



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

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Minutes of MEETING NO. 229 OF BUCKLAND AND CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL.

**Held on Wednesday 19th of September 2011 at 8.00pm
St Andrews Church Buckland**

Present: Councillors: J Noades (Chairman) Cllrs T Harrington, D Hall, J Jones and J Kenyon

In attendance the clerk David Smith, Sergeant D Wallace and three members of the public.

229.1 To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Ling

229.2 To receive Members Declarations of Interest. Cllr Hall said he would be the recipient of a payment.

229.3 To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting 228 31st August 2011 and authorise the Chairman to sign them. Proposed by Cllr Kenyon seconded by Cllr Jones. **Agreed.**

229.4 To consider planning applications received, progress reports and decisions. See agenda item 11.

The Chairman suggested that agenda item 9 be taken next. **Agreed.**

229.9 Sgt Wallace said that Buckland and Chipping were not high crime areas. Since the last police report there had only been two crimes in the villages. The force work closely with farmers as hare coursing was an issue in our area. The people who followed hare coursing were very often involved in other crime and he urged people to report suspicious vehicles in the countryside. Cllr Harrington asked for speed reports of surveillance done in the villages. Sgt Wallace said that speed limits do not inevitably lead to lower speeds. The design of roads governs the speed of the traffic. He said that the Speed Watch scheme was very bureaucratic. The "Smiley Face" speed signs were set to 30 mph. Cllr Hall asked if the gap between the villages was counter-productive and could actually lead to more speeding. Sgt Wallace said that the distances involved meant that it would be impossible to revert to national speed limit between the two villages. A discussion took place regarding the Met police using the A10 as a training route. Sgt Wallace said what was happening was not unlawful and that police training had set routes. Sgt Wallace agreed to put forward Buckland and Chipping for a traffic survey and would feedback results. The chairman thanked him for his report.

229.5 Chairman's Report. The chairman reported that Cllr Jones the clerk and himself had walked round Buckland. Most of the observations had been reported and acted upon by Highways. It was unclear who owned the land from where brambles were over growing the footpath in Whiteley Lane. The clerk **instructed** to write to Mexborough Estates to ask if they owned that piece of land. He reported that Cllr Kenyon was going as the Council's representative to the civic service in Buntingford on 9 October.

229.6 Accounts for Payment. The clerk presented accounts for his salary, PAYE, litter picking, grass cutting, councillor training and subscription to SLCC. **Agreed.** He wished to comment on the cost of producing the newsletter under the next agenda item.

229.7 To Discuss Issues Relating to the Newsletter. Cllr Jones requested that the last news letter be sent as a PDF. He also asked that the numbers be increased to 60 for Chipping. The clerk commented that the cost of replacement toners were greater than the cost of a new printer. Without direct authorisation however he felt unable to order a new capital item. The recently purchased toners should last some months however. Cllr Kenyon suggested that we obtain price for the printing of one year's worth of advert sheets. **Agreed.** Purchase of the toners was **agreed.**

229.8 To Discuss Issues Relating to Herts Highways. It was **agreed** that Cllr Kenyon Cllr Noades and clerk would plan a walk around Chipping with the highways engineer Ian Bishop. It was **agreed** to ask Doug Bowen to cut back the trees behind the southbound bus shelter in Chipping. Cllr Hall raised the issue of cars parked on Back Lane effectively blocking access, even for pushchairs. Cllr Noades said this was not a right-of-way. It was reported that if the residents of Malions were asked then they would move the vehicle concerned. Cllr Hall raised the issue of the early appearance of Buckland Barn Christmas sign. The parish Council was not able to act. It was reported that perspex was shattered in the northbound bus shelter in Buckland. The clerk to ascertain whether this was covered by guarantee.

229.10 To consider applying for a Community Grant from East Herts. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Jones seconded by Cllr Harrington that the Council apply for the cost of two flower boxes at the entrance to the villages. **Agreed**. Cllr Hall raise the issue of Village Signs. This to be on our next agenda.

229.11 to consider planning applications received, progress reports and decisions. There were none.

229.12 To Discuss Progress on the Creation of a Parish Plan. Cllr Harrington had now three volunteers. She was to continue seeking volunteers.

229.13 To Consider Attendance at East Herts parish and town councils meeting on 28 September 2011. **Agreed** to ask Jill Jones Buntingford town clerk for a report.

229.14 To Discuss Village Events. Cllr Hall reported that the summer event had been lightly attended but enjoyed by everyone. The takings of £80 were to be divided, half to Somalian refugee fund, half to the East Anglian Children's Hospice It was **agreed** that the grant of £75 will be paid as previously agreed. It was reported that the Village Association did have funds. Cllr Noades said in previous times the annual garden fête had been held in alternate villages. It was **agreed** that the parish Council encourage the Village Association to hold a Halloween event on 5 November. Cllr Jones reported on planned events in Buntingford for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The question of a village team, a village float, a memorial plaque or the buying of memorabilia for village children to be on the next agenda.

229.15 To Invite Members of the Public to Address the Meeting. There were none.

229.16 To Note Correspondence Received. Various items of correspondence were read.

229.17 To Receive Matters for Report and or Referral to Next Agenda. This had been discussed previously. The subject of the parish councils wreath for Armistice Sunday was raised. The clerk advised that as this was a spending issue it would need to be properly agendaed. **Agreed**.

229.18 To Agree the Date of the Next Meeting. November 7, 2011 at the Crown Inn Buntingford. **Agreed**. The meeting closed at 9:46 PM.