



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

Clerk: Caroline Jones – Barnside, Hare Street Buntingford S

Tel: 01763 289763

e mail: clerk@bucklandandchipping

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUCKLAND AND CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING No 255

**HELD ON MONDAY 14TH JULY 2014 AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BUCKLAND AT
8PM**

Present: Councillors Hall, Jones, Kenyon, Mrs Harrington and Mrs Trewin.

Also Present: Sergeant Duncan Wallace and 10 members of the public
Clerk : Caroline Jones

The chairman opened the meeting at 8pm.

1. To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Ling.

2. To Receive Members Declarations of Interest

No declarations.

It was agreed to swap the next two items on the Agenda to allow Sergeant Wallace to give his report.

3. to Invite Herts Police to Address the Meeting

Sergeant Wallace came in his own time to report that since the last meeting on 19th May, there were no reported crimes in Buckland or Chipping. This was down 2 from the same period last year.

Overall East Herts has shown an increase of 14.8%. There was a 17.2% increase in dwelling burglaries.

This is expected to be due to a new crime reporting standard where a team are going back over crime reports, and some unreported crimes have been discovered. These have then become new crimes to investigate which may be one reason for an increase in figures.

Currently it is a busy time with Fetes and both recent and forthcoming local festivals.

Overall, Chipping and Buckland remains static.



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Cllr Jones asked if any speed checks had been made in the area of which it was confirmed that there had been no recent checks. One member of staff has been away but has now returned so they will be resumed.

Sergeant Wallace reported that after a recent Essex harvest, machinery was left in the field and computer parts were stolen. Local rural patrols will be stepped up to prevent rural seasonal crime.

4. To discuss Rectory Close

The chairman stated that members of the public are welcome to speak once the parish council had discussed this item and made comments. He informed residents that the parish council had no authority or responsibility to either allow or stop any gate installation at Rectory Close. He confirmed that Land Registry had verified that the lane was unregistered.

Cllr Kenyon stated that his understanding from Herts CC was that unless the land is owned, gates cannot be installed without prior consultation with Herts CC.

Cllr Hall reported that Land Registry confirmed that there is vehicle access to The Old Rectory and that although Mr Williams requested permission from the Parish Council, it wasn't their decision. It has been put on the Agenda for tonight's meeting as residents had expressed concerns.

Mrs Fielder understood that the Church may own the Close.

Mr Williams was of the understanding that the land was unregistered and that it could be traced back over 700 years. He confirmed the width was 16ft and he had re-seeded the lane after the winter but the large vehicles using the lane were churning up the grass. The SAT Navs have been sending large vehicles down the lane as a through road. He also reported that people leave his gates open and his dogs get out. The gates have had waymarkers added and the gates are easy to open for walkers.

The chairman stated that a definitive answer of the land ownership is needed. No permission has been granted for gates across the footpath which will also need to be obtained.

Mrs Little has spoken to Julian Thornton, ROW Officer at Herts CC. She was of the understanding that Herts CC should have been consulted prior to gates being installed. He had inspected the area and is now waiting for the outcome of the parish council meeting.



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She reminded the Parish Council that, as councillors, they should protect the communal land and maintain the community the way it is. She has vehicles turn into her drive due to the SAT Navs but felt the lane should be left open, as it had been for centuries. She also believed that the Church and the CCT should be consulted and has herself been in contact with St Albans Diocese.

Cllr Kenyon read out the e-mail from Julian Thornton of 11.7.14 for information.

Cllr Jones stated that the parish council had been asked to make comment to Herts CC and as elected they must represent their views.

Mrs Fielder stated that she felt very strongly that the path should remain open for all and stay as it has always been, there is no need for any additional gates. The tarmac on Rectory Close was laid by her and her husband.

Cllr Jones suggested a No Through Route in Rectory Close which was well received but felt it may not been seen by vehicles turning or ignored by those following SAT Navs.

Mr Marshall stated he had no objection to the look of the gates but it should be done on a sound basis as to who owns the land. He would like to see the parish council deal with issue of ownership.

Mrs Little stated that the gate was attractive but consultation should have been made. Mr Williams confirmed that he wrote to those Rectory Close residents he felt most immediately effected by the proposal (Mrs Fielder and Mr & Mrs Marshall) in April and it was discussed at the May PC Meeting. She also stated that the research should have been carried out with residents being given a period of time this to consider and comment before the gates were installed. She felt Common Land was very important to the area and asked that any decision made is for the best interest to the community, regardless of ownership.

Cllr Jones felt that the bodies should be written to independently.

The chairman stated that the PC should write officially to Mr Williams as the primary responsibility for the installation remained his and that the Diocese should be consulted, the CCT, ROW from now. These bodies should be now consulted and permissions sought. All parties to be consulted will be copied into the letter.



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Following this proposal, second and a vote of 3 in favour , 1 against, it was **RESOLVED to write to Mr Williams.**

The chairman stated that fencing off land and maintaining it over time of 10 years or more could create the right to claim the land – although Mr Williams had never stated this as his intention, it must be considered.

A response to Julian Thornton will be a copy of the letter asking Mr Williams to seek permission from ROW and the relevant bodies.

The chairman concluded that if Mr Williams encountered any problems with responses from the relevant bodies, the parish council would lend support in obtaining definitive answers. He also confirmed that this item would be reoccurring on future parish council meetings.

Cllr Jones asked if Mr Williams would be willing to arrange a sign stating that it is a no through road . Mr Williams indicated he would be happy to consider contributing to such a scheme.

5. To Approve as a True Record and Authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting No 254, held on 19th May 2014

Cllr Harrington commented that in meeting no. 250 it was agreed that a summer event would be held on 13th July and had been dropped off the minutes. It was agreed that this idea had been dropped. She also requested that the summer event theme be amended – the chairman duly deleted the WW1 theme.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED That the Minutes are a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.**

6. To Approve as a True Record and Authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting No 253, held on 19th May 2014

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED That the Minutes are a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.**

7. To receive a Report from the Chairman



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Other than Rectory Close, the only thing to report was that the chairman attended an excellent Town Mayors Reception, and met the new Lord Lieutenant.

8. To receive feedback on the village inspections

Chipping – recommendations;

Highways	Village
Countryman Inn road repair	Sign by the bridge needs restaining
Footpath overgrown between A10 and Wyddial (Ermine Street)	Seat by south bus stop needs refurbishing
40mph sign repair at southern entrance to village	Notice Board Refurbishment
40mph indicators on road need repainting	Telephone Box repaint and clean
Dropped kerbs at A10/The Square Entrance ✓	Overhanging branches on Footpath on Eastern side – Popeswell, Hopeswell, Secret Cottage, White Cottage and Pelican Cottage
White Lines to be repainted at A10 / The Square	
Footpath Chipping Hall Farm to DeersLeap overgrown	
Footpath beside A10 between chipping and Buckland – done	
Grass by footpath east side – done	

Buckland – recommendations;

Highways	Village
Buckland sign coming up from Whiteley Lane needs cleaning	Signs need cleaning and varnishing
	Signs either end of Daw's Lane need varnishing
	Bench (Mick Miles) owned needs maintenance
	Homemade bench by pond need removing
	Bench by Whitely Lane needs



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	clean/varnish
	Footpath noticeboard needs varnishing, cleaning and resiting
	Noticeboard needs remedial works
	VIP Box needs painting and cleaning
	Picnic Bench needs a clean and shrub trimming
	Daw's Lane and Common grasscutting
	Bus stop needs cleaning
	Water Pump Renovation (note it is listed)
	Derelict Farm at Rectory Close
	Sign for Rectory Close 'No HGV' and 'no through road'

9. FINANCE

9.1. To receive the financial report and current bank balance of £18,062.32

Cllr Harrington queried the number of grass cuts and it was agreed that extra cuts would need to be approved.

It was also noted the Hedge needs cutting @ £180.

9.2. Payments List

Cllr Jones queried the Cambridge Copy Studio Invoice. This was a detailed scale map to be sent to Land Registry for ownership information on The Common Land.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED to approve the payments list and sign cheques at the end of the meeting.**

9.3. Expenditure of Salt Bins and Dog Waste Bins

It was agreed that 3 salt bins @ £90 each and 4 dog waste bins @ £138 were to be ordered.

The clerk reported that the cost of emptying from East Herts CC was £154.50 per dog bin per annum

Following a proposal, second and unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED to order 3 salt bins and 4 dog waste bins**



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9.4. Clerk's Laptop

Following information from Cllr Jones, this was deferred to next meeting

9.6. Audit Update

The external audit is currently being carried out.

9.7. Diamond Jubilee and WW1 Centenary Expenditure

The chairman reported that a poppy design grate to replace the 5th grid in the church to commemorate WW1 will cost £400-500 and asked if this could be approved, designs will be circulated electronically when complete, approved. The Parish Council will write to the CCT informing them of the installation of the new grill in due course. No response from Rev. Jasper had been received concerning the sundial so the Clerk will go ahead and order it for installation 10ft from the exterior of the church walls to allow any scaffolding as agreed previously with the CCT. The PC will again write to the Rev Jasper, the Diocese and the PPC informing them of the installation in due course.

9.8. Village Inspections Expenditure

Village Inspections – quotation will be sort for cleaning and cutting.

Renovating of the water pump and paint for the telephone boxes – listed consent will be sort for the water pump and a budget of £150 proposed, second was approved.

10. PLANNING

10.1. 3/14/0963/FP Pelican Cottage Erection of a new garage – no comments or objections

10.2. 3/14/1097/FP Countryman PH Replacement Front Porch – Cllr Kenyon stated that concerns had been raised on the path width, the width was considered an improvement now the porch had been removed. Following a discussion and vote (3 in favour, 2 abstentions) it was **RESOLVED** in favour of the application to replace the porch.

No other decisions/applications had been received.

11. Highways – see item 8

12. Village Events 2014

Summer Fete – 9.8.14

Bonfire Night – 8.11.14

Xmas Event – 6.12.14



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It was agreed that the summer event will be a Scarecrow event and that the date should be moved from 9th August to 6th September to allow time to organise. Leaflets need to go out, judges organised, BBQ. Cllr Kenyon to locate the plates and the chairman to organise judges. Clerk to book the church and arrange insurance for 50 visitors. Cllr Trewin to speak to Trevor re: BBQ. ~~Tower to be opened.~~

13. Neighbourhood Plan – Update

JK reported that the questionnaires were being analysed and the data will be provided to the next NP Meeting in September.

14. Update on the Parish Website.

8081 visits to date.

15. Newsletter / Adverts

The chairman deferred adverts to Sept. Martin Graham has offered to become the new Editor of the newsletter. It was agreed that all councillor details will be added and Mrs Ling will liaise with Mr Graham.

16. Member of the Public to Speak

Mrs Little thanked the parish council for hearing the views of residents re: Rectory Close. She asked if the council had any information on shared access, of which they could not assist with at this time. She also asked if the parish council could speak to the Diocese regarding The Glebe again as to whether there were any plans with the land that had been cleared.

17. To note Correspondence

Correspondence list circulated was noted. Clerk to respond to the Consultation Paper on recycling centres requesting that changes of hours provide evening visits, being open past 5pm and into the evening.

18. Any Other Business

Cllr Jones reported that there was a small ceremony to be held on 3rd August at 4pm where BTC were to lay a wreath of 100 poppies. During the weekend a display will be held at The Manor House. Freman College's work of Trench Models will be on display.



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19. Matters for Report or Referral to Next Meeting

To be listed by the clerk

20. To agree the next meeting in September

1st September at 8pm at St Andrew's church

Meeting Closed 10.25pm.

DRAFT