



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

Clerk: David Smith. 6 Willow Close Reed. SG8 8BA

Tel: 01763 849023 e mail: clerk@bucklandandchippingpc.org.uk

New clerk: Caroline Jones - Barnside, Hare Street, Buntingford SG9 0AD

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Minutes of the MEETING NO. 238 OF BUCKLAND AND CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL.

Held on Monday 10th September 2012 at 8.00pm at the Crown in Buntingford

Present: Councillors: D Hall, Mrs T Harrington, J Kenyon, and J Jones. In attendance the clerk and one member of the public.

In the absence of Cllr Noades, Vice Chairman Cllr Jones took the chair

- 1.238 To receive apologies for absence. Councillors Ling and Noades
- 2.238 To receive Members Declarations of Interest. There were none.
- 3.238 To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting 237 2nd July 2012 and authorise the Chairman to sign them. Proposed by Cllr Harrington seconded by Cllr Jones. Agreed.
- 4.238 Chairman's Report. In the absence of Cllr Noades, Cllr Jones reported the Buckland church bells had been rung to celebrate the opening of the Olympics.
- 5.238 To invite Mr T Duke of Push Energy to talk about the proposed solar farm installation at Wisbridge Farm. Mr Duke had not arrived for the meeting.
- 6.238 Accounts for Payment. Accounts for payment for the clerk for salary: HMRC for PAYE: P Brownless for litter picking: the clerk for expenses: The Parish Council Website: and D Bowen for grass cutting. The issue of litter picking was discussed. Councillors to monitor the situation closely. Councillor Kenyon wished it to be recorded that we had received a new homes bonus payment of £1471. It was reported that only 4 adverts had been paid for the current year. Cllr Jones to investigate.
- 7.238 To discuss issues relating to the Newsletter. Notices and leaflets for inclusion with the newsletter regarding dog fouling had been received from East Herts. Cllr Hall questioned the tone of the article regarding speeding in the previous newsletter. Councillor Jones disagreed with Cllr Hall, stating that he thought the tone was just right. Other councillors agreed. He also said that as villagers had previously shown concern with speeding traffic through the villages and that action was required, we had a duty to inform villagers of action that had been taken and the circumstances as to why it was not completed. Cllr Harrington pointed out that if we had known in advance the police wished to install monitoring equipment councillors could have assisted.



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- 8.238 To discuss issues relating to Herts Highways. The clerk reported an e-mail from East Herts planning regarding the entrance to Chipping Hall Barns. The gravel spilling onto the road was still causing a safety hazard as well as potentially contributing to the blocking of the drains in that area. The clerk instructed to write again to Hertfordshire Highways asking when they would be taking action. The letter to be copied to County Councillor Jane Pitman. Councillors agreed to do a village walk around one weekend to view potential problems. Cllr Jones would liaise with Sgt Wallace regarding speed monitoring equipment.
- 9.238 To discuss issues relating to Thames Water. Cllr Kenyon reported that Chipping Hall Cottages were still having problems with sewage backing up into the houses. He had contacted our MP. Pressure was been put on Thames Water and their contractors to investigate the problems where the sewerage pipes pass through fields.
- 10.238 To consider planning applications received, progress reports & decisions. The clerk reported that East Herts Council had served a REFUSAL OF CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL USE OR DEVELOPMENT relating to The Old Mission Hall. A letter from Push Energy regarding the solar farm between Reed and Barkway was read. It was anticipated that the equipment would be visible from footpaths between Buckland, Reed and Barkway. Push Energy were proposing to pay 50% of the parish precept for five years at which point the new hedges would screen the site from view. Councillors hope that Mr Duke would be able to attend a future meeting to explain more fully. A planning application was expected to be made in the autumn.
- 11.238 To discuss issues relating to the Parish Web Site. Nothing to report.
- 12.238 To discuss grass cutting in Chipping. Villagers had contacted Cllr Noades to ask if the grass outside their houses could be cut like the grass around the notice boards and bus shelter. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Noades would speak to the villagers concerned. Resolved no action.
- 13.238 To discuss Village Events. Cllr Harrington reported that a Halloween and fireworks party were planned for November. Also a children's Christmas party for December. After discussion the Christmas Service would be discussed at the November meeting. A reminder could be placed in the newsletter asking for assistance from volunteers.



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Cllr Harrington said that for the fireworks and Christmas party, insurance and proper risk assessments were needed. She asked if money could be spent from reserves. Cllr Jones pointed out that the budget for village events had been already spent for the year. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hall seconded by Cllr Kenyon that the Parish Council mirror the Village Association funds to a maximum of £100. All in favour. After discussion it was agreed to leave the question of the children's party until the November meeting.

- 14.238 To discuss The Parish Plan. There was nothing further to report. The effect of the Localism Act was still unclear. Cllr Hall reported that a suggestion had been left in the suggestion box in the Buckland telephone box asking for a playground for children.
- 15.238 To consider a permanent memorial plaque for the Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Hall was awaiting a response from the Church Conservation Trust. Cllr Jones presented a quotation of approx. £180 for a brass plaque and a similar amount for a sun dial. The question of a plaque or sundial would be left until the installation was approved.
- 16.238 To discuss the appointment of a new clerk. Carolyn Jones left the room. An application including a CV had been received from Caroline Jones. She had been interviewed by councillors Noades and Jones. They recommended her employment. Proposed by Cllr Jones seconded by Cllr Kenyon that she be offered employment as parish clerk from 15 September. Caroline Jones returned to the room and accepted the position. The current and future clerk to liaise the handover.
- 17.238 To invite Members of the Public to address the meeting. There were none.
- 18.238 To note correspondence received. An invitation had been received to Buntingford Town Council civic service. A letter had been received from the Audit Commission suggesting that the Council would have no audit fees 2012/13.
- 19.238 To receive matters for report and or referral to next agenda. The British Legion Memorial service. The children's Christmas party.
- 20.238 To agree date of next meeting. November 12 2012 at the Crown Inn in Buntingford. The meeting closed at 10:25 PM. The vice-chairman and councillors thanked David Smith for his services over the last three years and made a presentation.