

# Bunbury Parish Council

## MINUTES

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

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 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

### **Jan24-1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Thomas and the reason approved.

### **Jan24-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Jan24-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

### **Jan24-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report**

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that two new dog waste bins had been commissioned but that if the Council wished to have a third it would need to pay for it. There were various consultations by Cheshire East Council open at present, including on budget priorities and on the way that election costs are re-charged to parish councils; the financial squeeze on councils was causing almost every activity to be reviewed and many services are being partly devolved to or paid for by parish and town councils.

Finally, B Cllr Posnett highlighted the forthcoming 'Great Winter Get Together' which would be held at the Pavilion on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January: the session is an opportunity for residents to find out more about the range of services and activities available and to engage with Council officers from a range of departments.

### **Jan24-5. Public Forum**

A member of the public thanked the Council for arranging the Christmas Eve Carols event which he felt had been a credit to all involved; he also suggested that having a card payment system available could increase the level of donations from the collection.

### **Jan24-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas**

- ◆ Cllr Gorman reported that the Traffic Management Working Group had met and discussed policies relating to introducing a 20 mph speed limit and the potential for introducing a Quiet Lane. The next step will be the distribution of a consultation survey.
- ◆ Cllr Gorman also reported that the next issue of the Newsletter will be published in late February and so asked Members to come to the next meeting with ideas for articles.
- ◆ Cllr Bottomley reported that he had had complaints about dog faeces not being picked up and it was noted that Chalk Spray was available to highlight offences.
- ◆ Cllr Slater reported that it was proving difficult to register the defibrillator at the Pavilion with The Circuit, as it falls between two postcodes.
- ◆ Cllr Thomson reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group will be re-convened in February.

- ◆ Cllr Brookfield informed the meeting that the Police Liason Group is being re-started and an additional representative from each parish is being invited to participate (Cllr Bottomley expressed interest in this and the matter will be discussed at the next meeting).
- ◆ Item for future agendas: representation at the Police Liaison Group.

## Jan24-7. Planning

**a. Responses to Application Consultations.** The Council considered the following applications:

**i. 23/4720N - Foxdale, Vicarage Lane, Bunbury:**

*To construct new residential driveway and entrance to Vicarage Lane.*

After discussion and consideration it was resolved to offer no objection.

**ii. 23/4758N - Hope Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury:**

*Extension and internal alterations.*

After discussion and consideration it was resolved to offer no objection.

**iii. 23/4680N - Heath House, Whitchurch Road, Bunbury**

*Change of use from open countryside to designated garden land to be used in association with Heath House.*

The Council noted that there had been previous related applications and that an appeal had been made and refused. The previous application had included a pond and this had been removed from the current plan and that, as previously, the application asserted that bio-diversity would be improved but did not include any information about current bio-diversity or how this would be affected. The application was to make the open countryside into a wild flower meadow and woodland and it agreed that it was not necessary to change the designation of the land to achieve this and there was no justification for enclosing it - this view had been supported in the failed appeal which stated that the desire to make the land available for the applicant's children would not justify the change in designation. Furthermore the applicant's argument that there would be a community or social benefit from the change was felt to be spurious as the land would remain private.

In discussion, given the lack of rationale for the proposed change and the fact that the client named on the application drawings is Harris Homes, there was a concern that the motivation for the application could be rooted in a desire to make the land available for development at a future date. The Council resolved to object to the application for the above reasons and to ask that, should the application be approved, a condition specifically limiting the use as being ancillary to the house itself be imposed.

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

The proposal for a single house on the Methodist Chapel site had been approved. The information on the Oakfield Gardens application remained incomplete on the planning portal but an amended Design and Access Statement had appeared in which (p7) it is stated that the veteran tree would be unaffected - this was in contradiction to the new plans. The Strategic Planning team had objected to the 'affordable houses' element of the proposals as they are smaller than the national minimum.

**c. Strategic Planning Update (Cheshire East Council)**

The paper from CEC had been circulated in advance and Cllr Thomson highlighted some key aspects that were to be reviewed (including settlement designations, sustainability issues, developer contributions, land designations, etc) and agreed to track changes arising from the update and to keep the Council informed.

## Jan24-8. Request to Display a 'Go-To' Bus Advertising Banner

A request had been received to display a banner but information about the size and material of the banner was not available. The request was supported in principle and Borough Councillor Posnett had already asked for more information and would chase-up a response so that the matter could be brought back to the next meeting.

It was noted that the service is used by some residents although some had been put off by the need to use technology to book the bus.

#### **Jan24-9. Christmas Eve Carols and Christmas Tree Review**

£345 had been raised by the collection and it had been agreed previously that this would be split equally between the Tuesday Luncheon Club and the Nantwich Foodbank. There was agreement that the event had gone well but that there was room for some improvement: the PA system does not seem to be capable of producing sufficient amplification to reach the number of people who attend and so the options for buying a new one will be explored. The running order sheets had been a welcome addition. Some drivers were unhappy at the delay caused by the event and it was agreed to notify the Dysart next year so that they could warn customers making bookings for the same time as the carols.

#### **Jan24-10. Correspondence and Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that:

- ◆ The Council's responses to recent planning applications had not been posted and he would chase this up.
- ◆ Further to the discussion of the School's Car Park project at the last meeting, the school had been informed that the S106 monies held by CEC and designated for education had been earmarked for secondary education. However B Cllr Posnett had requested that future S106 agreements take account of the growth of the primary school as well.
- ◆ He would be meeting a contractor on the day after the meeting to obtain further quotes for work on the track at the playing fields and would also obtain a quote for clearing the Tweddle Close site.
- ◆ Cllr Thomson had been invited to represent the Council at the Great Winter Get Together event. The Council resolved to approve Cllr Thomson's attendance on its behalf.
- ◆ Defibrillator cabinets should be received shortly.

#### **Jan24-11. Jubilee Playing Fields Charity - Appointment of Trustees**

The Council resolved to appoint Cllrs Brookfield, Thomas and Slater as Trustees of the Charity.

#### **Jan24-12. Finance & Governance**

- a. **Receipts and Payments** – The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments.
- b. **Budget for 2024/25** – The Council considered the final draft budget. The expenditure draft was as per the initial draft, considered at the previous meeting, subject to the minor alterations agreed then. An addition of a £100 Chair's Allowance was agreed as this could be used to defray the costs of small gifts to volunteers. In considering the income budget the Council felt it imprudent to plan for a deficit and so it decided to adopt version D. Accordingly the Council resolved to adopt Budget version D with the addition of the Chair's allowance.
- c. **Precept for 2024/25** - Arising from the previous item, the Council resolved to set a precept of £42,149 which would increase the Council Tax of a Band D property by about 19p per week.

#### **Jan24-13. Items for WhatsApp Bulletin Arising From This Meeting.**

It was agreed to communicate the following via the WhatsApp Group: the Great Winter Get Together (the Clerk) and dog-fouling (Cllr Gorman).

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm**

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date