

## **Buerton Parish Council**

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### Minutes for the Meeting of Buerton Parish Council held at Hankelow Church Hall at 1915hrs on Thursday 7 April 2022

**Present: Cllr E Lancaster (Chair), Cllr A Baddley, Cllr I Shaw, Cllr N Bonell, Cllr D Mansell, Clerk A Serif**

**1998 Apologies for absence**

Received from Cllrs Healey & Hope

**1999 Minutes**

The minutes of the Council meeting on 3 February 2022 were agreed and signed as correct records.

**2000 Disclosure of interests**

None disclosed

**2001 Public Forum**

2001/1 Peter Hough asked why the Parish Council was considering the replacement of the Woore Road railings when he had been led to understand that they were the responsibility of Cheshire East and if that was not the case, then should it not be the adjacent landowner who was responsible for the upkeep. The Parish Council collectively informed Mr Hough that lengthy investigations had led to the discovery that the land on which the railings stood had never been correctly registered and as such neither Cheshire East or the landowner were obliged to maintain or replace them. As such, the Parish Council was attempting to find a solution to move the matter forward and as this was already an agenda item, it would be discussed further in the Business Matters.

2001/2 Elizabeth Green asked if the Parish Council would consider a joint purchase of the Old School House with neighbouring Parish Councils in order to have a community space. The Parish Council thanked her for her suggestion but agreed that it would not be financially feasible to do so.

2001/3 Alison Kenworthy suggested that in addition to owl boxes, the Parish Council might consider hedgehog and bat boxes. The Parish Council agreed that this could be considered and as the matter of owl boxes was already an agenda item, it would be discussed further in the Business Matters.

2001/4 Alison Kenworthy asked if the Parish Council accounts were available online and the Clerk confirmed that previous Annual Governance and Accountability Returns are available on Audlem Online and that the next Exercise of Public Rights is in mid-June and would again be published on Audlem Online.

2001/5 Tricia Haigh submitted estimated costings for the Jubilee Picnic in the Park to be held on Saturday 4 June and requested a donation from the Parish Council towards the cost as well as additional bench seating and the planting of a commemorative tree. As all of these items were agenda items they could be discussed further in Business Matters.

**2002** Cllr Lancaster thanked everyone for their comments and input to the meeting.  
**Business matters**

2002/1 **Playground**

Cllr Mansell agreed to follow up the repairs again as a quotation had already been accepted and it was agreed that it would be good if this work could be completed before the Jubilee celebration.

It was unanimously agreed that Tony Seabridge would be reappointed to maintain the playground for another 12 months.

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no further interest in the appointment of a playground caretaker. It was agreed to advertise one more time but in the meantime the Parish Councillors would devise a rota to arrange the emptying of the bins.

Cllr Baddley reported that she had tried to contact several wildlife groups within Cheshire but had no response. There had been a reply from the Shropshire Barn Owl Group whose nesting programme has been successful in producing a significant number of owlets. A member of the group makes the nest boxes and he agreed to conduct a site visit to see if there might be a suitable site for installing boxes but due to increased fuel costs would have to charge £25 to do so. It was agreed that Cllr Baddley should arrange the visit and also contact Audlem Wildlife and Ecology Group who had also recently installed wildlife boxes.

The Clerk reported that she had asked Tony Seabridge to assess the damage to the Oak tree and suggest a method of damage prevention. However, Tony had recently reported to her that chicken wire had been fixed to the tree but it was unknown who had done this. As the tree is under a preservation order, it was agreed that the Councillors would look into this further as this may not be a suitable solution.

It was agreed that costings should be sought for an additional picnic table and bench for the playground. It was suggested that both Tesco and Co-op have community funds and that might consider funding this project and Cllr Lancaster agreed to look into this.

2002/2 **Jubilee Celebrations**

Having received the proposal and estimated costings for the event from Tricia Haigh, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should support the event and agreed to a donation of £200. The Parish Council thanked everyone involved in organising the event.

It was unanimously agreed that a tree should be planted with a commemorative plaque as part of the celebrations and that a site visit should take place to consider the location and the type of tree that would be suitable.

2002/3 **Co-opting of Parish Councillors**

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from the Head of Democratic Services and Governance that confirmed that there is currently 1 vacancy on the Parish Council and that an advertisement should be drafted inviting applications.

2002/4 **Defibrillator**

Cllr Shaw explained that the defibrillator pads, both adult and paediatric were about to expire and that the cost of new adult pads was likely to be around £133 and paediatric pads around £60 but due to limited availability, it was unlikely that they would arrive before the expiration of the existing pads. It was unanimously agreed to approve the purchase of new pads to be delivered as soon as possible.

2002/5 **Audlem Online/News Page**

The Clerk explained that she had been discussing extending the Buerton link with the Editor of Audlem Online in order to have a “news” page in a similar format to the Audlem Online one but that this would involve the creation of an independent website and the inclusion of at least one news item every day to keep it viable. The Clerk suggested that a new page could be created that contained links to any news events which could then include a photo and a some text. It was agreed to discuss this further with the Editor.

2002/6 **Christmas Lights**

The Clerk reported that she was trying to arrange a meeting with a representative of ADAS who had kindly offered their services in helping install lighting in the trees at Christmas but that finding a power source was still an issue. Ralph Warburton had kindly offered to attend also with an electrician and the Clerk would arrange a suitable date for all to attend.

2002/7 **Layby & Dog Waste Bins**

The Clerk reported that she had submitted the request for bins in the laybys and a dog waste bin at the bridge in Windmill Lane, all of which would be emptied and maintained by Cheshire East. She had followed this up with a subsequent phone call and was told that the request was still pending. The Clerk agreed to continue to follow this up.

2002/8 **Woore Road Fencing**

Cllr Baddley reported that all avenues of funding had been explored such as Cheshire East, lottery funding, Heritage funding etc but that there was no funding available for this type of project. As replacement of the fencing was prohibitively expensive and in order to move the matter forward, it was unanimously agreed that at the very least the existing fencing should be removed and Cllrs Baddley and Shaw agreed to investigate whether there was any scrap value to the fencing and options for its removal. It was also agreed that even though previous attempts to contact the landowner and open a dialogue with him had not been successful, another letter should be sent to inform him of the intention to remove as a courtesy.

**2003 Financial Matters**

2003/1 The following payments were previously approved by Cllrs Lancaster, Shaw,& Baddley and are listed here for the record:

Clerk salary Feb 2022	£ 231.66
Clerk salary Mar 2022	£ 231.66
Clerk Expenses Feb / Mar 2022	£ 22.55
M. Preece – layby signage installation	£ 240.00
Newsletter printing	£ 55.16

2003/2 The following invoices were unanimously approved for payment:

ChALC Affiliation Fee	£ 156.96
Tony Seabridge Q4 – maintenance	£ 576.00
Mid-Cheshire Footpaths Association Subscription	£ 8.00

**2004 Planning and Development**

None to discuss

**2005 Any other business**

2005/1 The Clerk reported that she had an update from David Schofield, Project manager, United Utilities, regarding the works and a public meeting as follows:

Planning permission had still not been granted but this had been further delayed by a Change of Scope to the original application which was subject to an internal engineering review. Although the location and footprint of the proposed site had not changed, one of the buried tanks and the emergency shower area had been removed from the plans as the chemical dosing is being scaled down. Once the latest drawings are received, a date for the public meeting will be confirmed.

2005/2 Cllr Bonell asked if any members of the Council were aware if the Old School house was subject to any “building of interest” or listing status that might prevent it from being redeveloped in the future. It was confirmed that no such status had been afforded to the building.

2005/2 Peter Hough in his role as a Cheshire East volunteer footpath inspector asked the Chair if he could update the Parish Council on Footpath 7 that runs behind Brook Cottage. He reported that the engineers report regarding the reinstatement of the footpath had still not been received but it was felt that this would be a costly project and as the funds had to come from the highways budget, that it was unlikely to receive approval. However, Mr Hough said that it was unlikely that the footpath would be extinguished. The Chair thanked Mr Hough for his input.

**2006 Reports of meetings attended**

None attended

**2007 Dates for future meetings.**

As the date for the next meeting now falls on the additional Spring bank holiday, alternative dates were given for consideration depending on availability of the hall.

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

Wednesday, 1 June 2022 (confirmed hall availability after the meeting closed but included here for information)  
Thursday, 4 August 2022  
Thursday, 6 October 2022  
Thursday, 1 December 2022