



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

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MINUTES OF MEETING 258 OF BUCKLAND & CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON MONDAY, 5TH JANUARY 2015 AT 8PM

Present: Cllrs Jeff Kenyon, Jeff Jones, Teresa Harrington, Marion Ling, Mell Trewin
Also Present: Beryl Little, Colin Marks & Teresa Marks.
Acting Clerk: Caroline Jones

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting at 8pm to receive apologies but as a point of order, the election of the Chairman was moved to the first item.

1. To Elect a Chairman

The Vice Chairman asked if there were any proposals for a new Chairman in the light of the resignation of Cllr Hall before Christmas. JJ nominated Jeff Kenyon, seconded by TH, all in favour. The new Chairman signed his Declaration of Office in front of the Proper Officer of the Council.

ML apologised for her late arrival at this point.

Nominations were asked for a Vice Chairman. Jeff Jones offered to stand, seconded by ML, all in favour.

Jeff Jones was made Vice Chairman until the elections in May.

2. To Receive Apologies – none

3. Declarations of Interest – TH declared an interest in finance as she paid £10 for newsletters distribution.

4. Herts Police – it was noted that Sergeant Wallace attended when his shifts allowed and he was not present at this meeting. There was news of his retirement.

5. Appointment of a new Councillor The Chairman has now been appointed and it was agreed to advertise the vacancy for a councillor.

6. To approve as a true record and authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the parish council meeting No. 257, Monday 3rd November 2014 The parish council thanked MT for completing the minutes.

JK proposed and JJ seconded approval – the minutes were accepted and signed.

7. Chairman's Report – It has been a relatively short period of time since the Chairman's resignation. One task was to investigate and replace Caroline Jones who has been covering things since her resignation on 4th August 2014. Colin Marks is very interested in taking on the role. We will arrange another meeting for February to move this forward.

8. Finance

8.1 Review of the Budget. Funds are particularly high due to the flashing speed sign on the A10 being disallowed by Herts CC. Budget changes to increase election costs and add other items, VAT will be included under Income.

Some ideas for expenditure in the Parish were **Commemorative Memorial** for the Centenary (JJ) – **Defibrillator** (JJ spoke to Oliver Heald at the Surgery and 3 are planned at Standon/Puckeridge – grants available) – **Pond** (JK some professional care then councillor maintenance) – **Noticeboard** (TH replacement cost £1400) – **Bus Shelter Cleaning x4** MT and TH to obtain quotes – **Church Sheep** maintain the grass at St Andrews needs consideration. ML has seen a sheep grass maintained graveyard and it looked untidy.

The E-on Telephone Box in Buckland Bill goes directly to DH – the account needs changing name to the Parish Council. Chairman will ask DH to change the E-on Account. Clerk to write to the Solar Farm regarding the payments due. It was proposed to reduce the Precept once the Solar Farm payments were received from 2016 for 5 years by 50%.

The Precept of £3,880 was proposed by JJ, seconded by TH and agreed by all – no change from last year.

8.2 The payments were approved and one added – TH payment of £10 paid to someone in the village to distribute the newsletter. Proposed by JJ, seconded by JK, all in favour.

9. **Planning** – there were no applications or notices.

10. **Herts Highways / Street Furniture** – The Street Furniture prices are to be obtained. The kerb has been dropped at The Square. The 40mph sign at Chipping has been re-reported by JJ.

11. **Village Events – Summer Event** to be held at the Countryman with a BBQ on a Saturday or Sunday. TH suggested Live Music and a Marquee. ML to speak to the Countryman regarding dates and live music. **Fireworks Event** to be held at The Common. **Xmas Event** – Children's party will not be held in 2015 – a **Xmas Lunch** was proposed by JJ for Senior Citizens as he is organising a Town and Surrounding Village Event at the Community Centre in Buntingford to include transport for nearby villages. This happens at Stortford, Ware and Hertford. TH suggested more community events by using the Countryman and Buckland Barn in the marquee or cafe. **Dementia Friends** Awareness Campaign – TH and JJ attended a seminar on this and Dementia Friends can arrange a talk as to how the village can support these people. Minimal cost for hire and refreshments – TH would like to go ahead with a small budget to use the Manor House. Budget set at £50. TH will arrange a date Mar/Apr.

12. **Rectory Close Gates** The owner of The Old Rectory was requested by HCC to take down the gates by 15th January.

13. **Hazardous Material** This can now come off the Agenda as it is guttering and has been reported. Trees will be included on the next PC Agenda.

14. **Website** has received a number of visitors and is working fine.

15. **Newsletter** Martin has received more information from ML and all councillors need to inform, react and respond more quickly to assist the production of the next edition.

16. **WW1 Commemorative Grills** The original grill needs to be replaced urgently – action JK. The new grill is awaiting permission from the CCT. JJ spoke to the Council Listed Building Consent – an application needs to be submitted once the CCT have approved the grill. JJ will continue to progress. ML reported that the CCT is being rationalised and that the contact has changed. ML thanked JJ for the service at St Andrews and it should be minuted that it was a really good event. JJ suggested purchasing some exhibition panels for future events – action to price these.

17. **Members of the Public**

Beryl Little asked if the gate across the track at Rectory Close was being dealt with by Herts ROW which was agreed. She understood that St Albans Diocese replied to Jean Fielder and HCC that they owned the land.

The Chairman confirmed this and the deadline of 15.1.15 for the removal of the gates.

Beryl Little also commented that the location of the Salt Bins allocated in Buckland made it difficult to put salt down, there was no scoop and that ice on the road was very slippery to cross. She said that it was useful to have the supply. The Chairman confirmed that the grit was for resident's use **only** and that Highways were responsible for roads.

18. **Correspondence Received** HAPTC subscription cost for 2015 and East Herts Tax Base Letter NHB Grants £2293 for next year – same for 2016 then it reduces for 2 further years.
19. **Matters for Report/Referral to the Next Meeting** Trees and General Items for Expenditure from Reserves.
20. **Date of the Next Meeting** Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 9th February at 8pm to employ a new clerk and discuss expenditure and Parish Council Meeting on Monday, 2nd March both at the Manor House commencing at 8pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Parish Council Meeting will be held at St Andrew's Church on Monday, 18th May commencing at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked all those attending and closed the meeting at 9.40pm.