

# Bunbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

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

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at 7.20pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Peter Gorman, Nick Parker, Matthew Randall, Richard Slater, Phil Spencer, and Andrew Thomson (Chair).

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council and 3 members of the public.

**May25-1. Election of Chair for the 2025/26 Session**

Cllr Andrew Thomson was elected to be Chair for 2025/26 session

**May25-2. Election of Vice-Chair for the 2025/26 Session**

Cllr Richard Slater was elected to be Vice-Chair for 2025/26 session

**May25-3. Apologies**

Cllrs Brookfield and Thomas had submitted apologies.

**May25-4. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of interest.

**May25-5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

**May25-6. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that:

- ♦ Cheshire East Council had received a 'Best Value' Notice from the Government; this is effectively a warning that financial management is under review. The main problems lay with the adult social care and Young People budgets.
- ♦ She had appointed to the CEC Pensions Committee, and would continue to serve on the committees for Children, Care Leavers, Environment and Community, Planning and Section 106. She had wanted to serve on Highways as she was very unhappy with the neglected state of the roads and the mis-match between problems reported by the public and Members on the one hand and the Highways department's plans - a Highways Plan was to be published later in the week.
- ♦ Plans for buses were still in progress but new links were planned, which seemed to be the plan that she had proposed - further details were awaited.

**May25-7. Public Forum**

A member of the public spoke in relation to item 9.a.i which relates to his property. He wished the Council to note that although the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team had objected to the application on the basis that the proposed extension would block a footpath, this objection had been based on an inaccurate map in the PROW department and it has now been clarified that the path would be unaffected.

Another member of the public asked whether it would be possible to encourage the school to develop their field for car parking or use other on site areas, so as to alleviate the problems on School Lane. The Clerk responded that he understood that the school was keen to use the field but it would need surfacing and the cost (at c£90,000) was currently not affordable.

**May25-8. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

- ♦ Cllr Gorman reported that grass verges were still being cut in 'Mow-less May' and he felt that this was not necessary beyond the edges.
- ♦ Cllr Spencer reported that he had attended a recent Police Liaison meeting where it had been reported that:

- the amount of fraud in the area was significant.
- many residents had been put off using the new Op Park Safe system because individuals making a report required to enter extensive personal details and declare that they would be willing to attend court as witnesses.
- there had been 731 activations of the speed camera on the A51 at Alpraham with 299 offences being processed and the camera on the A49 was activated 574 times with 433 being processed (there are various reasons for the difference between activations and processing such as vehicles being registered overseas or as emergency vehicles).
- Parking problems were also discussed and the different prosecution regimes were clarified.
- Thefts from outbuildings had been on the increase.
- The date of the next Cluster Liaison meeting has yet to be decided.
- ◆ Cllr Randall reported that parking in the bay by the school was commonplace and caused safety problems for the school bus and that some road signs were deteriorating, especially the 30mph sign on School Lane. In response to a question by the Chair, B Cllr Posnett suggested reporting the signage issues on the Fix My Street website.
- ◆ Cllr Slater reported that, despite his best efforts, the Jubilee Tree plaque had proved to be beyond repair. The Clerk will put purchasing a replacement on a future agenda.

## **May25-9. Planning**

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

#### **i 25/I285/HOUS - The Old Stables, Birds Lane, Bunbury**

*Erection of single storey side extension.*

As had been raised in the Public Forum (Item 7, above) the PROW team had objected to this application. In discussion it was agreed that if the PROW team withdrew their objection, the Council would have no objection to the proposal and so it was resolved not to object pending clarification but that if that proved to be the case to retract the objection.

#### **ii 25/I558/HOUS - West View Bunbury Lane, Bunbury**

*Replacement of conservatory with single storey extension to link outhouse to main house.*

Following discussion the Council resolved to offer no objection.

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

There were no updates.

## **May25-10. Traffic Management Working Group / Car Parking**

The Chair of the Group submitted a written report which identified the issues and concerns and offered suggestions for addressing the problems. The report (attached to these minutes) stimulated lengthy discussion, following which it was resolved to:

- ◆ Write to the Football Club seeking a discussion about how they could help alleviate the problem (for example by staggering fixtures, encouraging car sharing and encouraging those who walk or cycle to do so).
- ◆ Write to the Village Hall to ask whether they would be willing to have planters placed at the front of the hall so that parking is not possible, with the costs to be borne by the Council.
- ◆ Invite the Cheshire East Council Road Safety Officer to meet in the village, together with the PCSO, to outline the problems and to discuss measures to improve safety.
- ◆ Draft leaflets for leaving on inappropriately or illegally parked vehicles and submit them to the police stating that we intend to use them and giving them a fixed amount of time in which to register any objection. It was noted that Congleton Town Council use a leaflet that could inform the draft.
- ◆ Write to businesses on Bunbury Lane asking them to ask staff to park in the Hurst Close car park.

Further consideration will be given to other ideas to manage parking, including some kind of road markings.

## **May25-11. Operation of the Pizza Van**

The operators of the pizza van had requested that they be given permission to use the space adjacent to the Pavilion only once a month, on the last Wednesday. It was resolved to agree to this and that the Clerk would enter discussions with the operators about a financial contribution.

## May25-12. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

- ♦ The Boundary Commission's review of ward boundaries is moving ahead, following the consultation period; there were no further changes to the Bunbury Ward, beyond those considered and supported previously.
- ♦ CEC had extended their Community Support consultation which seemed to be primarily an exercise to establish whether any responsibilities could be passed on to others.
- ♦ People with Postal Votes need to apply to renew them.
- ♦ He had received complaints from the public about the structure placed in front of The Sheds coffee house. It was agreed to investigate ownership of the area immediately in front of The Sheds coffee house.
- ♦ The Police Commissioner had invited greater participation in his Public Scrutiny meetings and/or submit questions in advance. The next meeting will be at 10am on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May.
- ♦ The Enforcement Officer who dealt with the fallen tree at Oak Gardens in December had responded to the matter in an email dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, stating that they would not be taking further action. This information had already been gleaned from another source and reported to the Council earlier this year. The Clerk noted the absurdity of an urgent matter taking almost six months to be reported back to the Council.

## May25-13. Finance & Governance

- a. **Receipts and Payments** – The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.
- b. **Annual Accounts** - Following discussion and questions, the Council resolved to approve the full 2024/25 Accounts and end of year bank reconciliation;
- c. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return**  
The Council received the Return following questions and brief discussion and resolved:
  - i. to approve the Statement at Part 2, Section 1 and to authorise the Chair to sign it on behalf of the Council;
  - ii. to approve the information provided at Part 2, Section 2 and to authorise the Chair to countersign it on the behalf of the Council.
- d. **Dates for future meetings:** The Council resolved to set the following dates for meetings in the 2025/26 session and for the 2026 Annual Meeting:  
**2025:** 11<sup>th</sup> June; 9<sup>th</sup> July; 17<sup>th</sup> Sept; 8<sup>th</sup> October; 12<sup>th</sup> November; 10<sup>th</sup> December;  
**2026:** 14<sup>th</sup> January; 11<sup>th</sup> February; 11<sup>th</sup> March; 22<sup>nd</sup> April; 20<sup>th</sup> May (the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council).

## May25-14. Items for the Newsletter

It was resolved to include pieces on the feedback from the police cluster meeting about fraud and thefts from outbuildings, postal vote renewals, allotments, parking and planning.

## May25-15. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin

It was resolved to include items on parking (presaging further news) and planning.

**The meeting closed at 9.11pm**

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

*Chair*

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025**