

# Bunbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

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

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.20pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Leslie Bottomley, Pamela Brookfield (Chair), Peter Gorman, Nick Parker, Richard Slater, and Andrew Thomson.

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council  
Borough Councillor Becky Posnett and two members of the public

### **Jun24-1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Thomas, and the reason was approved.

### **Jun24-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

Cllr Gorman declared an interest in item 7.a.i by reason of being an immediate neighbour. There were no other declarations of interest.

### **Jun24-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

### **Jun24-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that:

- ◆ Due to the pre-election period, Cheshire East Council's committees will not be meeting until after the 4<sup>th</sup> July;
- ◆ Initial discussions about potential devolution to a cluster of councils including Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester and Warrington councils have been held but they are at a very early stage and any final decision could only take place after a non-binding referendum;
- ◆ Overgrowth has been removed to reveal that there is a weight restriction sign in place at the far end of Bowes Gate Road, relating to the bridge;
- ◆ Cheshire East Council and ANSA are being prosecuted in relation to a tree related incident in 2020.

### **Jun24-5. Public Forum**

No matters were raised.

### **Jun24-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

- ◆ Cllr Thomson reported that the Allotments sub-group was progressing well and drew attention to the fact that work was starting on identifying potential sources of grant funding.
- ◆ Cllr Gorman reported that Village Day had gone well and that he would make a full report at the next meeting. In addition he reported that the 20mph questionnaire had been circulated to all household in the village and that 111 responses had been received.
- ◆ Footpath 29 had been blocked by gates - this had been logged with CEC's Public Rights of Way Team and it was hoped that they would take action to ensure that it was cleared.
- ◆ Cllr Bottomley had attended the Police Liaison Committee on behalf of the Council. Road traffic accidents and other matters had been raised and were discussed, including information from the speed cameras. The website Secure by Design had been recommended as a good source of advice and information on matters of crime prevention. Three people are now required when operating the speed gun, under new regulations.
- ◆ Works to the sewage plant beyond Bunbury Mill had begun and it was reported that about 24

large lorries will be passing going to the site each day. The agreed route is via Bunbury Common as this is the only safe route and will minimise problems in the centre of the village.

## **Jun24-7. Planning**

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

*Councillor Gorman did not participate in the following item*

#### **i. 24/1856N - 7 Wakes Meadow, Bunbury**

*Replacement of existing rear conservatory with single storey rear extension. Removal of existing single storey side extension, new external doors and windows to this side elevation. Partial conversion of existing detached garage.*

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

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

It was noted that the appeal of the decision on Parkside was still being considered.

## **Jun24-8. Additional Bin at Bunbury Mill**

In discussion it emerged that one of the existing bins was duplicated and so it was resolved that the red bin from St Boniface Way will go to the end of Footpath 16 and the black bin would be moved to Bunbury Mill. A resident offered to undertake the job and their offer was accepted by the Council.

## **Jun24-9. Replacement Gate Post at the Playing Fields**

Quotations were still awaited.

## **Jun24-10. Village Sign**

It was agreed that Andrew Fairclough would also be asked to quote for the work.

## **Jun24-11. Annual Play Area Safety Inspection Report**

Members had received the report in advance of the meeting and resolved to delegate exploring exactly what work was required to Cllrs Brookfield and Slater and the Clerk.

## **Jun24-12. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that, following an earlier decision of Council to replace the existing website and email addresses with .gov.uk domains, partly for improved security and partly to ensure compliance with forthcoming accessibility regulations, he had looked at various suppliers and had decided on Easy Websites Ltd. The company was run by someone who is also a parish councillor and so who therefore understands what is needed and the costs are within the £500 budget agreed. He would be moving ahead with the project over the coming two months and planned to have most of the work complete by the end of July and both both the website and email address switchovers complete by mid August. The existing facilities would be set to point to their replacements.

## **Jun24-13. Finance & Governance**

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

### **b. Annual Accounts**

**i.** Members received the 2023/24 year end accounts and bank reconciliation which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Following questions and discussion the Council resolved to approve the accounts and bank reconciliation.

**ii.** The Internal Audit had been circulated in advance and was considered by the Council. There were no issues raised by the audit and the Council resolved to receive the audit.

### **c. Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

**i.** The Council considered the Governance Statement at Part 2, Section 1 of the Return and resolved to authorise the Chair to sign it on behalf of the Council;

**ii.** The Council considered the information provided at Part 2 Section 2 of the Return and

resolved to authorise the Chair to countersign it on the behalf of the Council.

- d. **Review of Standing Orders** - No changes were proposed and so the Council resolved to approve the Orders for the coming year.
- e. **Review of Financial Regulations** - No changes were proposed and so the Council resolved to approve the Regulations for the coming year.
- f. **Dates for future meetings:** The Council resolved on the following dates for meetings for the 2024/25 session and for the 2025 Annual Meeting:  
10<sup>th</sup> July; 18<sup>th</sup> September; 9<sup>th</sup>; October; 13<sup>th</sup> November; 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024; 15<sup>th</sup> January; 12<sup>th</sup> February; 12<sup>th</sup> March; 23<sup>rd</sup> April; and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 (Annual Meeting).

#### **Jun24-14. Communications**

##### **a. Newsletter Review**

There was a brief discussion but substantive discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

##### **b. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin**

It was agreed that Cllr Gorman would remind residents of the 20mph consultation questionnaire and that the Clerk would post an information piece about repairs to the the village sign..

**The meeting closed at 9.26pm**

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

*Chair*

*Date*