

Bunbury Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Wednesday 10th July 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
Borough Councillor Becky Posnett

Jul24-1. Apologies

All Members were present and so there were no apologies.

Jul24-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

Jul24-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th June 2024 were a true record and that the Chair be authorised to sign them as such.

Jul24-4. Unitary Authority Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Posnett reported that:

- ◆ She had been in discussion about the proposed cut in bus services, arguing that the service should not be cut and that other options, including a service that linked with Tarporley, could be considered.
- ◆ The result of the planning appeal for 'first homes' at Parkside had been both disappointing and alarming but unless there were grounds for appeal based on faulty process or legal matters there was nothing more that could be done.

Jul24-5. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

Jul24-6. Members' Reports & Items for Future Agendas

Cllr Gorman reported that

- ◆ Following his report to the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) team at Cheshire East Council (CEC) of an obstruction having been erected on Footpath 29 in the form of a new gate, the PRoW team had responded that as a gate had previously existed the new gate was allowable, provided that it remains unlocked at all times. The finger post pointing to the path will be reinstated and markers indicating the course of the path will also be installed.
- ◆ He had reported Sunday working at Oak Gardens to the CEC Planning department as he had believed that this was not allowed, but had been informed that unless the planning permission stipulated the permitted working hours (which in this case it had not) the matter was not a Planning one. However, complaint could be made to Environmental Health. It was noted that any future incidences of this nature should therefore be reported to the Environmental Health team and that a video clip provides good evidence.

Jul24-7. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

i. 24/2374N - Heath House, Whitchurch Road

To convert existing Coach House into a dwelling, including new access and driveway.

Following discussion, although the Council noted that the proposed conversion would be very close to the existing house, it was resolved to offer no objection to the application.

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

It was noted that, as mentioned under item 4 above, the appeal against the Planning Authority's refusal of permission for 20 first homes at **Parkside, Bunbury Lane** had been allowed. Whilst it was noted that some of the evidence cited in the Inspector's report seemed flimsy or inaccurate, there nonetheless seemed to be no grounds for appeal.

It was noted that the owners of **Mayfields, Whitchurch Road** were not taking forward any further applications before selling.

Jul24-8. Replacement Gate Post at the Playing Fields

Councillor Parker reported that quotations were still awaited.

Jul24-9. 20mph Initiative - Questionnaire Feedback

Cllr Gorman circulated a summary of the responses to the questionnaire, to which there had been 268 responses by residents. The responses were 82% in favour of seeking a change in the speed limit to 20mph, made up of 68% strongly in support and a further 14% in support. There were also overwhelming proportions of respondents who agreed with statements relating to increased likelihood of walking or cycling on the village's lanes and to increased levels of safety on the routes to the school that would arise from the proposed change. Parents also expressed increased likelihood of letting their children roam in the village and the young people themselves who responded were overwhelmingly of the view that the change would make them safer.

In discussion it was noted that the response rate was pleasingly high, in comparison to average response rates for questionnaires of this type, and that there was a clear overall view in favour of seeking to make the change. The Council resolved to ask the Working Group to draft a submission to CEC, seeking a change to 20mph, for consideration at the next meeting.

The meeting thanked Cllr Gorman and members of the Working Group for their hard work.

Jul24-10. Appointment of Cllr Slater as Chair of the Jubilee Playing Fields Charity

At the request of Cllr Slater, this item was postponed until after the next meeting of the Charity.

Jul24-11. Jubilee Tree Maintenance and Protection

It was reported that the tree was doing well but that the temporary protective fencing had now reached the end of its usefulness and that the commemorative plaque was overgrown and corroding. Following discussion, it was resolved that Andrew Fairclough would be asked to look at the tree with a view to erecting a timber protective guard around it and mounting the plaque on that.

Jul24-12. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that thanks had been sent by the Village Day Committee to the members of the Council who had volunteered time on the day and thanks had also been received for the workshop run at the school, funded by the Council.

It was also noted that since the appointment of the new contractor to undertake Lengthsman duties, the village had been noticeably tidier and that the regular stream of complaints about litter bins had dried up - which represented good news.

Jul24-13. Finance & Governance

a. Receipts and Payments – The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and Cllr Gorman asked whether the workshop had been paid for. The Clerk responded that the invoice had not yet been received but that as this would be likely to arrive shortly and as it would be two months before the next meeting this could be added to the schedule for approval; the fee is normally £300. The Council resolved to approve the payments, including the workshop fee.

Jul24-14. Communications

a. Newsletter Review

In discussion it was noted that feedback from residents had been very positive. In terms of content it was noted that the main purpose of the newsletter is to focus is on the work of the Parish Council but that if the editor receives insufficient material, space will be filled with other news, relevant to residents, as this can also be valuable. The Council resolved to change the objective of the Newsletter to allow for such items.

It was also agreed that Members will work harder to provide relevant stories and will also proofread the final draft more thoroughly and advise Cllr Gorman of any problems in a timely way.

The style was discussed, as it had originally been agreed that the Council's standard style would be used so as to help build up recognition of Council generated documents. It was agreed that the Clerk would set this out at the next meeting.

The delivery system is working well.

b. Items for the WhatsApp Bulletin

It was noted that there were currently 277 members of the WhatsApp group and it was resolved to include items on the 20mph item, tree of the month and the Parkside appeal.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chair

Date **9th October 2024**