

# Bunbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

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

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.20pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Pamela Brookfield (Chair), Peter Gorman, Nick Parker, Mike Thomas, and Andrew Thomson.

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council  
Borough Councillor Becky Posnett

### **Oct24-1. Apologies**

Cllr Richard Slater had submitted apologies and the reason was approved.

### **Oct24-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Oct24-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were a true record, subject to the addition of Cllr Thomas in the list of those present, and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

### **Oct24-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that:

- ◆ there is a large number of consultations open at present, including one on three-weekly black bin collections, arising from the forthcoming legislative change which will require weekly food waste collection.
- ◆ there has been significant maintenance works on roads in the village but the re-surfacing of the very poor roads around the triangle, despite great pressure, will take place either next year or the the start of the following financial year,
- ◆ she had had discussions with residents on Whitchurch Road about speeding concerns. Residents would like the Council to consider the provision of a Speed Indicator Sign. Hedges from properties along the road have narrowed the paths and are adding to the danger.
- ◆ the situation with the removal of bus services was highly unsatisfactory and had left many people unable to travel out of the village. B Cllr Posnett is working to mitigate the situation by suggesting redeployment of other services. There will be some new services introduced in Cheshire East in the spring and B Cllr Posnett will be lobbying for appropriate services to be re-introduced.

### **Oct24-5. Public Forum**

- ◆ A member of the public congratulated the Traffic Management Working Group on the work that it had carried out.
- ◆ A member of the public raised the issue of fundraising for a replacement pavilion and had brought a professional fundraiser to the meeting who offered the view that obtaining grants would be very difficult in the present climate.

### **Oct24-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

Cllr Thomson reported that:

- ◆ he had visited the new village hall at Alraham which is a very good building and had been made possible by the fact that the parish council owned the land and the access strip to the new development of houses.

- ◆ he was concerned about parking in the village, especially outside the village hall and associated with the school, as this is becoming increasingly inconsiderate. He felt that greater signage towards the car park could alleviate the problem in the centre of the village and suggested that this be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr Thomas reported that the bolt at the gate to the playing fields from Wyche Lane had become stiff.

Cllr Gorman reported that

- ◆ Following his previous report about Footpath 29, official waymarkers had now been installed.
- ◆ Distribution of the newsletter had almost been problematic but that thanks to additional volunteers it had been successfully completed.
- ◆ Viallage Day 2025 will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> June

Cllr Parker, as Chair of the Playing Fields Charity, reported that the Pavilion heating boiler is very old and does not function as well as it could. Getting the boiler serviced and mended is proving difficult but he is keen not to have to install a new one at present.

Cllr Brookfield, as police liaison councillor, reported that there had been a Police Cluster meeting at which it had been reported that the speed camera on the A49 had caught 635 speeders between June and August of this year. The camera of Alpraham had identified 236 speeders in the three weeks of June before it was then taken out of action for re-calibration.

## **Oct24-7. Planning**

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

#### **i. 24/3461N - 6 St Boniface Close, Bunbury**

*Single storey rear extension & partial conversion of attached garage*

Following discussion it was resolved that there was no objection.

#### **ii. 24/3560N - Brynbank, Vicarage Lane, Bunbury**

*Demolition of Existing Single Detached Garage, Extension & Alterations*

In discussion the Council agreed that the proposed works would represent an improvement in appearance and it was resolved to offer no objection.

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

There were no updates.

## **Oct24-8. Replacement Gate Post at the Playing Fields**

- Replacement Gate Post at the Playing Fields - Councillor Parker reported that quotations were still awaited.
- After discussion the Council approved the replacement of the resin surfacing around the basket-swing and the purchase of further soft bark surfacing, to be paid for from the Play Area reserve budget. It was agreed that advice would be taken as to whether a thicker layer of resin would lengthen the life of the replacement surface.

## **Oct24-9. Cheshire East Council Consultation on Household Waste Collection**

Members noted that the consultation would close on 20th October and expressed concern that they have been unaware consultation until the clerk had drawn it to attention as it was felt that residents would also be unaware. The Clerk outlined the options that Cheshire East Council (CEC) had considered and pointed out that CEC were simply consulting on their preferred option which was to move to a regime of weekly food collection (using new 20 litre bins), fortnightly recycling collections and three-weekly 'residual waste' (i.e. black bin) collections. The changes arose from legislation by the previous Government that makes weekly food waste collection mandatory from 2026.

In discussion members commented that publicity had been poor and it was agreed that this was a matter on which residents would want a say. It was resolved that information about the consultation would be circulated via the WhatsApp group so that residents could respond if they wishes to.

## Oct24-10. Traffic Management Working Group Report

A draft of the submission to Cheshire East Council seeking a 20mph speed limit within the village had been circulated in advance and was discussed. Cllr Thomson had been in informal discussion with a councillor from Christleton PC, which had undertaken the change to 20mph limit last year and sought support for the Group to engage with Christleton to gain from their experience - members agreed that this would be helpful.

Cllr Gorman (as Chair of the Working Group) proposed that any changes to the substance of the submission arising from this meeting would be incorporated into a revised version and then circulated to external parties (e.g. B Cllr Posnett and Christleton PC members) for further input before the Clerk submits a final version.

The Council resolved to adopt Cllr Gorman's proposal.

## Oct24-11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ The annual external audit has been completed and the Council has been given a free bill of health. A side note, outside the Audit itself, had been made to the effect that the consultation period for public inspection of the accounts had started prior to date on which the Council gave final approval of the AGAR and that this meant that strictly speaking the 'public rights' period had been shorter than the required six weeks. This should be noted on next year's AGAR.
- ◆ The new defibrillator and cabinets had finally been delivered.
- ◆ The new website is up and running but still not public as final adjustments are being made. He planned to phase in use of this over the next month or so, as soon as the site is finalised, at which point the existing site would be emptied and would point to the new site for six months, before being de-commissioned.
- ◆ Frodsham Parish Council had arranged a public meeting with the new Police Commissioner and members were invited to attend.
- ◆ The Mayor of Nantwich's annual Civic Service will also take place in October and up to two members of the Council are invited.

## Oct24-12. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Thomson reported that there were a number of major changes in the Planning regulation landscape as a result of recent legislation. As much detail as is known will be covered in the training session for the Council in November but there is still much that is not known. In the light of this, Cllr Thomson proposed that work on the Neighbourhood Plan be suspended for the time being, until the full changes and their implications are known next year and Council resolved to adopt this proposal.

## Oct24-13. Christmas Planning

- a. **Megaphone** - It was resolved to buy a megaphone for use on Christmas Eve as the sound system is inadequate.
- b. **Carols** - There was discussion about warning members of the public and especially The Dysart Arms and The Yew Tree that movement in the village would be affected by the Christmas eve carols and it was agreed that this would be helpful.
- c. **Brass Band** - Crewe Brass Band have been booked.
- d. **Christmas Tree** - It was agreed that a Christmas tree would be collected on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and lights installed on the 1st December. Cllr Parker was overseeing the process but would not be physically involved in erecting the tree. As usual, Nick Kirkham will help with the installation. It was resolved that all Members would be asked to keep the 1<sup>st</sup> December free so that they can be on hand to assist.

## Oct24-14. Finance & Governance

- a. **Insurance** - The Council considered arrangements for Insurance over the coming year. The Clerk reported that he had been able to negotiate a three year deal for insurance at a very modest increase (£79) for the current year. Entering a three year agreement fixes the premium, subject only to any changes to the basis of insurance (such as additional cover)

and inflation indexing and so represents good value for the Council. It was resolved to approve entering a new three year deal with Hiscox at a premium, including tax, of £4,178.39 for the first year.

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

**Oct24-15. Use of the Car Park for a Weekly Pizza Van**

A request for use of the car park by Jacob's Pizza on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 8.30pm had been circulated in advance of the meeting. In discussion it was agreed that caution should be exercised but that it could be a useful facility for residents, albeit that care would need to be taken with regard to litter. It was resolved to grant permission for a three month trial and that when the trial starts residents would be asked for feedback before any further commitment were made.

**Oct24-16. Planning Training**

It was resolved to have a training session for Councillors on Planning, led by Cllr Thomson, on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm to 4pm.

**Oct24-17. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin**

It was resolved to include information on the Waste Collection Consultation (item 9 above) and a brief mention of the Christmas planning discussion. The Jubilee Tree would be the tree of the month.

**Oct24-18. Councillor Recruitment**

Information about two people who had offered themselves for co-option had been circulated in advance. After brief discussion it was resolved, unanimously, to co-opt Mr Matthew Randall and Mr Phil Spencer. The Clerk would arrange induction training and would also invite the two new Members to the Planning training session.

**The meeting closed at 9.12pm**

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

*Chair*

*Date* **13<sup>th</sup> November 2024**