



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

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MINUTES OF BUCKLAND & CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING No. 291 4th March 2019, 7.30pm, The Manor House, Buntingford

Cllr Jeff Kenyon (Chair) (JK) *

Cllr Jennifer Makewell (JM)

Cllr Teresa Harrington (TH) *

Cllr Jason Noy (JN)

Cllr Jeff Jones (JJ) *

* Denotes present

Also present: Cllr Stan Bull and 2 other members of the public
Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone, noted the Council was quorate, and opened the meeting at 7.30pm. **ACTION**

- 291.15 Apologies for absence** – which were accepted
1. Councillors: Cllr Jason Noy (work commitment)
 2. Other apologies: Police Sgt Duncan Wallace

291.16 Declarations of Interest and dispensations: None

291.17 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 290 held on 29th January 2019

It was **RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 290 held on 29th January 2019 as a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

291.18 Police Report

Sgt Wallace had said that PC Gemma Wardell would attend if duties permitted. It was agreed to defer the police report until later in case she arrived.

291.19 Chairman's report

The Chairman reported that he had attended the funeral of former councillor Ray Willis that morning. It was noted that a sheaf of flowers had been sent from the Parish Council.

291.20 Finance

1. Accounts

Accounts summary 1 to 31 January	£
Opening bank balance 1st January	17,901.33
Income 1 to 31 January	0.00
Expenditure 1 to 31 January	442.99
Minus presented December cheque 865	<u>90.80</u>
Available balance (cashbook) 31st January	17,367.54
Plus un-presented January cheques: none	<u>0.00</u>
Reconciled bank balance 31st January	17,367.54

It was confirmed that cheques 872, 873 and 874 were cancelled by agreement at the January meeting; they were all petty cash and were consolidated on cheque 100875.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept and approve the January Accounts Statements.** **Clerk**

2. Budget vs Actual performance to 31st January

The Clerk's report showed that finances are on course and year-end projections are better than budgeted. The net expenditure forecast for the year is anticipated to be approx £10,800 net against a budget of £13,000 net. Income is forecast to be approx £9,600 against 8,500. The forecast bank balance at year end is approx £16,300 against a budget of

13,200, with £200 tax reclaimed that was not included in the budget. It was **RESOLVED to accept the financial forecast.**

3. Approval / ratification and signing of cheques for payment

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq	Power
4/3	Buntingford TC	Room hire 29/1/19	16.00	876	LGA 1972 s111
4/3	M Webb	Bus shelters & kiosks 1/6 Jan/Feb	80.00	877	LG(MP)A 1953 s4 PCA 1957 s1
4/3	S Hall	Litterpick Feb/March	150.00	878	OSA 1906 ss9, 10
4/3	Clerk Petty cash	Petty cash Jan/Feb	18.99	879	LGA 1972 s111
4/3	Clerk	Mileage etc Jan/Feb	15.66	880	LGA 1972 s112
4/3	TP Jones & Co LLP	Payroll services 2018/19	75.12	881	LGA 1972 s111
4/3	Clerk	Salary Jan/Feb/March	545.13	882	LGA 1972 ss112, 151; LA 2011 s41
4/3	HMRC	PAYE 4th Quarter, Jan-March	136.20	883	LGA 1972 ss112, 151; LA 2011 s41
4/3	Tekhouse Ltd	Laptop maintenance	78.99	884	LGA 1972 s111
4/3	J Jones reimburse	Funeral flowers R Willis	34.00	885	LGA 1972 s137
		Recoverable VAT included	12.52		

It was **RESOLVED to approve/ratify the payments as listed.**

Clerk

291.21 PLANNING

1. **New Planning Applications:** NONE
2. **Decision Notices:** None
3. **Other planning matters:** None

291.22 Correspondence – noted as per the agenda, for information only.

- Funeral of retired CI Gerry McDonald
- Barclays Buntingford branch closure 24th May
Cllr Jeff Jones said he had started a petition opposing this closure. It is held at The Manor House. Those present at the meeting offered to sign it. Cllr Jones also said that an application had been made to the Government's Futures High Street Fund to support the Buntingford High Street regeneration scheme and that a local bank is important to the viability of a vibrant High Street.
- East Herts: 2nd May elections information
- Funeral of former parish councillor Ray Willis

291.23 Action Plan:

1. **Water wheel:** On going with Land Registry
2. **Buckland kiosk refurbishment:** On going attempt to find a contractor.

291.24 Parish matters

1. **Churchyard.** The litter picker had sent an email saying she had to take her car to the churchyard the previous weekend because people had again dumped non-compostable rubbish in the corner, and that large lumps of oasis are very heavy when wet. She also noted that someone occasionally fills up the Buckland litter bin with large carrier bags of household waste. It was agreed to include an item about this in the May newsletter.
The question of the eco toilet was also discussed. The project had not been taken any further by the PCC and there was not a consensus on its location. One suggested site was too close to the Church building (Grade 1 listed) and could attract planning difficulties and expensive consent. There was also the question of whether the toilet could raise issues of there not being a disabled provision. There is no specific provision in the 2019/20 budget and reserves levels will have to be assessed if plans go ahead. The Chairman to discuss all issues with the vicar when they meet.
2. **Public Rights of Way in the Parish and definitive map.** The Chairman to discuss with the Public Rights of Way officer when they meet.
3. **Highways.** There was a report of the footway south of Chipping being too overgrown to accommodate a wheelchair. The footway between Buckland and Chipping was also

JK

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mentioned as being overgrown. Cllr Jones said he would look at it with a Highways officer to determine if there is an issue to be resolved.

JJ

Cllr Jones confirmed that the missing 40mph repeater signs between Buckland and Chipping will be replaced when the speed signs are painted on the road, and will align with them.

JJ

It was noted that an overflowing sewer manhole north of The Countryman has been reported to Thames Water.

JJ

291.25 Urgent matters received too late for the agenda: NONE

At 8.14 it was RESOLVED to suspend the meeting for public comments

- District Cllr Stan Bull complemented the Council on the fine display of daffodils at the village entrance.
- Commenting on overgrown footways in agenda item 291.24.3, he said that it would be good if residents could help where needed. Cllr Jeff Jones mentioned the Highways Together scheme that he is promoting with a number of neighbouring parishes.
- Cllr Bull complimented the Chipping and Buckland litter pickers for doing an excellent job and was thanked for his comments. Cllr Jones explained that in the wider litter picking arrangement, East Herts is under contract to HCC to pick litter and that a team is being formed to tackle main roads in March/April. He is also organising a "Plastic Free Buntingford" litter pick in Buntingford in April, for which he welcomes as many volunteers as are willing and able to get involved.
- The growing problem of fly tipping was raised and the difficulties and cost being incurred by land owners when it occurs on private land, and Councils when it happens on roads and laybys.
- Cllr Jeff Jones said he had been advised that high speed broadband was anticipated to be on stream in Chipping by October this year.

The meeting was restored to order at 8.25pm

291.26 Items for future agendas:

- 2019 events (Itemise both Summer and Winter events on May agenda)
- Revisions to Governance policy documents
- Emergency Plan update
- Pond area working party programme

JK/Clerk
JK
JK/ALL

291.27 Parish Council elections, 2nd May

The Clerk agreed to send the Chairman the text of the elections item he had written for the Newsletter. It was agreed to print this and deliver it urgently to all households. There was a discussion whether to also include an explanation of the precept increase.

Clerk/JK

291.28 Date of next meetings: Monday 13th May in St Andrew's Church, Buckland

1. Annual Council Meeting at 7pm. Followed by
2. Annual Meeting of the Parish (*NOT a Council meeting*) at approx. 7.30pm. Followed by
3. May Ordinary Council Meeting at approx. 7.45pm

JK/Clerk
JK/Clerk
JK/Clerk

3. March Newsletter. The following were agreed:

1. **Editor:** Cllr J Kenyon.
2. **Deadlines:** (i) Copy to editor: 1st May
(ii) Copy for printing: 2nd May

JK
JK/Clerk
Clerk/ALL

The Chairman said that as this had been the final Council meeting of the present term, he wished to thank councillors for their work and support over the last four years. There being no further business, he thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.37pm.

Signed.....Dated.....