



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

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**Draft Minutes of the MEETING NO. 237
OF BUCKLAND AND CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL.
Held on Monday 2nd July 2012 at 8.00pm
at St Andrews Church Buckland**

Present: Councillors: J Noades (Chairman) D Hall, Mrs T Harrington, J Jones, and Mrs M Ling. In attendance the clerk and four members of the public.

- 1.235 To receive apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr. Kenyon.
- 2.235 To receive Members Declarations of Interest. There were none.
- 3.235 To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting 236 May 28th 2012 and authorise the Chairman to sign them. Proposed by Cllr Hall seconded by Cllr Jones. **Agreed.**
- 4.235 Chairman's Report. The chairman reported that he was very pleased that the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations went well. Congratulations from the chair to all of the organisers. He had received an invitation to attend the County Councils Jubilee Celebration. He was unable to attend but the deputy chairman Cllr Jones would be attending.
He had received three months notice from the clerk, who was resigning for personal reasons. It was agreed to contact HAPTC to place it on their situations vacant list, notices would be placed on the notice boards and the clerk would contact local clerks advising of the vacancy. The chairman reported that he had met with the previous clerk Mrs Jill Jones who may be able to act as a locum. He now wished to take item 9.235 as Cllr Ling would need to leave the meeting.
- 9.235 To adopt in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the new Code of Conduct and to approve the corresponding amendments to the Standing Orders. Councillor Jones explained that he had attended the last meeting of the County's Standards Board. This had been abolished under the Localism Bill and was been replaced by new Codes of Conduct and Registers of Interest overseen by the District Council. Councillors had 28 days from the date of adoption to file their Registers of Interest. These would be placed on the parish Council's website. Cllr Harrington asked where the Data Protection Act applied. Cllr Jones said that as councillors were a "public person" the DPA did not apply in this case. It was proposed by Cllr Hall seconded by Cllr Jones that the parish Council adopt the new Code of Conduct and Register of Interests. **Agreed.**
- 6.2356 To discuss issues relating to the Newsletter. Councillor Ling said she was pleased that all of the last issues content was generated locally. She now

understood that the carol service will take place. It was suggested that the next profile be from Cllr Jones. Cllr Ling continued to ask for news items from members of the public.

5.235 Accounts for Payment. Payments to the clerk for salary, to HMRC for PAYE and to D McClean for the internal audit. Agreed

7.235 To discuss issues relating to Herts Highways. It was reported that gravel was still washing down the drive onto the A10. The clerk explained the District Council Planning Authority Enforcement Division had told him that as the developers were no longer in existence they had passed the problem to County Council Highways. Cllr Jones felt strongly that this was a planning enforcement issue and highways should not have to bear the cost of correctly installing the drive. After discussion it was agreed that the clerk would contact the divisional highways engineer with the following points: The missing 40 sign in Buckland. The gravel coming from the entrance to Chipping Hall Barns. The village sign for Buckland on the Barkway Road. Yellow square backing for the speed signs on the A10. To arrange the six monthly walk around the villages.

8.235 To discuss issues relating to Thames Water. In the absence of Cllr Kenyon it was reported that sewerage drain jetting had taken place in Chipping. It was understood that the results of the video survey would be available.

10.235 To consider planning applications received, progress reports & decisions. The clerk reported an enforcement notice had been served regarding the unauthorised conversion of garage into two studio flats at The Old Mission Hall, Chipping, SG9 OPQ

11.235 To discuss issues relating to the Parish Web Site. Cllr Jones reported that the site had had 1250 hits since January. He requested that any photographs of the Jubilee celebrations be sent to him for inclusion on the site.

12.235 To discuss Village Events. Cllr Harrington said that in her opinion any future events would have to be on a more formal basis citing the need for proper insurance. She reported that the Village Association did have some money. She asked if the Council would support a fireworks display. Cllr Jones said that we had set a budget for village events. Cllr Harrington asked if the Council could vire money from other headings. Cllr Hall said the parish council has never organised events itself. Cllr Harrington said it is a parish council responsibility to organise events for its residents. Cllr Jones said that in the past events had been organised by volunteers. Cllr Hall said that the parish council is the only organisation with insurance. Cllr Harrington said she would not be responsible for village events without insurance cover. It was agreed that Cllr Harrington and the clerk would talk to our insurers. Cllr Harrington to ask via the newsletter if there was any desire on the part of older people in the villages to attend events. Cllr Hall reported that there would be a service in St Andrews on 29 July. On 8 September the Bike and Hike diocese event would be visiting St Andrews.

13.235 To consider a permanent memorial plaque for the Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Jones felt there should be a permanent memorial to the present Queens Diamond Jubilee as there was already a memorial in the church to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. After discussion as to the siting and suitability of any such memorial it was agreed that costings for a sundial and engraved brass plaque be obtained. Cllr Hall

to contact the Churches Conservation Trust for their opinion on positions within the church or churchyard

14.235 To discuss the Village's Community Charge. The clerk reported that following question by Cllr Harrington at the last meeting he had investigated the situation. He had to report that an error on his part in transcribing the minutes led to an increase of £99 in the precept request. The clerk apologised for his mistake. Cllr Hall said this was a very big mistake. He said there should be an apology in the newsletter stating that the matter would be corrected in next year's precept. This apology also to be placed on the village website. **Agreed**

15.235 To invite Members of the Public to address the meeting. Mrs King commented that she had helped on village events in the past, but would not do so now because of the lack of insurance. She reported that properties in The Square in Chipping were experiencing problems with the sewerage system. The message to be passed to Cllr Kenyon. She reported an increase in dog faeces in the churchyard and on village pavements. It was agreed to obtain further notices from East Herts District Council.

16.235 To note correspondence received. East Herts District Council was phasing in the turning out streetlights during the night.

17.235 To receive matters for report and or referral to next agenda. It was requested that the parish plan be on the September agenda.

18.235 To agree date of next meeting. September 10th 2012 at the Crown Inn, Buntingford. Agreed.

The meeting closed at 9:21 PM