



Buckland & Chipping Parish Council

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

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING No 251

BUCKLAND AND CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday, 3rd March 2014 at The Manor House at 8pm

Present: Cllr D Hall (DH) Cllr T Harrington (TH) Cllr J Jones (JJ)
Cllr J Kenyon (JK) Cllr J Noades (JN) Cllr M Ling (ML)

Others Present: Chris Harrington, Sergeant D Wallace

Clerk: Caroline Jones

The Chairman welcomed all to the Parish Council Meeting No. 251. Meeting commenced at 8pm.

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Sergeant Wallace apologies for being late due to the fact that he had been to a Police Crime Commissioner Meeting. He sent an email with apologies for the last parish council meeting.

No crime has been reported since 1st January except one domestic incident in Chipping. Rural areas suffered during December/January with fuel oil, garage/shed thefts – lawnmowers, leaf blowers etc. Neighbourhood Team worked overnight /weekends which brought a stop to this activity. Arrests were made – they were not local people. Cottered suffered fuel oil thefts. Police during January/February dealt with the floods in Puckeridge, Much Hadham, Little Hadham and villages that suffered with the bad weather.

There is a 4.3% reduction on last year's crime figures for the time of year. Hare Coursing hasn't been a problem due to the wet weather. This may change with a fine weekend approaching. There are less Brown Hares, Hertfordshire had the largest population in the area 7 years ago. The reduction may be due to natural predation by Buzzards and Red Kites.

Cllr Harrington stated that the Church Christmas Tree was stolen – Sergeant Wallace commented that the clerk should e-mail him in future with any similar thefts.

Travellers – a group of 28 were evicted in Broxbourne and councils were made aware of this. Sergeant Wallace dealt with Marsh Gate, Ware where 2 still remain. All permanent sites are full.

The Speeding training / monitoring cannot be used in Buckland or Chipping as there is no insurance cover can be obtained for use within a 40mph limit.

4. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting No. 250

The amended minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 20th January 2014 had previously been circulated and following a proposal, second and unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED that the minutes of Parish Council meeting 20th January 2014 was approved.** The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

5. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report but he thanked the Vice Chairman for chairing the last meeting as he was at a funeral

6. PLANNING

- 6.1 There were no comments or concerns with **Variation of 1/2146-11**: Change of use of tyre bales for bund at Nuthampstead Shooting Ground – change of material.

ACTION

clerk

Signed

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ACTION

6.2 JK stated that Push Energy's proposal of offering 50% of the annual precept for the next 5 years had been accepted by quorate at the last meeting and that the invoice should have been sent. Clerk to send the invoice without delay.

clerk

6.3 St Andrew's Church are asking for confirmation that the parish council are happy with the single-bay notice board to be sited where the perimeter post was originally proposed – all agreed.

clerk

7. FINANCE

7.1 Following a proposal, second and unanimous vote, the Bank Balance of £17,339.27 was accepted

7.2 Following a proposal, second and unanimous vote, the payments due were accepted and the Chairman was authorised to sign cheques **plus** £750 for Ray Willis - litter picking
It was requested that Ray wears the high viz jacket – this has been mentioned by DH

7.3 Following unanimous agreement, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr Barnes as the Internal Auditor for accounts 2013/14

7.4 Salt Bins – it was agreed that the removal of some soil to sink the bin and fill with salt would be the best option. A discussion followed for the siting of the bins, clerk to request the following locations stating that if we don't get confirmation, the order will be placed and sited at these places. This may have been requested some years ago via Rose Cheswright – clerk to copy Rose. **Buckland by Lower Farm/A10 and Noticeboard.**
Dog Bins £150 each £12 delivery. EHDC can empty. Four Locations were suggested and the clerk will progress.

clerk

7.5 The council received a final copy of the revised Budget for 2014/15. DH commented that Budget took a long time to agree and that there should be a budget meeting. An extraordinary meeting to be held in Nov/Dec 2014 was suggested.

8. HIGHWAYS

8.1 New issues:

Reporting issue: JJ explained that Highways issues can be reported directly and that councillors can do this easily – residents should be encouraged to do the same – put this in the Newsletter.

Road Review – cannot be confirmed at this point. Take this off the Agenda.

9. CLERK'S HOURS / WORKLOAD

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting where members of the public were asked to leave. The clerk explained that no increase of hours had been made for 10 years. This item was discussed and will be reviewed in 6 months.

10. DAW'S LANE / COMMON LAND

The clerk had requested deed information on a piece of land that did not include Daw's Lane. The Chairman identified a further area and following a discussion, proposal and vote (4 for and 2 against), it was agreed that the request should be made again and the necessary documents should be required.

11. Neighbourhood Plan The Buntingford Community Group includes BTF, Aspenden, Cottered, Wydiall, Hormead and B&C – a questionnaire is in progress for young people, businesses and residents and will be sent out in April. The next Meeting is 20th March. Completion of the Plan is currently estimated at 12-15months. There are 2 representatives involved in the process from Buckland and Chipping.

Draft District Plan – Documents have been received and available for councillors to take.

Signed

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Now going to consultation with a 12 week period for responses and comments. Public Open Days are in Buntingford on 1st April and at the Buntingford Civic Society AGM on 15th April.

- 12. Jubilee Commemorative Plaque** – DH has spoken to the vicar who has put in an application and is liaising with the relevant people to agree the location of the sundial.

Buckland Water Pump DH will arrange a tidy up of this area.

DH

Chipping Telephone Box ivy is growing around this and DH will purchase some paint and tidy this up also. JJ will do the Chipping telephone box at the same time.

DH

13. Pond / Moat

JK raised this area to be cleared by paying someone to do it or organising a volunteer group. Millions need to be asked if this can be done early Autumn and offcuts used for the Bonfire Night. JN/JK will look at this and an article be put in the Newsletter.

JN/JK

14. Website 6,655 visits – that is 600 since the last meeting, approx 10/day

The recent emergency contact sheet was uploaded to the website

There is an Emergency Action Plan in place for Buckland and Chipping – this may need updating – JJ will action

JJ

- 15. Newsletter** DH had no comments. JN will provide the photos from 1957. DH asked that if cllrs wanted items put in they should send them to him ready to be inserted. Renaming was discussed and it was requested that Buckland and Chipping Parish Council be more prominent.

- 16. Members of the Public** Mr Harrison asked whether Superfast Broadband was available. JJ reported that much work has been undertaken with HCC Connective Counties and whether fibre optic could be available to the area. Buntingford cannot take this due to the Puckeridge Exchange. This is due to be upgraded and confirmation is due later this month.

DH reported that a suggestion had been made in the Suggestions Box! More things for young people – shop – bowling Alley. DH To respond via the Newsletter

DH

- 17. Correspondence** was noted

- 18. Referral** Emergency Action Plan

- 19. Date of Next Meetings** – has been arranged for **19th May at 7.30pm** for the following meetings at **St Andrew's Church**, Buckland : Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Parish Council Meeting

Meeting was closed at 10pm

Signed

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