

# Bunbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

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

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at 7.20pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Tracy Cosgrave, Maya Fowler, Peter Gorman, Nick Parker, Michael Pollen, Matthew Randall, Richard Slater, Mike Thomas, Andrew Thomson (Chair), Jane Turner.

**In attendance:** 2 Members of the public.

### **Apr26-1. Apologies**

All Councillors were present and so there were no apologies.

### **Apr26-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation considerations.

### **Apr26-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Subject to clarification that the questionnaire would be drafted by Cllr Turner, it was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such. Cllr Thomas abstained as he had been absent at the previous meeting.

### **Apr26-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett told the meeting that the Easter holidays meant that there was little to report. Cheshire East Council (CEC) had now moved to a cabinet system (from the previous committee system). With regard to planning, she reported that the Government had announced that any application for more than 150 houses that was refused by the local planning authority would be subject to referral to the Secretary of State, which was likely to diminish the impact of local opinion on the planning process.

In responding to a question about the local plan, B Cllr Posnett reported that other than the call for sites, there was nothing to report on the plan. The Clerk asked whether there was any plan for CEC to improve the consistently unreliable planning portal. B Cllr Posnett responded that she, too, found it frustrating and that she would follow this up with the person responsible.

### **Apr26-5. Public Forum**

A resident of School Lane spoke in relation to a planning application at Heath Villa for the erection of 8 houses to express his objection and to ask whether any up date was available. The Clerk responded that the Council had objected but that the Planning Authority had not yet decided the application.

A resident spoke to report that she had also had problems with the planning portal and that many residents who had wished to object to the application at Parkside had found it impossible to access the application at times. Although those who are familiar with the site would persist, this meant that others would give up and therefore lose the opportunity to register their views, which was felt to be manifestly unacceptable. An alternative is to email comments to: [planningappcomments@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:planningappcomments@cheshireeast.gov.uk) and/ or [planning@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cheshireeast.gov.uk). Postal responses to the CEC offices in Crewe are also possible. Searches by address or reference number often result in a 'no such application' message and on the whole it was felt that the site is unreliable, clunky and very difficult to use. It was also reported that notifications of planning applications to consultees are being delivered late, partly as a result of the erratic postal service.

### **Apr26-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

- ◆ Cllr Parker:
  - Wished for a discussion of CEC's process in relation to applications for work on / felling of protected trees to be placed on a future agenda.

- ◆ Cllr Randall reported that:
  - Although he had reported several matters to the Public Rights of Way team he had not had responses. It was noted that a response should be received and that the TRACE system does not cover paths.
  - He had reported an instance of dangerous driving to the police but had had no response; he was encourage to contact the PCSO. He had also stopped a driver who had been driving too fast outside the Co-op. The driver's response had been that the limit is 30mph which underlines the desirability of a 20mph limit.
  - He felt that some speed gun sessions would be timely. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the rules now require 3 trained people to operate the speed gun.
- ◆ Cllr Thomas reported that the Sadlers Wells Committee have asked for the Council to consider placement of a litter bin alongside the dog waste bin - the matter will be discussed at a future meeting.
- ◆ Cllr Cosgrave reported that dog-fouling continues to be a nuisance.
- ◆ Cllr Fowler:
  - Reported that she had found that the bin at the end of The Highlands has been knocked over several times and wanted the Council to consider having it fixed into the ground.
  - Asked whether anything could be done about a builder's sign chained to a dog waste bin as it was becoming unsightly.
  - Asked whether the Council is consulted on Licensing matters and it was noted that it is not.
- ◆ Cllr Turner had received a comment from a resident that it appeared that an objection to a planning application (25/0366/PIP) that the Council had resolved to make had not appeared on the Planning Portal. The Clerk stated that this was the problem with the Planning Portal which fails to record comments reliably but that the Council's comments had been submitted. The Chair commented that this was an ongoing problem and referred to the earlier discussion under item 4, noting that B Cllr Posnett was taking the matter up with the appropriate person within CEC.
- ◆ Cllr Gorman:
  - Felt that it would be helpful for more Councillors to post on the WhatsApp group to improve coverage of matters that arise.
  - Had painted out the graffiti on one of the play area pieces of equipment.

## **Apr26-7. Planning**

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

#### **i 26/1251/HOUS - The Firs, Bunbury Lane, Bunbury**

*Conversion of integral garage to provide Home Office.*

After discussion, the Council resolved to offer no objection to this application.

#### **ii 26/1224/HOUS - Bowes Gate Farm, Bowes Gate Road, Bunbury**

*Conversion of redundant outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation incidental to enjoyment of the main dwelling.*

Following discussion, the Council resolved to offer no objection to this application.

#### **iii 26/1013/FUL - Norbury Cottage, Bunbury Lane, Bunbury**

*Proposed stable block, menage and domestic garage complete with vehicular access.*

Following discussion, the Council resolved to offer no objection to this application.

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

The Clerk reported that the application at Heath House (26/0443/PIP) had been refused.

## **Apr26-8. Village Day Stall**

In further discussion, following on from the previous meeting, it was resolved that two tripartite display boards would be bought at £170 each.

A date for a meeting needed to be fixed

It was agreed that the questionnaire was too substantial for using on the day and so this will be discussed at another time, possibly for inclusion with a future newsletter.

The following will be available on the day: Cllrs Parker, Thomas, Cosgrave, Turner, Slater and

Thomson. Cllr Thomas may have limited availability and Cllr Slater will be available for only 2 hours. A rota needs to be formulated.

#### **Apr26-9. Vandalism at Sadlers Wells Woods and at the Play Area**

There was a lengthy discussion about reports by the trustees of Sadlers Wells woods caused by children riding bikes and forming cycle tracks in the woods, although the meeting heard that the Chair of the trustees had given some children permission to undertake this activity. In discussion it was noted that the land is private and therefore not under the control of the Council and so no action could be taken by the Council. Cllr Thomas, as the Council's nominated trustee would convey this to the trustees. It was noted that individuals had been verbally abused by some young people and that the police had been involved.

A complaint had been received by the Council about the WhatsApp post relating to damage at Sadlers Wells and facilities for young people. It was noted that the WhatsApp channel should only be used for factual information-sharing unless the Council had resolved otherwise about a specific issue. Following lengthy discussion the Council resolved to formulate a response stating that it had been asked to bring up the issue by the Sadlers Wells Trustees, who have responsibility for the site; that the village does have some facilities for older children, including the playing field and track; that the issue of facilities is subject of ongoing discussion that the Council will continue to work with the community and welcomes contributions by residents.

#### **Apr26-10. Village Sign Maintenance**

Following inspection of the sign, it was resolved to have the metal frame re-painted in situ, and a new wooden frame and safety glass installed. A suitable contractor would be identified and engaged, with a cost of up to £250.

#### **Apr26-11. Re-Location of 20mph Sign on School Lane**

Following a report at the previous meeting it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Randall would meet to identify a suitable position for the sign and that the Clerk would then approach the Highways Authority to seek implementation of the change.

#### **Apr26-12. Mowing at Wakes Meadow**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **Apr26-13. Play Area Funding Working Group**

In discussion it was suggested that this matter might be better attended to in the context of a strategic review and also in the light of feedback from the proposed questionnaire. It was noted that there is sufficient funding immediately available and so it would be possible to defer this. At such time as the Council is ready to move forward with funding applications it was agreed that it would be sensible to consider the use of a professional grant writer.

It was resolved to:

- defer detailed discussion of this item in order to first formulate a strategic plan
- to plan a process for formulating the strategic plan
- to carry forward the funding item until a strategic plan has been formulated.

#### **Apr26-14. Play Area - Approval of Expenditure**

It was resolved to accept the quotation for zip wire re-tensioning and inspection of the other Timberplay equipment for £375 and to commission repair of the soft-pour surface around the basket swing and purchase soft bark mulch up to a total value of £2,000 for both. Cllr Slater will notify the Clerk of the amount of mulch necessary.

#### **Apr26-15. Scout Hut Ground Rent Arrears**

Cllr Slater reported that a copy of the signed lease is being sought from the Land Registry in order to inform future action.

#### **Apr26-16. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ Blister Pack recycling is now in place at the medical surgery.
- ◆ He will be responding to the proposed developer at Parkside to convey the Council's position on working with them to address the applications' lack of a public open space.
- ◆ He had written to the head of the school about litter and the head had agreed to follow up this with parents and children.

- ◆ The police had indicated that they do not generally enforce by-laws.
- ◆ The Parochial Church Council had written to thank the Council for its financial support for the maintenance of the clock.
- ◆ A letter had been received from a resident asking the Council to consider seeking inclusion of the Town Field to be incorporated in one or other of the Conservation Areas. It was agreed to discuss the matter at a future meeting.

**Apr26-17. Dog Waste Bin at the Triangle**

After brief discussion, it was resolved not to install a further bin.

**Apr26-18. Finance & Governance**

- a. Receipts and Payments** - Members received the schedule of receipts and payments and approved the payments, including the scheduled payments for 2026/27. The Clerk reported that some NCIL money was about to be received and that this would be reported fully at the next meeting.

**Apr26-19. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin**

It was resolved that the Tree of the month, maintenance of the Village Sign and a question about planting of bulbs and wild flowers and non-mowing of small green areas around the village.

**The meeting closed at 9.53pm**

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

*Chair:*

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026**