

# Bunbury Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the meeting held at The Jubilee Pavilion, Bunbury, on  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 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  
Two members of the public

### **Feb24-1. Apologies**

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

### **Feb24-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Feb24-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Subject to a reference to Oakfield Gardens in item 7b being corrected to Oak Gardens, the Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

### **Feb24-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that:

- ◆ The Winter Get Together had gone well and had been well attended, with a number of useful connections and actions arising out of it.
- ◆ It was a good time to raise problems with roads, such as potholes, as budgets will get used up and there is generally much activity at this time of year.
- ◆ The outcome of Cheshire East Council's (CEC) green spaces maintenance review was pleasing, as the playing fields would continue to be maintained by CEC. However, it was noted that the grass may not be cut quite as often as previously and so additional provision would probably be necessary.
- ◆ The dog bins are still on order.
- ◆ Information about the Cheshire Shared History project for new buildings in Chester and Crewe was worthy of note (details had been circulated by the Clerk).
- ◆ CEC had published its draft 2024/25 budget and this would be debated by the full Council; proposals to increase charges for garden waste collection and car parking were noted. The latter, especially in villages, had been felt to be too great and had been called in for debate.
- ◆ CEC's current housing supply target had been met and the council was likely to reject a proposal for 26 new houses in Alpraham on that basis.

In response to a question, B Cllr Posnett noted that take-up of the garden waste collection service was at 40%; to be economically viable take-up needs to be 60%.

### **Feb24-5. Public Forum**

A member of the public raised a question about correspondence and it was noted that this had been responded to. Questions were also raised about the Local Plan development process, which is ongoing, and the designation of the land behind Tweddle Close.

### **Feb24-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

- ◆ Cllr Parker reported that the Poppy Appeal in 2023 had raised £4,434.84; congratulations were extended to all those who had carried out collections.

- ◆ Cllr Gorman reported that he had instigated a Tree of the Month feature on the WhatsApp group. The Newsletter will be ready for circulation towards the end of the month and a distribution list was circulated for checking by Councillors.
- ◆ Cllr Brookfield reported that the police were setting up a group of members of the public to review body camera footage and that she and Cllr Bottomley, as the Council's Police Liaison representatives (subject to item 11) would participate in that group and that training will be provided.

## **Feb24-7. Planning**

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

The Council considered the following applications:

#### **i. 23/4720N - Methodist Chapel, Bunbury Lane, Bunbury:**

*Demolition of the chapel, to be replaced by a four bedroomed dwelling.*

In discussion several points were raised, including the facts that a proposed balcony would overlook neighbours, the height of the roof was still excessive and the proposed materials included rendered panels which were not felt to be sympathetic to the immediate context of the site. In addition, although climate friendly energy sources were mentioned in the application, they do not form part of the application and this was felt to be regrettable. It was also noted that there are still inaccuracies of fact about the facilities in the village and public transport. It was resolved to object to the application.

#### **ii. 24/0276D (Re 23/0988N) - Long Acre, Wyche Lane, Bunbury**

*Discharge of condition 10 on existing permission 23/0988N; Proposed residential dwelling.*

The application was for a technical change and it was resolved not to object.

#### **iii. 24/0307N - Norbury Cottage, Bunbury Lane, Bunbury**

*Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding and erection of replacement dwelling and outbuilding.*

In discussion it was felt that the proposals were sympathetic to the context and that they would be an improvement on the existing, very dilapidated, buildings. It was resolved not to object.

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

The application for the inclusion of open countryside into the garden of **Heath House** had been refused.

Cllr Gorman reported that there had been considerable confusion about the Oak Gardens planning application, with CEC's strategic housing team having both objected and not objected to the application. In addition, due to ten different applications relating to Foxdale, there was confusion as to what was actually under consideration and what was actually proposed.

Cllr Thomson had noticed that trees and hedging in the garden of Foxdale had been receiving attention from the developer's staff and he had therefore pointed out, in a personal capacity, that permission would be required to carry out any works to any trees, including any significant pruning or removal, beyond the specific work that has already been granted permission. In discussion, it was argued that the Council should seek to prevent further damage by writing to the agents for the development and the CEC Trees Officer to express concern and to ensure that the position was clearly understood. Having involved himself personally Cllr Thomson declared a personal interest and took no further part in discussion or in the ensuing vote. After further brief discussion the council resolved to write to the Agent and the CEC Trees Officer.

## **Feb24-8. Request to Display a 'Go-To' Bus Advertising Banner**

As it had emerged that the nature of the banner meant that there was nowhere appropriate for it to be exhibited, it was resolved to take no further action.

## **Feb24-9. Allotments Working Group**

Notes of the recent meeting had been circulated in advance of the meeting and it was reported that an initial quote of £2,860 plus VAT had been received for clearing the land. After brief discussion it was resolved to agree to the principle of creating allotments on the land at Tweddle Close. It was further resolved to remit detailed discussion to the Working Group in order to bring forward a costed proposal for the necessary works and a design for the layout.

#### **Feb24-10. Correspondence and Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ The Police have provided limited information on speeding recorded by the camera on the A49 in the final quarter of 2023; this showed that 838 cars had been captured speeding by the camera - 237, 255 and 346 in October, November and December respectively. Further information will be sought at the next Police Liaison meeting.
- ◆ A further quotation had been received for the work to clear the track around the playing field that had already been decided on by the Council. The Council resolved to go ahead with the works to be carried out by Antrobus Landscape Services Ltd at a cost of £7,120, plus VAT. A quotation for ongoing maintenance has been sought.
- ◆ A quotation for £185 plus VAT in respect of cutting the grass, to top up the cutting paid for by CEC, had been received and this was noted.
- ◆ Formal notice of the 'extinguishment' of footpath 20 had been received.
- ◆ The school had received a quotation for the making of the proposed car park but as this had been for £85,000 they will be looking at other sources of funding before any further action.
- ◆ A request to house a clothes bank on the car park at Hurst Close had been received from the school's PTA. As the size and nature of the bank would not be suitable (given that it would also remove a car parking space) it was decided not to place the matter on a future agenda.
- ◆ The annual safety inspection of the play area will take place in April at a cost of £78.
- ◆ There is a forthcoming boundary consultation (by the Boundary Commission) for CEC wards and this will be brought to the next meeting.

#### **Feb24-11. Nomination of a Second Representative to the police Liaison Group**

The Council resolved to nominate Cllr Bottomley to the Police Liaison Committee.

#### **Feb24-12. Finance & Governance**

- a. **Receipts and Payments** – The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.
- b. **Summary Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023** – The Council reviewed the accounts and resolved to receive them.

#### **Feb24-13. Items for the Newsletter.**

It was agreed to include items on the decision on Allotments the Pulford Place naming ceremony and Carols Around the Tree, if pictures are available.

#### **Feb24-14. Items for WhatsApp Bulletin Arising From This Meeting.**

It was agreed to communicate the outcome of the Great Winter Get Together.

**The meeting closed at 8.52pm**

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

Chair                      Date