

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.20pm

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

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
One member of the public
CEC Councillor Becky Posnett (Part)

Jul23-1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Linda Barton and the reason was approved.

Jul23-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

Jul23-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st June 2023 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Jul23-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Posnett was in attendance and reported that she was still awaiting estimates for the drainage work to School Lane (due to the illness of the relevant officer). There had been some small pothole repairs carried out in response to residents' reports.

Cheshire East Council has a number of contentious matters still on hand, including the reduction in library opening hours, the reduction in the number of planning committees and a proposed increase in pay for Councillors. B Cllr Posnett reported that most of the villages in her Ward had no planning applications on hand which was in contrast to Bunbury.

In response to a question, B Cllr Posnett confirmed that the proposal to introduce charges for garden waste bin collections was still in development.

Jul23-5. Public Forum

A member of the public thanked the Council for its work on resisting the planning application at Parkside, which had been refused - she felt that the Planning Committee discussion had been a tense hour and a half but that it was clear that there was strong support amongst residents for the Committee's decision.

Jul23-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

- ◆ Cllr Anderson reported that the ongoing problems of drainage on School Lane continued and that paths and roads were being increasingly blocked by overgrown hedges. It was noted that responsibility for cutting back hedges lay with the owner of the garden or other land on which they grow. It was agreed that a reminder about this responsibility would be sent out on the WhatsApp group but that this should wait until after the official bird-nesting season (i.e. until the 1st of September).
- ◆ Cllr Parker, in his role as Chair of the Jubilee Playing Fields Charity, reported that the gate to the Playing Fields, from the car park had dropped, making the catch ineffective but that he, on behalf of the Charity, would be attending to this soon. Cllr Anderson offered to undertake the work and this was gratefully accepted by Cllr Parker.
- ◆ Cllr Gorman reported that Village Day had gone very well and been very well attended. Although the supply of beer had been steadily increased over the years, demand had still out-

stripped supply, which ran out at about 4pm. Favourable comment had been received about the improved range of food on offer, after the barbeque, and the School had expressed gratitude for the Council's support of the creative workshop. The spectators along the route of the parade had been far fewer than in previous years and it was felt that the combination of no Village Cryer at the head of the parade, and the band being placed in the middle (rather than at the front of the parade) had contributed to this.

Jul23-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

i. 23/2511N - Foxdale, Vicarage Lane, Bunbury:

Demolish modern extensions and erect two-storey extension, with external and internal alterations, landscaping and a new access.

It was noted that, as with a number of other recent applications, the information was incomplete and so fully informed comment was not possible. It was also noted that a new access point had been created onto Vicarage Lane, within the conservation area, resulting in the destruction of hedgerow without permission, and that the Ward councillor had erroneously been told by Planning officers that approval had been given (in fact, it was noted, Highways had simply responded to a planning application consultation and, like any other comments, until this had been scrutinised in the context of the whole information relating to the application it carried no legal weight). There had also been an application for removal of several trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) about which the Council had not been consulted and to which it would otherwise have been likely to object strongly.

ii. 23/2313N - The Old Methodist Chapel, Bunbury:

Demolition of existing building and development of two dwellings.

The council noted that, again, the information for this application was poor. Examples included there being no way of assessing the proposed dimensions; a block plan that was at least 10 years out of date and which therefore showed an inaccurate context for the proposal; and a design and access statement that referred to the convenience and proximity of an ASDA store in Alsager (which, it was noted, is situated some 20 miles away); and no reference to the local plan, the neighbourhood plan or the design code.

Considering the detail of the application, Members noted that one of the two houses proposed seemed to be of a design and scale that could be more suitable to the site than the previously submitted but withdrawn application but that the proposal as a whole continued to fail to be in accordance with the guidance set out in the NPPF and the National design Guidance, Policy SE1 in the Cheshire East Local Plan 2017; Policy Gen1 SADPD 2022; Policies H3 and LC1 of the Bunbury Neighbourhood Plan 2015 and the guidance contained in the Cheshire East and Neighbourhood Design Guides, for a large number of reasons.

The Council resolved to object to the application and urge the Planning Authority to refuse permission on the above grounds. It was also resolved to highlight the need for an especially carefully considered construction management plan, by condition, at such time as any permission for site may be granted, due to position of the site at the centre of the village, close to many residential neighbours, and the amount of existing development traffic and parking problems in the area of the development.

b. Updates on Application Consultations considered previously:

As recorded under item 5, above, the application for **Parkside** had been refused at the Planning Authority's meeting of the 28th June. There had been a large turnout of residents and the Council's viewpoint had been very ably put by Cllr Thomson, who had been supported by contributions from Ward Councillor Beck Posnett and by Isabel Noonan, representing residents. It was noted that the information presented by the Case Officer had continued to contain inaccuracies and partialities but that generally these had been effectively highlighted to the Committee.

Jul23-8. Bins

The matter of new bins would be discussed at the Playing Fields Charity committee meeting on the 19th July and a plan formulated in the light of that discussion.

Jul23-9. WhatsApp Group

Members agreed that the Group had been a useful addition to the Council's communication with residents and that it would be helpful to open up use of the channel to all councillors who wished to post messages. Accordingly, it was resolved to make the group permanent, to continue to use it for up-to-date information and news of immediate relevance, and to open access to the messaging side of the Group to all Councillors who wished to have it.

It was also resolved to include a standing item towards the end of every agenda for 'Potential Items for WhatsApp Group', to consider whether up to three items from the agenda were newsworthy for dissemination on the Group.

Jul23-10. Restart A Heart Day

The Council considered a report from Cllrs Barton and Slater, circulated in advance of the meeting, and resolved to approve the recommendation to participate by holding defibrillator awareness and CPR training on Saturday the 14th October 2023. Cllrs Barton and Slater would publicise the event and sign-up would be via the Clerk.

Jul23-11. Correspondence and Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that: correspondence had been received from:

- ◆ A resident - objecting to the idea of a 20mph speed limit in the village and the Clerk had explained that the idea was just that at present and that there would be a consultation in which the resident could participate .
- ◆ Cheshire East Council - Notifying that Bunbury Common would be closed for up to 14 weeks from 24th July, for the replacement of gullies. Councillors noted that the closure had already started.
- ◆ Cheshire Community Action- Seeking renewal of the Council's membership at a cost of £50. This had been budgeted for but the Clerk wished to confirm that the Council wished to maintain its membership. It was agreed that to go ahead with this.

The Clerk also reported that:

- ◆ He and the Chair had met at the Play Area to review the annual safety inspection by RoSPA and they would be exploring options for attending to the maintenance work identified by the report.
- ◆ He and the Chair would be meeting prior to the next meeting for his annual review and members should let the Chair have any comments as soon as possible if they wished anything to be fed into the process.
- ◆ The Library consultation mentioned by B Cllr Posnett at Item 4, above, is open for comment and Councillors can contribute as individuals via the Cheshire East Council website.

The Clerk would also report on a matter relating to the contract for lengthsman services but as this needed to be done confidentially it would be discussed at the end of the meeting, under reserved business.

Jul23-12. Chair's Cup

Cllr Parker reported that he had been exploring options for the enlargement of the plinth and that although wood-turners were difficult to find, he was in discussions. It was noted that it may prove more economical to obtain a new cup.

Jul23-13. Finance and Governance

a. Schedule of Receipts and Payments

The schedule of receipts and payments was received and, with the additional payment of £50 to Cheshire Community Action arising from the decision to renew membership taken at Item 11, was approved by resolution.

b. Financial Report and Budget

The Clerk reported that the timing of the meeting precluded a fully reconciled quarterly financial report but that this would be presented at the next meeting. However, the quarterly figures had been informally reconciled to the bank balance and finances were satisfactory, with a surplus still being likely at the end of the year.

He also reported that, as a result of reviewing the figures, he would be proposing a revised mid-year budget at the October meeting to reflect actual spending to date and decisions made in the foregoing six months.

Reserved Business

Jul23-14. Lengthsman Contract

The Clerk reported that he had provided the contractor with a plastic liner for his van, as agreed and that he and the Chair had met him, at which time he had been much more positive. Bin emptying was still not always being carried out to the agreed timetable and this was being monitored. Unfortunately, the contractor subsequently reported that he had had an accident in his van.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date