

BUERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

6th April 2023

Commenced: 6.45 pm

Terminated: 7.05 pm

**Present: Councillor A Baddley (Chair)
Councillors G Farrealey, E Lancaster, D Mansell and I Shaw
Mrs M Clough – Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

Apologies

for Absence: Councillors Bonell, Hope and Mort

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair Councillor Baddley, extended a warm welcome to everybody in attendance, for the first Annual Parish Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Bonell, Hope and Mort

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR ON PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THE 2022-2023 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Chair presented a comprehensive update on projects that had been completed by the Parish Council during the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

The Chair particularly highlighted the following:-

(i) Planning

The Parish Council had an important role in safeguarding the parish of Buerton from development, infrastructure and environmental concerns, and a detailed Neighbourhood Plan established the goals, aims and objectives for the Parish, to protect against these [and other] concerns.

The Parish Council monitored planning applications and where it was felt necessary, would make a comment on an application. Over the last few years, the Parish Neighbourhood Plan had been used in many planning decisions by Cheshire East Council and it was noted that the planning authority considered the Plan and the comments made by the Parish as a whole, when making decisions.

(ii) Road Safety

During the last 12 months, the Parish Council had raised a number of road safety concerns with Cheshire East Highways, and had been supported by Councillor Rachel Bailey on many occasions. A particular concern involved a resident who had a 'near miss' incident when cycling with his child at the Long Lane/Windmill Lane triangle junction, when a car manoeuvred into their path. The approach to the junction was consequently modified to improve visibility.

Windmill Lane narrow section was an area on which the Parish Council had been attempting to obtain a speed reduction to 30 mph. At the moment, this had not been implemented, but the Parish Council would continue to drive this project.

General speed throughout the village was a concern, and the Parish Council had attempted to encourage teams of residents to undertake speed watch monitoring. For the monitoring to be effective and meaningful however, quite a number groups would be required. Alternatively, the Parish Council had looked into mobile speed indicators and was currently considering applying for a grant towards the purchase, but again, data on the speed of the traffic, was required to support such an application.

(iii) Playing Field

The playing field was a great asset to Buerton, but it did require a large financial budget to maintain and meet safety requirements. During covid the annual tree inspections and any tree maintenance could not take place. More recently however, the inspection had taken place and works were now in progress.

(iv) Playground Expenditure 2022

During the last 12 months, there was a large increase in expenditure for the playground, not only due to the normal running costs, but also as a result of the tree inspections and the required maintenance and safety work. Annual expenditure to the playground was now costing over £7,000.

(v) Projects for 2022/2023

Projects focussed mainly around the playing field. The playing areas and gym equipment were very popular so it had been agreed to provide more facilities within this area, such as:-

- New football nets
- Safety matting on the mound for the slide and tunnel
- Additional picnic bench which would be installed this month
- Pedestrian gate on Woore Road
- Christmas tree and decorations

(vi) Buerton Entertainments Committee

The Buerton Entertainments Committee was formed in 2022, which was welcomed by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council recently donated £500 towards 2023 events and the Parish Council looked forward to continuing to work with the Committee in the future.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public referred to the possible availability of a traffic calming grant from the Police Commissioners funding for Woore Road. It was noted however, that data would be required to support an application.