

# Bunbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

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

**Wednesday 23rd April 2025 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 and 2 members of the public.

### **Apr25-1. Apologies**

All Members were present.

### **Apr25-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Apr25-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

### **Apr25-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that:

- ♦ The Drains on School Lane will be cleared, sometime between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May;
- ♦ The drain by the Yew Tree has now been fixed;
- ♦ There are consultations about Cheshire East Pharmaceutical needs (the Bunbury area is the worst served in the area and so Cllr Posnett had made a response to this) and a Lane Rental Scheme which is aimed at ensuring that contractors pay a fee if they want to work during peak hours or if they overrun their allotted time.
- ♦ Parking fees in Cheshire East will be extended from late May to cover evenings and weekends. This had not been a popular decision.
- ♦ She is considering seeking a move to the Highways and Transport Committee as she feels that it may be of greater relevance to her ward.

In response to questions, Cllr Posnett explained that:

Academies are self-governing but she can and does raise issues with them on behalf of residents if the need arises.

The Local Plan is still in development but it is not anticipated that it will be completed soon, not least because policy from central Government is still being developed and clarified.

Hedge cutting is always difficult to enforce, especially in the bird nesting season, but she will be taking up the problem of overgrown hedges on Bunbury Lane and School Lane.

### **Apr25-5. Public Forum**

No matters were raised by members of the public.

### **Apr25-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

- ♦ Cllr Parker, as Chair of the Jubilee Playing Fields Charity, reported that the replacement of the pavilion lighting with LED fittings and bulbs had been successfully completed and that the new heating thermostat was now operational and working well.
- ♦ Cllr Gorman reported that the sign for Footpath 21 had been replaced. He noted that there had been examples of exceptionally bad parking recently, including blocking of pavements and footways. Other Councillors noted that parking remains a major issue on weekends when football fixtures take place on the playing field.
- ♦ Cllr Randall reported that the cover of the electrical box at the pavilion had been loosened by the wind but it appeared that this had now been fixed.
- ♦ Cllr Thomas reported that Saddlers Wells Woods had had a successful AGM earlier in the month. He had had complaints about foul language being used by footballers, especially in the

context of children playing nearby. It was noted that FA rules state that the use of foul language is a 'sending off' offence.

- ♦ Cllr Slater reported that the tree line adjacent to the Manor House on Whitchurch Road had been pulled up.
- ♦ Cllr Brookfield reported that:
  - She and Cllr Thomson had had a meeting to complete re-training documentation for Speed Gun use and that all volunteers' training is now up to date. A rota will now be compiled for the summer holiday period. Volunteers will be asked to sign-up.
  - A new scheme to address problem parking is being introduced by the police under the title of Op Park Safe. In future photographs should be taken of the offence, including the registration number of the vehicle concerned, and instead of submitting them to the local PCSO they should be submitted to the designated officer operating Op Park Safe. Cllr Brookfield will circulate the details.

It was agreed that the problem of parking needs to be discussed at a future meeting, as soon as the Traffic Management Working Group was able to report and that writing to local businesses and the football teams, or having discussions with them, should be considered as part of that discussion, as should production of a leaflet to place on inappropriately parked vehicles. It was noted that such a leaflet is in use in Greater Manchester and Cllr Gorman was awaiting a response to an enquiry to our PCSO as to how this could be implemented in Bunbury.

## **Apr25-7. Planning**

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

#### **i. 25/0884/Hous - The Old Post Office, Bunbury Lane, Bunbury.**

*Conversion of an existing outbuilding to an Annex*

In discussion it was felt that there would be no significant impacts to the conservation area of this proposal but, as the application had come in close to the meeting, it was resolved to delegate the matter to the Clerk, in consultation.

#### **ii. 25/0982/Hous - Church Cottage, Wyche Road, Bunbury.**

*Partial demolition and extension of existing semi subterranean out building and associated retaining works.*

There were no initial objections to this proposal but, as the application had come in close to the meeting, it was resolved to delegate the matter to the Clerk, in consultation.

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

The application for permission in principle for the erection of 9 houses adjacent to Grange Close had been granted by the planning authority. It was noted that further application(s) regarding design and layout would be needed before any development could start.

### **c. Planning Consultation Responses**

Two issues were under consideration, the fact that many of the Council's responses do not appear on the planning portal and the ways in which the Council communicates its discussions and decisions about planning matters to the public.

After lengthy discussion it was resolved that all responses should be submitted through the portal (rather than e-mail) and it was agreed that copies would be sent to the Ward Councillor, be posted to the website and, in summary, on the noticeboard. It was also resolved that each time a 'no objection' decision was made the Council would consider whether a formal response to that effect should be made - this would depend on the significance of the application. In addition it was resolved that the WhatsApp group would be used to highlight the Council's key planning conclusions and that in advance of each meeting any planning consultations would be highlighted on the WhatsApp group.

## **Apr25-8. Potential Village Day Stall for the Council**

It was felt that a stall, describing the areas of work that the Council undertakes and matters such as the planning process, would be a useful way of engaging with residents. However, it was agreed there was insufficient time and there were insufficient people available to undertake this for the current year. It was resolved that the Council would plan to have a stall in 2026 and Councillors

agreed that they would seek to avoid other commitments for the day. Cllr Gorman would notify the Council as soon as next year's date was fixed and the Clerk will put the matter on the January 2026 agenda for planning purposes.

#### **Apr25-9. Funding the Longer-Term Maintenance/Replacement of Play Area Equipment**

The issue underpinning the discussion was that costs will continue to escalate while the Play Area Equipment Reserve Fund diminishes (two years ago the balance was in excess of £26,000 but after recent and planned expenditure that will reduce to around £13,000 pounds).

There was discussion about the nature of the current equipment and whether it was the right equipment for the longer term. It was also noted that people visit the play area from a wide area and so the possibility of an on-site QR code, to enable donations by contactless payment by anyone who wanted to contribute, was raised and the Chair undertook to investigate this.

Cllr Slater suggested that some form of public engagement could be undertaken to inform residents of the issue and assess opinion as to the future of the play area and its maintenance. Cllr Gorman undertook to ask the Village Day committee if they would consider a contribution, arising from their raffle, next year. Cllr Randall suggested the possibility of a 100 Club which can be a fairly easy and successful way of raising funds on a rolling basis. It was resolved that the matter will be discussed further at the July meeting, with a view to reaching conclusions then.

#### **Apr25-10. Timetable for Production of the Quarterly Newsletters**

After discussion it was agreed that the process and timetable will be as follows:

**Editor** seeks first-draft feedback by:

1.6.25; 7.9.25; 30.11.25; 1.3.26; 31.5.26; 6.9.26 and 29.11.26

**All** provide feedback by:

4.6.25; 10.9.25; 3.12.25; 4.3.26; 3.6.26; 9.9.26 and 2.12.26

**Editor** forwards final draft PDF for distribution with Meeting Papers by:

5.6.25; 11.9.25; 4.12.25; 5.3.26; 4.6.26; 10.9.26 and 3.12.26

**Council** reviews and approves the final version at the relevant meeting and, following this, the editor prints and distributes copies for house-to-house posting.

#### **Apr25-11. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that:

- ♦ The large waste (Gaskells) bin had had to be used due to unauthorised household waste being placed in the two CEC bins and so this bin had been retained for the time being. He and the lengthsman contractor would monitor the situation.
- ♦ A complaint had been received about the holly growing onto the path from Bunbury Lane to the entrance of the Hurst close car park. CEC will be notified.
- ♦ A complaint about one of the 20mph bin stickers having been placed over a speed sign on Wyche Road had been received; the resident had been told that this was not the Council's responsibility but that he could report it to CEC and or remove it if he wished.
- ♦ The operators of the Pizza Van have been in touch about future operation and this would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
- ♦ Councillors were asked to return any newsletter folders still in their possession to Cllr Gorman, ready for the next newsletter.

#### **Apr25-12. Finance & Governance**

- a. Receipts and Payments** – The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.

#### **Apr25-13. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin**

It was resolved to include an invitation for speed camera volunteers; and a note on the ways in which the Council plans to communicate about planning consultations. It was also agreed to include information about the new Op Park Safe in the next edition of the Newsletter.

**The meeting closed at 9.42pm**

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

*Chair*

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025**