

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.20pm

Present: Councillors: Pamela Brookfield (Chair), Peter Gorman, Graham Melia, Nick Parker and Mike Thomas.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
Two members of the public

Feb23-1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Liam Anderson, Linda Barton, and Andrew Thomson and the Council resolved to accept the reasons.

Feb23-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

Feb23-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th January 2023 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Feb23-4. Cheshire East Ward Councillor Report

Cllr Pochin did not attend.

Feb23-5. Public Forum

No matters raised.

Feb23-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

a. The following matters were reported:

- ◆ Cllr Gorman reported that there were no problems with footpaths.
- ◆ Cllr Melia reported that The Link would be happy to include a news piece from the Council on a regular basis and for no charge.
- ◆ Cllr Thomas reported that the Bunbury village sign was looking worn and needed attention but also felt that as the sign was provided by the WI, they should be consulted before any maintenance was undertaken. It was noted that the artist was Ian Conway.
- ◆ Cllr Parker reported that the Pavilion glass had been replaced and that the retaining battens will be painted soon. He also reported that he had received further comments from a resident about the hedging at Brantwood – it was noted that, as this had been reported to CEC's Enforcement team, there was nothing further for the Council to do
- ◆ Cllr Brookfield reported on a meeting with the police liaison officer, Sharon Jones, during which she heard that there have been an incidence of attempted theft of a car from a drive in Alpraham and that one of the speed cameras there had been subjected to an arson attack. The latter was not an isolated incident; such attacks happen around the county and elsewhere. Cllr Brookfield also reported that speed gun training would take place later in the month - all volunteers would be welcomed to that event.

Feb23-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

i. 23/0122N - The Old Coach House, Bowes Gate Road, Bunbury

Provision of a timber framed out building and associated free draining gravel hardstanding.

Details of this application had not been available on the planning portal and therefore it could not be discussed.

ii. 22/5034N - Priestland, Bunbury Common Road, Bunbury:

Installation of a domestic solar array to the client's paddock. The paddock is outside the Listed Curtilage of Priestland, but within the overall ownership boundary.

After brief discussion it was agreed to raise no objection because the application was strictly domestic in nature.

Feb23-8. Correspondence and Clerk's Report

Following investigation, the Clerk had found that it did seem that there was a separate Play Area bank account in existence but that it had not been used for some time; he will follow up the matter with the bank and attempt to make arrangements to have the funds transferred to the Council's account. The balance of the account was not known.

The Clerk reported that he would be attending a briefing on the forthcoming elections and that he would make a presentation about the process immediately after the next meeting.

Feb23-9. The Pavilion

Following the helpful presentation by Mr Dan Thomas at the previous meeting, the Clerk had prepared a report including recommendations that more thought was needed before going any further with plans, that community consultation would be important and that a three-stage approach should be adopted when considering the project:

Scoping:

- ◆ Establishing existing, potential and desired uses/ users (including consultation with residents).
- ◆ Looking at what other places have done in comparable contexts.
- ◆ Governance arrangements.
- ◆ Potential for, and potential of mutual benefit of, working together with other venues.

Vision-Building and Design:

- ◆ Bringing together this information into a coherent vision for the future of the Pavilion.
- ◆ Developing the vision into one or two design concepts.
- ◆ Consultation with residents.
- ◆ Final design and costing.
- ◆ Budgeting for the ongoing costs of managing and maintaining the building.

Realisation:

- ◆ Developing and implementing a fundraising strategy involving both local fundraising and bids for grant funding (and that would take account of both capital and future running costs).
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Making the plan work.

After discussion, it was resolved to accept the recommendations and that the Chair and Clerk would convene a working group comprising one or two Councillors, the Clerk, and individuals drawn from across stakeholders. The brief of the working-group would be the first two stages, set out above and including regular reporting to and consultation with the Council.

Feb23-10. Parking in Front of the Noticeboards at the Village Hall

This had been an ongoing problem and, apart from blocking access to the boards themselves, creates a danger to pedestrians. Various ideas for addressing the problem were discussed (railings, bollards etc) but such ideas would depend upon ownership of the strip of land in front of the village hall. It was resolved that the Clerk would write to the Village Hall to establish whether the land immediately in front of the Hall is part of the highway or is owned by the Hall and to ask whether a 'No Parking' notice could be placed on the wall (by them or the Council).

Feb23-11. Defibrillators

A report by Cllr Barton had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. After brief discussion, the Council resolved to order two new sets of replacement pads and a new battery stick for £138 and to purchase two plastic 'Defibrillator' signs.

Feb23-12. CEC Speed Management Strategy

Councillor Gorman introduced the discussion and also drew attention to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan that had been approved by the Council and which highlighted the desirability of reducing motor traffic levels and increasing walking and bicycle/ horse riding for local journeys. He highlighted the fact that congestion in the centre of the village and speeding along its lanes has

been consistently high on the list of residents' concerns. He posed the question as to whether a 20mph limit in the village could help to achieve some of those aims as well as reducing the noise and pollution caused by cars.

In discussion, Cllr Gorman clarified that neither he nor the policies themselves were anti-car but that it was important to try to realise the Council's ambition to reduce the number of short local journeys by car.

It was resolved that a working party would be formed to preparing a paper with proposals for concrete action to achieve the Council's policy objectives (Nos 7, 8 and 16) in relation to these matters and taking into account the CEC Speed Management Strategy. The resulting paper would be presented to a future meeting for discussion.

Feb23-13. Design Guide

A link to the draft design guide had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting and the Clerk explained that the guide, once finalised, would be a useful and important document in encouraging appropriate design for new or extended buildings and for defending against inappropriate design proposals. A number of drafting errors were identified. Members who had not had time to look at the detail of the document before the meeting agreed to provide any feedback, on a personal basis, to Cllr Thomson, in the next few days.

Feb23-14. Coronation of the King

The Chair reminded the meeting that the coronation would take place on the 6th May 2023 and asked whether it was felt that the Council should commemorate the crowning with an event and/or the distribution of a commemorative item.

In discussion the idea of distributing a souvenir to primary school aged children was considered - indicative quotations had been obtained for 300 Mugs (£580 plus VAT), 300 medallions (£720) or small metal pin-badges at between 80p and 95p each - the per-item costs would reduce if larger numbers were ordered. The idea of an afternoon tea for elderly residents was also discussed, potentially working with the other village organisations, (although it was noted that some elderly people have difficulty in getting out and so a picnic-box distributed to the house-bound could be considered). The idea of a picnic open to all was also suggested.

Members agreed to think about these ideas in preparation for decision-making at the next meeting.

Feb23-15. Finance

Receipts and Payments

The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments, subject to the replacement gate element (£150) of the payment to Mr Kirkham being re-couped from the Playing Field Committee.

Feb23-16. Footpaths Maps

A re-design of the existing map had been considered, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring parishes, and the Council discussed whether this would be worthwhile. There is a stock of about 2,000 maps on hand.

In discussion it was noted that the current map is reasonably accurate, albeit that two changes to paths had happened since its publication, and that the inclusion of other villages would result in a less conveniently sized map. There was also consideration of whether maps should be distributed to residents free of charge, either through doors or at Village Day.

A decision was deferred to a future meeting.

Feb23-17. Fundraising for Maintenance of the Play Area

This item was deferred until Cllr Anderson could be present.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date