

BUERTON PARISH COUNCIL

2nd February 2023

Commenced: 7.15 pm

Terminated: 8.30 pm

Present: Councillor A Baddley (Chair)
Councillors N Bonell, G Farrealey, M Hope, E Lancaster, D Mansell, K Mort,
I Shaw

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st December 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Parish Council.

4. PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Council presented the outgoing Clerk with a bouquet of flowers, wished her well in her new venture and thanked her for her support.

The Chair then introduced the new Clerk, and the Council and Parishioners welcomed her to the role.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Elizabeth Green enquired about the publication of the contact details and the roles of the Councillors. The Chair advised that this information is available on AudlemOnLine but that if any members of the public did wish to make contact, it would be much easier for them to contact the Clerk in the first instance.

Mrs Tricia Haigh from Buerton Events Committee submitted a calendar of proposed events and explained that her organisation was currently seeking funding for the events detailed therein. The Council agreed to give consideration to Mrs Haigh's request, during consideration of the Budget.

6. AIRBAND

Mrs Serif (the outgoing clerk) reported that she had not received any response from Digital Cheshire however, she had held a telephone conversation with Mr Ray Adams, the Project Manager with Airband.

Councillors agreed that they had previously misunderstood the purpose of the network poles, which they initially thought were being installed to expand the infrastructure, however, their actual purpose was to improve the existing infrastructure. Therefore, residents who had a poor reception, would still not receive an improvement to their existing service.

RESOLVED

The Chair agreed to examine ways in which to expand fibre services to more houses in the Parish.

7. PLAYGROUND - OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Councillor Lancaster reported on quotes that she had received for additional outdoor furniture. The Parish Council noted that carriage was free of charge.

RESOLVED

1. That the following quotes from Glasdon be approved and the Clerk be authorised to place the following order:

- (i) Phoenix Recycled Material Seat - £638.79 (excluding VAT)
- (ii) Clifton Picnic Table with Wheelchair Access - £837.91 (excluding VAT)

2. That the price of installation of the two benches, from Mark Preece in the sum of £250 plus VAT, be approved and the Clerk be authorised to place the order.

8. REINSTATEMENT OF THE PLAYGROUND GATE

Councillor Baddley reported on quotations received for the replacement of the playground gate.

RESOLVED

That the new gate/s should meet the following requirements:

- (i) Constructed in galvanised steel;
- (ii) Suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs to pass with ease;
- (iii) Self locking mechanism

9. IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS TO THE PLAYGROUND

The Chair reported that new matting had now been fitted and that 3 dog restriction signs were required.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to purchase three dog restriction signs.

10. PLACEMENT AND PLANTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

RESOLVED

That the Chair be authorised to make arrangements for the tree to be replanted.

11. GRANT FUNDING - BUERTON EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the sum of £500 be donated to Buerton Events Committee for events proposed in 2023.

12. BUDGET 2023-2024

The outgoing Clerk submitted a report detailing estimated income and expenditure for 2023-2024. The estimated funding available for 2023-2024 was £23,927.20, against an estimated expenditure of £16,958.00.

The Chair reported that the Parish Council had received an unexpected sum of money from the Community Infrastructure Levy in the sum of £1,250.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Budget for 2023-2024 be approved as detailed in the report submitted;
- (ii) That the additional sum of £1,250 received from the Community Infrastructure Levy be allocated towards the cost of purchasing the new gates for the playground.

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED

- 1. That retrospective approval be given to the following payments, that were arranged by Councillors Baddley, Lancaster and Shaw:

(i)	Clerk Salary December 2022	£382.72
(ii)	John Brookshaw December 2022	£80.00
(iii)	HMRC/PAYE	£15.20

- 2. That the following payments be approved:

(i)	Clerk Salary January 2023	£236.80
(ii)	Clerk Expenses Dec 22-Jan 23	£38.00
(iii)	John Brookshaw January 2023	£80.00
(iv)	A Hassall	£60.00
(v)	Tony Seabridge	£576.00

14. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council noted there were no new planning applications that required consideration.

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 2000 – URGENT ITEMS

The Chair agreed to consider the following two matters due to time constraints as the next meeting of the Parish Council was not scheduled to be held until April 2023.

16. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR ADVERTISEMENT OF FOOTPATH OFFICER

Mr Peter Hough (footpath volunteer for Cheshire East Council) reported that the Parish Council was being requested to consider funding the advert for a Cheshire East Council Footpath Officer.

RESOLVED

The Council agreed that this request be not approved.

17. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

RESOLVED

The Council noted that the Clerk would be collecting the Councillor Packs on 26th February 2023, and would meet with the Chair to hand them over for distribution.

18. COUNCILLOR REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED

The Chair reported that she had attended an on-line meeting with Cheshire East Highways where discussions ensued around reducing services due to funding limitations. Topics discussed included: traffic safety; street lighting; pot holes; Cheshire Railings.

The Chair added that she had completed an Engagement Survey from Cheshire East Highways, and her comments expressed the problems experienced by the Parish.

Councillor Shaw reported that she had attended the Burial Board AGM, and Members were interested to learn that the Audlem Cemetery had received a Gold Award from the Royal Horticultural Society for its cemetery, which was the only cemetery with this award. This was particularly impressive, as the cemetery had only two groundsmen maintaining the premises, who dug the graves entirely by hand.

RESOLVED

That the reports be noted.

19. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the following dates of meetings for the remainder of 2023 be approved:-

Thursday, 6th April 2023

Thursday, 1st June 2023

Thursday, 3rd August 2023

Thursday, 5th October 2023

Thursday, 7th December 2023.

(All meetings to be held at Hankelow Church Hall at 7.15 pm)