

Buerton Parish Council

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Minutes for the Meeting of Buerton Parish Council held at Hankelow Church Hall at 1915hrs on Wednesday 1 June 2022

Present: Cllr I E Shaw (Acting Chair), Cllr A Baddley, Cllr G Healey, Cllr N Bonell, Cllr M Hope, Cllr D Mansell, Clerk A Serif

2008 Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Lancaster

2009 Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting on 7 April 2022 were agreed and signed as correct records.

2010 Disclosure of interests

None disclosed

2011 Public Forum

2011/1 Mr Peter Hough spoke about the missing “No Dogs Allowed” sign from one of the playground entrances following a discussion with a visiting family who were exercising their dog, unaware that this was not permitted. The Clerk informed the meeting that the missing sign had been found in the centre of the playground and that the Caretaker would fix and replace it. However, it was agreed that all of the playground signage should be reviewed as per item 2012/1.

2011/2 Mrs Tracy Myers asked if she had to resubmit her comments to the amended United Utilities planning application. The consensus was that if the planning number was the same then her comments should stand and that it would not be necessary for these to be resubmitted. Mrs Meyers added that she had also received notification regarding a change of water supply. Cllr Shaw advised that this should be monitored and that as many Parishioners as possible should attend the Public Meeting on Wednesday 8 June between 14hrs and 1830hrs at Audlem Public Hall so that they could voice their concerns directly to United Utilities.

There being no other items for discussion, the Public Forum was closed.

2012 Business matters

2012/1 Playground

Cllr Mansell reported that the new pieces for the goal posts had been manufactured but that he had not yet been able to secure a date for the fitting. He and Cllr Healey both agreed to follow this up.

The appointment of John Brookshaw as playground caretaker was unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that there were several areas for improvement following the latest playground risk assessment and Cllrs Baddley and Healey agreed to visit the

playground to assess how best to approach some of the items raised and to identify the need and position for new signage.

Cllr Healey reported on a meeting that took place with herself, Cllr Lancaster and a representative from Buckland Arboriculture Ltd, specifically with regards to the large oak tree. The damage to the oak is from a dormant fungal infection and that there are signs of bark regeneration. However, it was strongly recommended that another tree survey should be carried out to enable a thorough inspection especially as these are now to be carried out every 5 years. Bucklands agreed to send a quotation to this effect but it was agreed that a new tree survey should be carried out this year.

The representative from Buckland also stated that it would be a sensible precaution to ask those attending the Jubilee picnic not to sit under the oak trees and this information was passed onto the organisers, some of whom were in attendance.

Whilst visiting the representative gave advice regarding the location for the planting of both the cherry tree to be planted by the Jubilee Picnic committee on behalf of the residents and an oak tree that will be planted by the Parish Council. Although in her opinion a native Rowan would have been more in keeping in the current setting, the recommended position for the cherry should not cause an issue with regards to its canopy compromising boundaries, highways etc.

However, a covenant in the playing field lease stipulates that permission from Cheshire East must be sought before any planting can take place. However, it is currently unclear as from whom this permission should be sought and Cllr Rachel Bailey is currently helping to ascertain the correct protocol for this.

In her absence Cllr Lancaster had forwarded some information regarding quotations for additional benches / picnic tables for the playground. Based on the quotations it was estimated that with anti-theft anchors, collection / delivery, the supply and installation of a hard standing that a picnic table would cost in the region of £1200. However, the playground covenant also applies here and although it was agreed that the expenditure was worthwhile as an additional community facility, that any further decisions would have to wait until the issue of the covenant had been resolved.

2012/2 **Co-opting of Parish Councillor**

The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy for a councillor had been sent to Cheshire East, posted on the notice board and on Audlem Online. Cheshire East would inform the Clerk after the period to request an election had expired on 10 June 2022 to advise whether co-option can take place

2012/3 **Owl Nest Boxes**

Cllr Baddley reported on the meeting with herself, Cllr Lancaster and a representative from Shropshire Owl Trust. She confirmed that a suitable location had been identified for boxes for both Barn Owls and Little Owls but that these should not be in the centre of the village i.e in the playground due to power lines and other disturbances. A quotation for the supply and installation of the boxes had been received and each Barn Owl box is £195 including delivery and installation and each Little Owl box is £100. It was agreed that this would be a worthwhile expense but in the light of other proposed expenditure, particularly in regards to the playground and trees, that perhaps this could be considered for either later in the year or next year, depending on what is the best time of year to set up the boxes. Cllr Baddley agreed to ask when this might be so a decision could be made at the next meeting.

2012/4 **Christmas Lights**

The Clerk reported that unfortunately she had not been able to arrange a meeting with Ralph Warburton and an electrician and that she had also had no success in communicating with ADAS. Tricia Haigh asked if she could speak and said that Ralph Warburton did have some information from ADAS and the Clerk said that she would get in touch with him directly. Cllr Baddley kindly agreed to help with the project in order to move it along.

2012/5 **Layby & Dog Waste Bins**

The Clerk reported that, following several phone calls to Cheshire East, the request for the additional bins was still pending. However, she felt that the issue was more to do with the emptying of the new bins rather than the supply and placement of the bins themselves. She agreed to continue to pursue this.

2012/6 **Woore Road Fencing**

Cllr Baddley reported that she had so far had no success in establishing if there was any scrap value attached to the existing fence. The Clerk reported that there had been no reply to the latest correspondence to the land owner. It was agreed that in the light of the installation of a new access to the field from Woore Road, that an approach should be made again to the tenant. While several ideas were discussed regarding the removal and replacement of the fencing, it was agreed that this matter could not move forward until a discussion had taken place between the Parish Council and the landowner.

2012/7 **Windmill Lane**

Cllr Baddley raised the state of the pavements and gutters adjacent to the playground as well as the unmown verges along the tree avenue on Woore Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss this Cheshire East.

2012/8 **Speeding Vehicles**

Cllr Baddley spoke about her concerns regarding vehicles approaching the bridge at the top of Windmill Lane from Longhill Lane especially as this was being used more by pedestrians as there is now no footpath access. The issue of the incorrect placement of the speed restriction signs was raised, especially as one of these has now been damaged and Cllr Baddley had also looked into the purchase of the a mobile "smiley face" sign but these cost around £3500. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Cheshire East to find out if the existing signs could be correctly located and repaired and whether there was any funding available to enable Parish Councils to purchase a mobile sign. It was also suggested that contact should be made with PC Nick Jarvis to see if the Speedwatch volunteers could monitor this area and also to recruit new Speedwatch members and the Clerk agreed to do this.

2012/9 **Inappropriate Behaviour**

Cllr Baddley reported on two incidences of verbal abuse that had been directed towards the Clerk regarding Parish matters. Cllr Baddley raised this matter as a duty of care and reminded the Parish that if they wish to raise their concerns or express opinions regarding any decision made by the Parish Council that they must do so respectfully and by using the proper channels. Any future behaviour of this kind towards the Clerk or Councillors will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately.

2013 Financial Matters

2013/1 The following payments were previously approved by Cllrs Lancaster, Shaw,& Baddley and are listed here for the record:

Clerk salary Apr 2022	£ 231.66
The Defib Pad	£ 159.59
Timpsons / Commemorative Plaques	£ 90.00
Zurich Insurance	£ 528.57
Shropshire Owl Trust Travel Expenses	£ 25.00

2013/2 The following invoices were unanimously approved for payment:

Clerk salary May 2022	£ 231.66
Clerk Expenses Apr / May 2022	£ 51.24
Shires Accountants Payroll Services	£ 71.40
Wendy Lucas Flower Troughs	£ 60.40
John Brookshaw May 2022	£ 80.00
ThenMedia Website Hosting	£ 115.20

2013/3 The Annual Governance Review was approved and signed.

2013/4 The Risk Register was approved and signed

2013/5 The Asset Register was approved and signed

2014 Planning and Development

2014/1 21/5552N Change of Use/Amended Plans – United Utilities. The Parish Council once again reminded Parishioners to attend the Public Meeting.

2015 Any other business

2015/1 Cllr Shaw reminded those Councillors present that Cllr Lancaster's term of office as Chair had come to an end and that consideration should be given to the election of her replacement and of a new Vice Chair. This matter was not concluded and is to be carried forward.

2015/2 Cllr Hope asked if Peter Hough in his role of Cheshire East volunteer footpath inspector was still present and raised the issue of the state of a footpath FP10 towards the stile. Mr Hough agreed that he would follow this up as a farmer has 10 days to rectify any footpaths that have been ploughed.

2016 Reports of meetings attended

2016/1 Cllr Shaw reported that Buerton has two seats on the Burial Board and Cllr Baddley kindly agreed to step in and join Cllr Shaw.

2017 Dates for future meetings.

2017/1 The dates for the 2023 meeting were confirmed as follows although they may be subject to change:

Thursday, 2 February 2023
Thursday, 6 April 2023
Thursday, 1 June 2023
Thursday, 3 August 2023
Thursday, 5 October 2023
Thursday, 7 December 2023

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2017/2 Future meetings to be held on the following dates subject to change. Meetings to commence at 1915hrs:

Thursday, 4 August 2022

Thursday, 6 October 2022

Thursday, 1 December 2022