

Buerton Parish Council

buertonclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes for the Meeting of Buerton Parish Council held at Hankelow Church Hall at 1915hrs on Thursday, 1 December 2022

Present: Cllr A Baddley (Chair), Cllr G Farrealey (vice-Chair), Cllr E Lancaster, Cllr I Shaw, Cllr M Hope, Cllr K Mort, Clerk A Serif

2040 Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Bonell

2041 Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting on 6 October 2022 were agreed and signed as correct records.

2042 Disclosure of interests

Cllr Lancaster disclosed interest in agenda item 5.6.1.

2043 Public Forum

2043/1 Louise Evans asked if the meeting agenda could be published earlier and more widely around the Parish. Cllr Baddley explained that the agenda is ordinarily published on Audlem Online within the required timescale but on occasions when this does not happen, this is outside of the Parish Council's control. However, Cllr Baddley agreed that it would be beneficial if the agenda could be published more widely and in a more timely fashion. Other options such as publication on the Community Facebook group or the formation of a Parish Council Facebook page are currently being considered.

2043/2 Louise Evans also raised concerns regarding the activity of Airband in the Parish having received a wayleave agreement from the company that she considered to be intrusive and of no logical thought. Rachel Bailey, Audlem Ward, Cheshire East Councillor, attending to give an update on Cheshire East activities, explained that she is aware of Airband's activities throughout the Ward and is attempting to gain clarity on which part of their activity is being funded as part of their contract with Digital Cheshire to improve connectivity to rural areas and which are purely commercial.

Cllr Bailey suggested that the Parish Council should consider contacting Digital Cheshire to seek an update on the activities of Airband in Buerton and to make them aware of their practices affecting Parishioners and it was agreed that this should be done.

Carol Pailin remarked that she had contacted Airband after their presentation in August to express an interest in connectivity at her property and had received an email in November regarding this. She passed details of the sender to the Clerk as a possible point of contact.

2043/3 Tricia Haigh reminded the Parish of the Buerton Events Christmas Fayre taking place on 10 December and asked for volunteers and anyone wishing to have a stall to contact her. A request was also made for tombola / raffle prizes.

Tricia Haigh also thanked the Parish Council for the Christmas tree that had been recently purchased and decorated.

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

2044 Business Matters

2044/1 **Cheshire East Update**

Rachel Bailey, Audlem Ward, Cheshire East Councillor, expressed her concern that further budget cuts may affect existing bus services and strongly encouraged everyone to make use of the Go To bus service currently in operation. Leaflets were provided and the Parish Council agreed that it is a worthwhile project that deserves the support of the community.

Cllr Bailey also commented on the issue that is currently being pursued by both herself and the Clerk regarding speeding vehicles on Longhill Lane at the approach to the village. Cllr Bailey explained that Highways are facing huge budget cuts and skeleton staffing levels and that on this basis it is not surprising that there has been no progress on this matter.

Cllr Bailey explained that she has a small member's ward highways budget and it could be that there may be some merit in utilising some of this budget in order to move this matter forward. Cllr Bailey will remain in touch with the Clerk regarding this matter.

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Bailey for her continued support.

2044/2 **Playground**

Tree survey – Cllr Baddley outlined the findings of the tree survey conducted by Buckland Arboriculture and the Clerk gave details of suggested actions for the Ancient Oak. It was unanimously agreed that Buckland should be asked for a quotation for the proposed works and that talks should commence with the tree officer regarding a plan of action for the Ancient Oak.

Additional Playground Furniture - Cllr Lancaster had now received quotations for the installation of the proposed new outdoor furniture from Mark Preece who has quoted £250 plus VAT each to provide hard standings for a bench and a picnic table if they are installed together or £300 plus VAT if they are installed separately. Cllr Lancaster's quotations from Glasdon are now some months old and it was agreed that she should contact them again for an updated quotation but that in principal the quotes are acceptable.

Play Tunnel - Cllr Baddley explained that works to make good the eroded bank over the play tunnel that had been highlighted in the last Risk Assessment had been approved and that weather permitting, these works should be carried out sometime around 6 December and would include the installation of grass mats to prevent further erosion and reurfing of the area.

Outdoor Gym - The clerk had received a quotation of £295 plus VAT to provide a full service of the equipment. It was agreed to await the outcome of the next risk assessment due to be undertaken within the next 4-6 weeks and that a service should be included in the next budget.

Reinstatement of the Woore Road playground gate – the view of the Risk Assessor is that as long as there is no historical record of incidents involving the gate, that there is no reason from a risk perspective why the gate cannot be reinstated. It was agreed to obtain quotations for either a swing or kissing gate. Cllr Bailey explained that new kissing gates had recently been installed on some footpaths and that it might be useful to contact the contractor responsible for these. Cllr Bailey gave details of the Public Rights of Way officer who may be able to assist in contacting the contractor.

2044/3 **Christmas Decorations**

Cllr Baddley reported that a tree had been purchased, installed and decorated with battery powered lights at the corner of Woore Road and Windmill Lane. The purchase of a pot grown tree to be planted within the playground was agreed that would provide a more permanent annual display.

2044/4 **Gulley Clearing and Street Sweeping**

The Clerk reported that there are no plans to include Buerton in a programme of gulley clearing. Streetscape had advised that Buerton is included in a programme of street cleansing but that this was subject to staffing levels. Cllr Farrealey expressed her concern regarding the state of the gullies and the blockages causing severe flooding that in previous years had caused damage to vehicles. She encouraged Parishioners to report these incidences directly to Highways and Cllr Bailey offered to intervene on behalf of the Parish Council to seek some resolution.

2044/5 **Speeding Vehicles**

There was nothing further to add following Cllr Bailey's update regarding discussions with Highways.

No further volunteers had come forward for CSW training and again the Parish Council urged any of those interested in joining the CSW team to contact PC Nick Jarvis directly regarding training.

As part of an email received by the Clerk regarding CSW, PC Jarvis had mentioned the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village and that he would provide further information when it becomes available.

2044/6 **Footpaths**

Footpath 7 – Cllr Lancaster reported that the costings to reinstate part of the washed away path have still not been received. The Bonell family, upon whose land the existing permissive path crosses, has initiated discussions with Public Rights of Way to change the permissive path into a permanent footpath to future proof the footpath.

Footpath Mapping – Cllr Baddley put forward a proposal that there should be a map of Buerton footpaths that can be downloaded in the same way as the one for Audlem. She proposed that, with a group of volunteers, the footpaths could be mapped and a document produced. It was agreed that this was a project for the Spring and the any associated costs should be incorporated into the next budget.

2045 Financial Matters

2045/1 The following payments were previously approved by Cllrs Baddley, Farrealey, Lancaster and Shaw and are listed here for the record:

Clerk Salary October 2022	£ 216.66
John Brookshaw October 2022	£ 90.00
Flower Troughs	£ 52.35
Tony Seabridge Q2	£ 576.00
Playground signs	£ 154.80
ChALC Training	£ 25.00
Shires Accountants Payroll	£ 41.40
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RBL Poppy Wreath	£ 25.00
Christmas Lights	£ 52.47
Batteries for tree lights	£ 8.60
Broxap – repair and reinforcement of tunnel	£ 504.00
Christmas Tree	£ 136.00

2045/2 The following new payments were unanimously agreed:

Clerk Salary November 2022	£ 216.66
Clerk Expenses October / November 2022	£ 20.00
John Brookshaw November 2022	£ 90.00
Buckland Arboriculture Ltd	£ 480.00
Hankelow Hall room hire	£ 180.00

2045/3 Precept – it was agreed that in the light of the current economic crisis that the precept would not increase from its previous levels and remain at £4697 for the next financial year.

2046 Planning and Development

17/00224E – Planning Act Appeal – following investigation by Cllr Baddley it was revealed that the current owners are appealing against the building's listed status and that under the circumstances, no action is necessary on the part of the Parish Council.

2047 Any other business

There were no other business matters to be discussed.

2048 Reports of meetings attended

2048/1 Cllrs Baddley and Shaw had attended a meeting of the Burial Board but there were no matters arising.

2049 Dates for future meetings.

2049/1 Future meetings to be held on the following dates subject to change. Meetings to commence at 1915hrs:

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

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 2025hrs.