

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Wednesday 14th January 2025 at 7.20pm

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

In attendance: The Clerk to the Council and 5 members of the public.

Jan26-1. Apologies

All councillors were present.

Jan26-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation considerations.

Jan26-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Subject to the correction of a typographical error, the Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December 2025 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Jan26-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Posnett was unable to attend until the end of the meeting. At that point she reported that she had asked that the two outstanding Permission in Principle planning applications not be taken forward to Committee. This was on the basis that the position of the two sites, in the conservation area, and the heritage objections by the Planning Authority's own Heritage Officer were sufficient to signify that the applications could not be approved and that it would therefore be a waste of resources and committee time to take them forward.

Jan26-5. Public Forum

A member of the public expressed thanks to the Council for arranging the Carols Around the Christmas tree event on Christmas eve, which he felt had been a great success. He went on to mention that the play in the village hall had been a sell-out and that another production would be presented on the 12th July 2026.

Another member of the public thanked the Council for its response to the planning application at Parkside which she felt had been very helpful. She went on to point out that a number of responses from Cheshire East Council (CEC) officers continued to be added to the planning portal about matters such as spacing of the proposed houses, the protection of trees and a requirement for public open space.

A further member of the public spoke to thank the Council for its helpful comments on the proposals for development (permission in principle) in upper Bunbury and also to express support for the application at Church Farm. He also suggested that the bins at the triangle could be better placed but he also complimented the work of the Lengthsman contractor who helped to keep the village looking so tidy.

Jan26-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

- ◆ Cllr Parker reported that because of storm warnings the removal of the Christmas tree would be deferred to avoid unnecessary risk.
- ◆ Cllr Gorman:
 - pointed out that CEC had withdrawn the Fix My Street online reporting tool from use and replaced it with a more limited reporting service of its own, which requires entry to its own website;
 - noted that vehicles related works on various properties in the village often caused safety problems and suggested that the Council consider writing to householders who gain planning permission to ask them to be mindful of the potential impact of parking of

- tradesmen's vehicles;
- reported that he had received a number of emails requesting moderation of comments relating to information on the defunct Council website (it was noted that there is only a front page on the site and so the Clerk would investigate);
- the bicycle rack that the Village Day Committee had offered to the Council (and which had been gratefully accepted) would soon be installed in the agreed place at the end of the Pavilion.
- ♦ Cllr Thomas reported that he had received a complaint about the lack of signage regarding the narrowness of Wych Road; he had referred the resident to CEC's Highways department but thought that a discussion by the Council could be helpful.
- ♦ Cllr Slater noted that in other nearby unitary authority areas Section 106 agreements seemed to be required in relation to housing developments and regretted the fact that CEC do not seem to have used them as much.
- ♦ Cllr Thomson noted that grit bins had been empty when the icy weather occurred and that there is no bin at the bottom of the hill near the bridge. The Clerk will follow up on this.

Jan26-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

Two application consultations had been received since publication of the agenda:

i. 25/4857/LBC: Church Farm, Vicarage Lane, Bunbury

Listed Building Consent for proposed replacement of external doors and windows, refurbishment of property, single storey extension and conversion of attached workshop.

In discussion the refurbishment was welcomed by Members but the use of non-timber replacement windows and doors and the addition of unsympathetic new windows were felt to be unsuitable for heritage reasons. The Council resolved to delegate a response to the Clerk.

ii. 25/4896/HOUS: Henny Penny House, Wyche Road, Bunbury

Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new conservatory together with new rooflights to kitchen lean-to roof and replacement of all windows with new timber windows.

After brief discussion the Council resolved to offer no objection.

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

There were no updates.

Jan26-8. Village Day Stall

Following discussion the Council was minded to take a stall at the next Village Day. It was recognised that having a stall would create a considerable amount of work and would need staffing. The stall would be used to communicate the work of the Council, possibly under a heading of 'What We Do and What We're About' and it was resolved to consider the matter in greater detail at the next meeting, including consideration of the cost of display boards. It was noted that it may be possible to borrow a gazebo but otherwise this cost would also need to be considered.

Jan26-9. New Householder's Bundle

In discussion members agreed that a New Householder's Bundle would be a good innovation for the benefit of new residents. A primarily digital resource was intended, with printed copies also available for display and distribution as necessary. Printing in-house would enable the document to be kept up to date at minimum cost. It was noted that the position of defibrillators in the village and a 'who does what' chart in relation to councils would be helpful additions to the list that had been circulated for initial discussion. The Council resolved to move ahead with the initiative as discussed.

Jan26-10. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

- ♦ A resident had suggested that the Council consider supporting the recycling of blister packs which are currently non-recyclable because of the mixed-material nature of such packs. There is no cost involved and the recycling receptacle is made of cardboard and so must be kept

indoors. The Council resolved to support the scheme and the Clerk will liaise with the resident.

- ◆ The new defibrillator would be delivered shortly, as would the parking leaflets. Cllr Gorman will monitor the distribution and use of the leaflets.
- ◆ The PCSO who serves Bunbury is being made redundant. The Clerk had completed a petition appealing against the decision but it appeared unlikely that there would be any change in the position.
- ◆ The Planning Enforcement office had been in touch seeking a map of the location of the clothes recycling receptacle and news was awaited from them.
- ◆ Bunbury Common Road will be shut for up to five days from 21st January.

Jan26-11. Bunbury Jubilee Playing Fields Charity Appointments

The Council resolved to appoint Cllrs Slater, Gorman & Randall and Mr Dave Evans as trustees; Cllr Slater was appointed as Chair.

Jan26-12. Allotments Project Update

There were no updates and the Clerk is following up the potential grant maker.

Jan26-13. Village Sign Maintenance

The exact extent of the works that were necessary was unclear and so it was agreed that there would be a closer inspection to identify exactly what was required. This information would be brought to the next meeting and decisions about the scope of works and who could undertake it would be made then.

Jan26-14. Finance & Governance

- a. **Receipts and Payments** - Members received the schedule of receipts and payments and approved the payments.
- b. **Banking Arrangements** - It was resolved to add Cllr Slater to the Bank Mandate.
- c. **Summary Accounts** - The accounts to 31st December 2025 were received and the Council resolved to approve them and to approve the bank reconciliation.
- d. **Budget for 2026/27** - The Council considered the draft budget. In discussion it was considered prudent to build reserves against the anticipated greater spending on play area maintenance. Accordingly it was agreed to increase the precept by more than inflation (see 14e, below) and the rest of the budget was approved as drafted.
- e. **Precept for 2026/27** - The Council resolved to set a precept of £47,000 for the 2026/27 financial year.

Jan26-15. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin

It was agreed that in addition to the tree of the month, the maintenance of the Village Sign would be included.

Jan26-16. Co-option

The Council had received personal statements from four candidates for four vacant seats and unanimously resolved to co-opt Tracy Cosgrave, Maya Fowler, Michael Pollen, and Jane Turner. They will be invited to complete declarations of acceptance of office and undergo induction training prior to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed as a true record, by authority of the Council

Chair:

Date: 11th February 2026