

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7.20pm

Present: Councillors: Tracy Cosgrave, Maya Fowler, Peter Gorman, Mike Thomas, Andrew Thomson (Chair).

In attendance: The Clerk and two members of the public.

Jul26-1. Apologies

Cllrs Randall, Parker, and Slater had submitted apologies and the reasons were approved.

Jul26-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation considerations.

Jul26-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th June 2026 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Jul26-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that:

- ♦ Cheshire East Council (CEC) had appointed a new Monitoring Officer.
- ♦ There would soon be a further call for sites for inclusion in the housing land supply plan.
- ♦ In response to deaths by drowning, arising in part from the very warm weather, a communications campaign would be launched, highlighting the dangers of swimming in open water.
- ♦ A memorandum of understanding had been signed by Leighton Hospital and Christie Hospital with a view to the provision of an ambulatory cancer care centre being established at Leighton.
- ♦ A decision on the Peak Cluster pipeline would be likely in October.
- ♦ A number of rural villages had sought a 20mph speed limit, in the same way that this Council had done, but also without success. A petition of 5,000 signatures opens up the possibility of a discussion of a matter by the CE council and, in discussion with the Clerk, it had been agreed that this could be an effective way to try to achieve the Council's aim of instating a 20mph limit across the core of the parish.

Jul26-5. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

Jul26-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

- ♦ Cllr Thomson reported that there had been national reports of a collapse in the level of house building on urban and brown field sites; he felt that this could put pressure on rural sites which are often more convenient for developers to build on.
- ♦ Cllr Gorman: reported that:
 - A resident had reported an incident of a dangerously speeding van and had asked the Council to ask residents, via WhatsApp for information about any sightings of the van.
 - The Bunbury Jubilee Playing Fields Charity is planning a working party of volunteers to undertake weed clearance, especially around the circular track.
 - He would welcome suggested content for the September newsletter.
 - Bunbury Village Day had been a great success although numbers were slightly down on the previous year.
 - The Chair of Bunbury Village Day had asked him to pass on thanks to those who had

helped on the day and for the Council's financial support of the children's art workshop, both of which were greatly appreciated.

- ♦ Cllr Cosgrave reported that a resident had passed on a concern about bonfires being lit, especially in the context of the very dry state of the countryside due to the extremely hot weather. It was noted that bonfires are not permitted.

Jul26-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations

i. 26/2396/FU: Long Acre, Wyche Lane, Bunbury

Proposed residential dwelling.

After brief discussion it was resolved that the Council would offer no objection to this proposal.

ii 26/2307/TCA - Works to trees in Conservation Area: St Boniface Church, Bunbury

Proposal to remove 10 n^o trees in accordance with arboricultural impact assessment.

While it was noted that the Council had not been consulted on this proposal, the Council praised the completeness and competence of the supporting papers and resolved to support the application, if this proved to be possible.

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

- ♦ There were no new decisions to report about outstanding applications other than that consideration of the Parkside application remained outstanding.

Jul26-8. Grant to The Bunbury Jubilee Playing Fields Charity

It was resolved to make a grant of £1,750 to the Bunbury Jubilee Fields Charity. This represented the sum received in back rent from the Scout Association.

Jul26-9. Lawn Mower

The Bunbury Jubilee Playing Fields Charity had raised the possibility of acquiring a sit-on lawn mower and sought the Council's views on the matter and on whether it may be willing to provide financial support for such a purchase.

The Council felt that there could be advantages to having a lawn mower but that issues of health and safety, storage, personnel and the best type of lawn mower should all be considered. The Charity will be encouraged to look at all options, including robotic mowers, and bring forward a proposal that addresses all options and all the relevant issues. It was noted that £7,500 had been designated for potential BJPFC expenditure.

Jul26-10. Play Area Update

The manufacturers of the timber equipment in the play area had carried out a general inspection and had recommended that four items of equipment (the climbing beam, the tractor, the tractor's trailer, and the sailing boat the crow's nest swing beams) should be renewed and that most of the equipment be tested using a resistograph. This specialist piece of equipment measures the internal integrity of wooden structures. Such inspection would reveal the state of the timbers of all the major pieces of equipment and provide information that would enable a fully informed judgement to be made on how to proceed. Because of the risk of taking no action the Clerk had commissioned the resistograph inspection and this was supported by the Council at a cost of £735.

It was also suggested that once all the information was available it could be helpful to form a working group to consider the detail and make proposals to the Council.

Jul26-11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

- ♦ He had not yet received the invoice for the school workshop but had now gathered that this was in hand.
- ♦ He would place the suggestion of a petition to CEC (arising from the final bullet point of item 4, above) on the agenda for the next meeting.
- ♦ He had still only received a wish list and ideas to kickstart the discussion about strategic planning from two members and it would be necessary for all members to contribute if the

process was to be meaningful. The content of the planned questionnaire (to be distributed with the September Newsletter) would also be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Jul26-12. Finance & Governance

- a. Receipts and Payments** - Members received the schedule of receipts and payments and it was resolved to approve the payments. It was noted that paper for the newsletter would be procured by the Clerk in future.

Jul26-13. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin

It was resolved that, as well as the Tree of the month, posts would be made about the dangers of open water swimming, the dangers of bonfires and barbeques in the current hot and dry conditions and an update on equipment in the play area.

The meeting closed at 7.57pm

Signed as a true record, by authority of the Council

Chair:

Date: 9th September 2026