



# *Buckland & Chipping Parish Council*

*Clerk: Caroline Jones – Barnside, Hare Street Buntingford SG9 0AD*

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING No. 239**

### **Buckland and Chipping Parish Council**

**Held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm at The Crown, Buntingford**

**Present:** Councillors J Noades (chair), D Hall, T Harrington, J Jones, J Kenyon, M Ling

**Also present:** 3 members of the public and Sgt. D Wallace (from item 5a)

**Officer present:** Caroline Jones

Chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public to the parish council meeting no. 239.

**1.239 To receive apologies for absence** None.

**2.239 Disclosure of Members' Interests** with regards to items on the agenda – None

**3.239 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012** circulated to members. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was resolved that the Minutes were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

A proposal, second and a unanimous vote was made to move item 8 to 19 due to the confidential nature of the business.

**4.239 Chairman's Report**

As councillors were aware, a bad accident had occurred at Chipping, a motorcycle fatality with the funeral today.

**5.239a Police Report**

Sgt. Wallace arrived and reported on the motorcyclist collision mentioned in 4.239. The large group of motorcyclists went from Royston to the service at Stevenage Crematorium. The accident is still under investigation.

Prior to the accident, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, a speed check was made 50-100 metres from the above crash scene and has been made available to coroner if required. Speeds of 91 and 93mph had been recorded by two motorcycles and the average speed through the village was 46-44mph. Excess speed hasn't been linked to the above accident. The average traffic reported was 12,000 vehicles per day. 67% Northbound and 52% Southbound traffic would go into the threshold for enforcement for speeds of 46mph and above, a large proportion of vehicles were travelling at 45-55mph. The A10 trunk road indicates little danger for drivers to naturally slow down, 80% travel within a narrow speed band irrespective of what the speed limit is. Sgt. Wallace was asked if flashing 'slow down' signs would make a difference. He reported that flashing signs reduce speeds by approximately 3-4mph and commented that speed checks are very effective when the check is being done.

Sgt. Wallace reminded council on the forthcoming police elections next week. Unprecedented demands had been put on the police with Olympics and Jubilee events but cover had been maintained in the local area and Buntingford. The chairman thanked Sgt. Wallace for his time.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ 07.01.13

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- 5.239b Accounts** - Payments were clerk's salary for Sep-November plus 4hrs accounts work and printer cartridges amounting to £323.16. BDO Audit Fee of £192 and the poppy wreath, £17.50. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote, cheque signing was agreed and deferred to the end of the meeting.
- 6.239 Budget** – A suggestion was made to move the precept and the NHB to the bottom of the page leaving a surplus of £2146. Suggest NHB allocate £200 to events, leaving £1271. It was agreed that NHB should be set aside but shown as an income for bookkeeping purposes. A proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was resolved to increase the Training to £300 and Village Events £300 and a final review set for the January meeting. Query was raised over stationery, agreed to remain at £100.
- 7.239 Bank** – A relevant form has been completed by the clerk. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was resolved to sign the bank letter and the chairman to attend a meeting arranged for 14.11.12. A request was made to change of the name of the account to Buckland and Chipping PC at the bank meeting.
- 8.239 Newsletter** – There was enough input for the latest issue. The vicar has been invited to the PC meetings – clerk to invite vicar when the meetings were held at the church in May. Due to an imminent house move, it was considerably more difficult for the editor to produce the newsletter; she has been producing it since 2003. Clerk to provide some input for the next newsletter and it was agreed that Cllr Jones would provide a profile for the next edition and that Cllr Kenyon would do the following. A confusion of payments of the advertising has meant that the adverts would be left until they are renewed next May.
- 9.239 Highways** – Raj is still operational to the end of the year. Ringways took over in September and staff had been given 30 days redundancy and interviews are November. Currently they have temporary offices in Hoe Lane Depot.

Village sign in Barkway Road – outstanding

Sign at the slip road southbound to aid the junction - outstanding

Sand and gravel on the highway at Chipping Barns, across the road still problematic. The previous clerk had written several times, clerk to investigate Chipping Hall Barns dropped kerbs and road surface.

Village Inspection – Chairman suggested this be done in better weather conditions.

A report had been received that cars were completely blocking the footpath at Buckland. It was agreed that if access is blocked it should be reported to the police with the car registration number, date and time it was there.

Cllr Jones praised Highways/East Herts for clearing the deer by the Chipping Northside sign on the south of the village the same day it was reported.

Request for an update on the Solar Panels that Tom Duke was due to attend, clerk to provide at next meeting.

- 12.239 Website** – has been updated with photographs of the Remembrance Parade. The home page now contains news items. Website has received 2,371 hits since May 2010.
- 13.239 Update on Events** – the Christmas event is on 15<sup>th</sup> but needs approval from the CCT and insurance cover. A Christmas Tree has been organised. Coffee & mince pies at the Old Rectory will be after the service.

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Clerk to speak to the CT to check formalities for events. Heating and lights put in so it could be used as a village hall location. Chairman asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting and write to the conservation trust asking for use of the church for BBQ/Summer Fair, Halloween/Bonfire Night and a Christmas event and check insurance cover as it is the only facility to meet in the village.

A Christmas meal was suggested and following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was agreed to hold a meal at The Crown Inn and include those that have helped the PC.

- 14.239 British Legion Memorial Service** took place, the wreath was laid by the chairman and the names read out via a microphone. The wreath will be transferred to the memorial at Buckland church at a suitable time.
- 15.239 Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Plaque** – awaiting decision from the CT for sundial or plaque.
- 16.239 Members of the Public were invited to Address The Meeting** – none  
A Buckland parishioner who set in place the bench by the pond is unable to continue to maintain it due to ill health. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote, it was agreed the parish council will include it in their maintenance programme.
- 17.239 Correspondence List** – all correspondence noted, Waste Sites CD has been received.
- 18.239 Receive Matters for Report** – Proposal was received to receive the Agenda electronically – all agreed, standing orders will need to be amended. Dog Fouling notices need to be included with the next Newsletter and details in the newsletter to include how to report any incidents.
- Referred to next Agenda** - Standing Orders update, Village Highway Inspection, Police Report, Events, Wreath transfer, Jubilee Plaque, Code of Conduct Report, Insurance Event update, Conversation Trust Event Request, Thames Water review, Approve Budget, Agree Precept, Push Energy update, update on Chipping Barns access.
- 19.239 New Clerk's offer letter/contract of employment**  
Public were excluded in this item due to the confidential nature of business; the chairman read out the offer letter; all agreed. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote, the Chairman was authorised to sign the offer letter. Clerk declined a risk assessment of her place of work.
- 20.239 Next Meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 8pm at The Crown, Buntingford.**

Meeting was closed at 10.15pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ 07.01.13

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