

Buerton Parish Council

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Minutes for the Meeting of Buerton Parish Council held at Hankelow Church Hall at 1915hrs on Thursday, 4 August 2022

Present: Cllr E Lancaster (Chair), Cllr A Baddley, Cllr G Healey, Cllr M Hope, Cllr D Mansell, Clerk A Serif

2018 Apologies for absence

Received from Cllrs Bonell and Shaw

2019 Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting on 1 June 2022 were agreed and signed as correct records.

2020 Disclosure of interests

None disclosed

2021 Public Forum

2021/1

Mrs Patricia Haigh spoke on behalf of residents who have become involved in organising community events. A calendar of events for the coming 12 months has been prepared and Mrs Haigh asked if it would be possible to speak to the Parish Council before the next meeting to discuss their plans. Cllr Lancaster first of all expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to the residents involved and said that an open dialogue and collaboration would be welcome and that a meeting could most definitely be arranged. Going forward it was suggested by Cllr Baddley that a sub-committee could be formed, similar to those currently operating in Audlem and Hankelow and this initiative was welcomed by the Parish Council although Mrs Haigh raised concerns that the formation of a sub-committee may place constraints upon the current working group. Cllrs Lancaster and Baddley explained that as a sub-committee they would have greater access to the Parish Council and that they could present updates as part of the Business proceedings at each meeting rather than raising these during the Public Forum. Cllr Baddley agreed to investigate more about the activities of sub-committees with ChALC and these could be discussed when they meet.

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

2022 Business matters

2022/1

Presentation from Airband Community Engagement

Connor Parry from Airband made a presentation regarding works to be undertaken in conjunction with Digital Cheshire to upgrade coverage and quality of broadband services which may include areas currently without coverage. Mr Parry explained the different ways in which this could be undertaken, including using existing underground infrastructure and the possible erection of poles and the way in which residents would be informed about works affecting them. There was some concern from residents about the use of poles and about the way in which Airband would communicate this to residents. Mr Parry said that should poles be required in areas where there is currently no underground infrastructure that pole notices would be placed in positions adjacent to the siting of a pole and that residents would have the opportunity to comment on the placement. A copy of the power point presentation would be sent to the Clerk to post on the Parish Council page on Audlem Online but residents were also concerned about how Airband would

communicate with those who currently have no internet access and Mr Parry was unable to answer this question but promised to refer it to the marketing team. The Clerk agreed to produce a sheet with contact details for the notice board.

2022/2

Playground

Cllrs Healey reported works to the goal posts have been promised for next week. As this has been an ongoing issue, Cllr Mansell had obtained quotations for new goal posts and nets and with installation the cost would be approximately £1415. It was unanimously agreed that if the repairs had not been made within two weeks that an alternative solution would be sought.

Cllr Baddley reported on her inspection of the playground and reported that the most pressing issues, apart from the goal posts, were the Windmill Lane gate, signage and the erosion on the slide bank. It was agreed to discuss with John Brookshaw if he could inspect the gate and make adjustments if necessary, that Cllr Baddley would liaise with the Clerk regarding signage and the repair to the bank which would possibly involve placing some grass mats to prevent further erosion. Cllr Baddley also asked the Clerk to contact Tony Seabridge to arrange to have tree branches currently growing through the net on the adventure trail cut back.

Cllr Lancaster reported that she is expecting the quotation for the tree survey to arrive in the next week or so and on completion of the survey, decisions can be made about a schedule of works to be undertaken.

As Glasdon had provided the most competitive prices, it was unanimously agreed that Cllr Lancaster should request a full quotation from them for a picnic table and bench.

Cllr Lancaster reported that she had an exchange of emails and telephone discussions with Cllr Rachel Bailey who is helping to ascertain who is responsible for the playground covenant. As this is ongoing, Cllr Lancaster agreed to update Mrs Patricia Haigh about the planting of the Jubilee Tree as soon as she had any news.

2022/3

Owl Nest Boxes

Cllr Baddley reported that Shropshire Owl Trust have advised that the best months for installing owl boxes is October and November. However, with works by Airband possibly involving the erection of poles and cables, it was felt prudent to wait until these works are completed in Spring 2023 to reconsider

2022/4

Christmas Lights

Cllr Baddley reported that ADAS had indicated that the cost for tree lights for one tree leaving them in situ would be approximately £1300. However, BT have refused permission for a connection to the power supply in the phone box leaving the only other alternative as street lighting or a domestic supply. Cllr Baddley is awaiting further contact from ADAS/Ralph Warburton and agreed to continue to work on this project in order to move it along.

2022/5

Layby & Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk reported that as Cheshire East continues to experience manpower difficulties with drivers that it had been indicated that it is unlikely that new bins will be considered in the near future. It was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda but that the Clerk would contact Cheshire East from time to time for an update.

2022/6 **Woore Road Fencing**

Cllr Lancaster reported that during her discussions with Cllr Bailey that it had been indicated that another Parish Council was having similar difficulties with regards to Cheshire fencing. Cllr Bailey agreed to speak to the Clerk to establish if she was able to intervene to help.

2022/7 **Windmill Lane**

It was reported that although Streetscape had swept parts of Windmill Lane, the rest of the village had not been swept. The gutters in Windmill Lane are still a mess with weeds growing out of the drainage grills which is likely to cause issues during the winter months. The Clerk agreed to contact Streetscape again to request for the whole village to be swept and for further gutter cleaning to take place.

2022/8 **Speeding Vehicles**

The Clerk reported on her frustration with Cheshire East regarding the 30mph warning signs on the approach from Longhill Lane into the village and how her original request for these signs to be relocated and repaired had been miscommunicated and the case had been closed. The Clerk has discussed this with Cheshire East on the phone and responded to the email and a new report opened. It was suggested by Cllr Mansell that Cllr Bailey may be able to assist in this matter and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact her to discuss.

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by Cheshire East that there is no funding currently available to assist with the purchase of a mobile warning sign.

The Clerk reported that she had discussed the Community Speedwatch with PC Nick Jarvis and that he supported CSW activity on Longhill Lane and said that he would arrange this. However, there are currently only 3 active CSW members and PC Jarvis said that although he would ordinarily advertise for more members on social media platforms, he was reluctant to do so again as this had resulted in negative comments. The Clerk agreed to liaise with PC Jarvis to produce a poster for Audlem Online and the notice board.

2023 Financial Matters

2023/1 The following payments were previously approved by Cllrs Lancaster, Shaw & Baddley and are listed here for the record:

Clerk Salary June 2022	£ 216.66
HMRC VAT repayment	£ 110.64
Davenport Accounts	£ 100.00
John Brookshaw June 2022	£ 100.00
Morrall Play Services	£ 150.00
Tony Seabridge Q1 2022	£ 576.00

2023/2 The following payments were unanimously agreed for payment:

Clerk Salary July 2022	£ 216.66
Clerk Expenses June/July 2022	£ 20.95
John Brookshaw July 2022	£ 80.00
A Hassall	£ 60.00

2023/3 The 2022 – 2023 Budget was approved.

2024 Planning and Development

2024/1 There are currently no applications requiring discussion.

2025 Any other business

2025/1 Cllr Baddley reported that she had received a complaint from a resident of Windmill Close that the street name sign that had been damaged and poorly repaired was now in a real state of disrepair. The Clerk agreed to contact Cheshire East to discuss.

2025/2 Peter Hough in his role of Cheshire East volunteer footpath inspector gave an update on FP10 and said that this had been made accessible. However, Cllr. Healey said that parts of the footpath were still unpassable and Mr Hough agreed that he would follow this up.

2025/3 The Clerk asked if Parish Council would agree to a quotation for the repair of the notice board locks and also if it could be revarnished in readiness for winter to prevent further deterioration. It was agreed that quotations should be sought.

2026 Reports of meetings attended

2026/1 Cllr Baddley reported that she had joined Cllr Shaw at the last Burial Board meeting but that there was nothing to report

2026/2 No one present had attended the United Utilities public meeting and therefore there was nothing to report.

2027 Dates for future meetings.

2027/1 Future meetings to be held on the following dates subject to change. Meetings to commence at 1915hrs:

Thursday, 6 October 2022
Thursday, 1 December 2022
Thursday, 2 February 2023
Thursday, 6 April 2023
Thursday, 1 June 2023
Thursday, 3 August 2023
Thursday, 5 October 2023
Thursday, 7 December 2023

Meeting Closed to the Public to allow the following elections to take place:

2028 Election of Chair and vice-Chair

2028/1 Cllr Aljeana Baddley was proposed by Cllr Lancaster and seconded by Cllr Hope as Chair of the Parish Council and was duly elected
Cllr Gemma Healey was proposed by Cllr Mansell and seconded by Cllr Baddley as vice-Chair of the Parish Council and was duly elected
Cllr Healey informed the Clerk of a change in her surname to Farrealey and the Clerk agreed to inform all of those concerned of this change.

2028/2 Co-opting of a new councillor

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Kevin Mort of The Coach House, Woore Road, CW3 0DD to the Parish Council.