



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

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DRAFT Minutes of MEETING NO. 224 OF BUCKLAND AND CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL.

Held on 14 March 2011 at the Crown Inn in Buntingford

Present:Councillors: J Jones, J. Kenyon (Chairman), D Hall Mrs M Ling,Mrs B. Little, J Noades.

Also in attendance:Mr D Smith Parish Clerk and 6 Members of the Public

224.1 To receive apologies for absence. There were none

224.2 To receive Members Declarations of Interest. There were none.

224.3 To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting 223 10th of January 2011 and authorise the Chairman to sign them. Proposed by Cllr Noades seconded by Cllr Ling.

Agreed.

224.4 Chairman's Report. The chairman had nothing to report which would not be covered by the agenda.

224.5 Accounts for Payment. There were accounts for payment to Printerland £68.04 for a printer cartridge, £750 to E Willis for litter picking,£245.63 the clerk's salary and £61.48 to East Herts for the 2007 election costs. **Agreed.**

224.6 To discuss issues relating to the newsletter. Cllr Ling pointed out the incorrect footpath sign adjacent to Chipping Hall. A member of the public, Alan Cheshire, was invited to comment on the subject of the land in the North West corner of Buckland. The clerk to **write** to the parish clerk of Therfield to find when the licence was due for renewal. The clerk to liaise with neighbouring parish clerks to ensure that we were consulted on planning applications which would impact on the parish.

It was pointed out that **???** Donated one of the bus shelters.

224.7 To discuss issues relating to Herts Highways. The clerk read a letter from Herts Highways regarding the salting of the road on January 8 and 9th. **Noted**

Cllr Nodes reported that salting was now carried out by private contractors.

The Council was waiting for a response from Raj Goutam regarding the village signs and flower boxes. The clerk instructed **to write** to Raj Goutam pointing out the damage to the parking sign and asking when the defaced Buckland sign would be replaced.

224.8 To review the effectiveness of the internal audit. The clerk explained the importance of the Internal Audit. Proposed by Cllr Jones seconded by Cllr Noades that they be accepted. **Agreed.**

224.9 To consider planning applications received, progress reports & decisions. 23 Hill view. The Council **unanimously agreed** to express support for the application. A letter regarding electronic submissions of planning applications was read. **Agreed** to reluctantly accept, pointing out that significant development applications would need paper documentation.

224.10 To discuss issues relating to the Parish Web Site. Cllr Jones asked that the website address be bolder in the newsletter.

224.11To Discuss Village Events. Cllr Kenyon reported that there may be a summer event in the parish.

224.12 To discuss the distribution of Draft Minutes of the Council. Cllr Hall asked what was the point of producing draft minutes. The clerk said he was following previous practice. Cllr Kenyon said that failure to produce draft minutes would mean that agreed proposals were not publicised for two months.

Cllr Hall proposed "Draft minutes be only circulated initially to parish Council members. Then distributed to wider circulation once approved at the following meeting". Seconded by Cllr Jones.

Cllr Little said that her experience in local authorities showed that draft minutes were not circulated outside of the meeting attendees. She described the parish Council as "A tinpot amateur organisation" After representations from the chairman she withdrew this remark. Cllr Jones stated the website software did not allow him to post minutes unless they were approved.

Cllr Noades reported that Buntingford minutes were not marked draft.

Cllr Ling said that Whitehall procedures were not appropriate for a parish Council she would be guided by the "Governance Toolkit for Parish and Town councils" recommended by HAPTC.

The vote was put. For: Cllr Hall, Cllr Little and Cllr Jones. Against: Cllr Ling, Cllr Noades and Cllr Kenyon. The chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of the **status quo**.

224.13 To invite Members of the Public to address the meeting. Mr Cheshire pointed out the new footpath signs did not have a distance or destination. It was pointed out that the footpath signs in Chipping were marked Buckland. The clerk was instructed to write to Colin Hambrook The County Footpaths Officer.

Mr Harrington suggested that speed limit countdown signs were installed at the entrance to the villages. Sue Simmons reported that the Buckland and Chipping Village Association had funds which could be used for village events. An article in the newsletter asking for volunteers for that committee would be appropriate.

224.14 To note correspondence received. Invitations to the launching of the police report was noted. A letter from Doug Bowen regarding grass cutting for the current season was read. This would lead to an increase of £50 pa for the churchyard and an extra five pounds per cut for the new bus shelter. Proposed by Cllr Ling seconded by Cllr Noades that this be accepted. **Carried**

224.15 To receive matters for report and or referral to next agenda. There were none

224.16 Chairman's Closing Statement. The chairman wished to thank his fellow councillors and the two clerks for their work during the last four years. He wished to thank Cllr Ling for her work producing the village newsletters. Thanks were due to Doug Bowman for the grass cutting and to Paul and Ray for their effective litter picking in the villages. Finally he wished to thank the members of the public for their interest and attendance at meetings.

224.17 To agree the date of the next meeting. May 16th 2011. This will also be the parish Council's AGM and the annual parish meeting. Agreed

The meeting closed at 9:33 PM