The Council had received a written update ahead of the meeting reporting that a quotation had been received from the suppliers of the timber equipment for repairs to the Zip wire and the boat's mast at a cost of £1,654 plus VAT. It may be possible to reduce this as the mast may only need to be re-fitted, whereas the quotation included replacement. It was noted that part of the problem has been the lack of a proper programme of maintenance and it is felt that future costs could be lowered if such a programme were introduced.

In the light of this, and given that some elements of this work had been outstanding for almost a year, the council resolved to authorise the Clerk and Chair to spend up to £3,500 on remedial work at the play area, with funds being drawn down from the play area reserve, and it further resolved that the Clerk and Chair would explore contracts for the routine maintenance of the play area and report back to a future meeting of the Council.

Oct22-13. Use of Car Park for Fund Raising Event

The Council ratified permission for Early Birds to use the Car Park for a 'Trunk or Treat' fund raising event on 30th October 2022 between 4pm and 6pm.

Oct22-14. Playing Fields Committee Report

The Chair of the Committee made a report, including informing the meeting that a new gate would be commissioned.

Oct22-15. Events

- a. Remembrance** - Cllr Parker reported that, with assistance, he would be erecting the frame for the wreaths and that there would be a rehearsal of the parade with the young people's groups prior to the day. The Council agreed that Cllr Parker would represent the

Council and that the Council would make a donation of £25 to cover the cost of the wreath, which Cllr Park had in hand.

- b. Christmas Eve** - It was resolved that the normal carols around the tree event, supported by members of the Crewe Brass Band would go ahead - the Clerk would book the band.
- c. Christmas Tree** - Cllr Parker had obtained quotations, the best of which had been for £92 plus VAT for the tree and £60 for installation and collection and it was resolved to mandate him to order this.
- d. Bonfire Night 2023** - The numbers attending last year and the shape of the event meant that the event had become unsafe. Re-positioning of the display and the introduction of extensive safety fencing have become necessary and this brings into question the practicality and viability of the event. It was agreed that the situation should be reviewed and so it was resolved that a Working Group would be formed to consider the costs and safety implications of going ahead with an event next year. The Group would generate a report to the Council addressing those issues, to enable the Council to make a decision in early 2023. It was also resolved that Cllr Anderson would chair the Group and draw together a small membership from the Council and more widely.

Oct22-16. Website Management

The Clerk reported that at present the Council pays £50 per month to manage the website and there is a volunteer in the village who is willing to do some work on it. At present the Council part of the site does not conform to the statutory requirements for parish council websites and the other parts of the site are very out of date. The Clerk went on to suggest that he take over the PC part of the site as soon as he has been able to get training on Wordpress and that he and the Chair meet with the volunteer to explore ways of managing the other parts of the site.

It was noted that a wider discussion of publicity and communications would be placed on a future agenda and that the role of the website would need to be included in that discussion.

Oct22-17. Finance & Governance

a. Receipts and Payments

The schedule of receipts and payments was received and, following discussion of some questions of detail, the Council resolved to approve the payments.

b. Bank Mandate

It was resolved to add the new Clerk to the mandate with Barclays Bank and to remove the previous clerk.

Oct22-18. Councillor Vacancy

The Chair reported that there were no potential nominees at present and it was agreed that members would try to generate interest.

The meeting closed at 9.56pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date