

New Buckenham Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF New Buckenham Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Moat Lane

Present: Councillors Karen Hobley (Chair), Andrew Bingham, Bella Chirodian, Don Crossman, Mary Dowson, Susan Felton and Nigel Redfern

In Attendance: Mrs H A Clutten (Clerk), District Councillor A Joel

Absent
(without apologies) None

Public: 15

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

16/36 To consider accepting apologies for absence:

None

16/37 To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th February 2016:

The draft Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. **Council RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 16th February 2016 subject to an amendment on Page 1, where the day of the meeting was changed from 'Wednesday' to 'Tuesday'. The Minutes were signed at the end of the meeting by the Chair, Councillor Karen Hobley.

16/38 To receive reports of matters arising from those Minutes: for update and information only:

The Clerk has written to Breckland Council about Church Farmhouse but no reply had been received yet.

Councillor Chirodian believed that she had identified the person exercising his/her dog in the Cemetery; Councillor Chirodian to check this name with the Chair after the meeting.

The Chair wondered what had happened to recent correspondence folders; Councillor Chirodian said that she had the January folder and Councillor Dowson said that she had February's.

Councillor Crossman has spoken to Broadland Tree Service about the car park work; the work will be completed after Easter.

16/39 To record Declarations of Interest not covered by the Current Register of Interests:

None reported.

16/40 To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation including:

(a) Parishioners' Comments & Questions:

Councillor Bingham recapped on the Housing Needs Survey, affordable housing and the recent consultation exercise on the emerging Breckland Local Plan.

Issues raised by members of the public:

There was a lot of discussion on the two sites for possible affordable housing and the results of the Housing Needs Survey.

The resubmission of the Allotment Field during the Local Plan consultation period – this will be subject to further consultation in due course.

Can Saffron Housing promise that affordable housing will be allocated to New Buckenham residents in perpetuity?

What affect will a change in the 'Right to Buy Law' have on exception sites in future?

Will the Parish Council consult the village on a proposal arising as a result of what Saffron Housing says?

Some residents are worried that, as seen elsewhere, affordable housing sites deteriorate.

A number of residents are not convinced that the houses will remain in the occupation of residents of New Buckenham.

Everyone present was reminded of the meeting which has been organised by the New Buckenham Society which is taking place later this month.

Some residents would like the Parish Council to look at other sites that come up for sale from time to time within the settlement boundary.

There were several volunteers for the speed gun exercise; a co-ordinator will be needed – Councillor Joel offered to email the Clerk with further information and Councillor Redfern also offered to get more information.

(b) District Councillor's Report:

District Councillor Joel reported that the recent consultation on the emerging Breckland Local Plan has now ended; there have been 2,600 responses and 119 additional new sites put forward. All responses will now be considered. The next Site Specifics Documents will be out for consultation in Spring 2016.

Breckland Council is launching a schools' event based on the 'Original Democracy'; this involves contrasting and comparing current democracy with that of ancient Athens. Breckland Councillors and Officers will be visiting schools to talk to pupils about democracy in ancient Athens; this will include interactive exercises to simulate voting style.

The new development in Thetford, on the old car park and bus station, is making a focal point of Thetford thus enabling Breckland District Council to obtain more value from its assets.

The District Council intends to develop the field adjacent to Chapel Road School.

The Department of Work and Pensions has moved into offices in Thetford owned by Breckland Council.

The Business Tax is to be removed from hospitals.

(c) Parish Councillor Reports:

Councillors Chirodian and Felton have visited the allotments and found that one of the two 'vacant' allotments is being cultivated. It has been pointed out to the person involved that neither a signed agreement nor rent has been received; this appears due to a misunderstanding and will be rectified. The other vacant allotment will now be advertised in the Parish News as the prospective tenants are no longer interested.

The allotments look neat and tidy at the moment.

The Council Meeting resumed.

16/41 Planning:

Breckland Council has issued Outline Planning Permission for the development of two executive houses at Castle Hill Garage.

The Outline Planning Permission for Castle Hill Garage was added to this month's correspondence folder.

16/42 To receive a financial summary report from the Clerk and to authorise the payment of invoice received:

A financial report from the Clerk had been circulated.

Council RESOLVED to authorise the following payments:

Cheque No	Item	Vat £	Gross £
Cheques drawn 08/03/2016			
101819	H M Rev & Customs, Tax for Clerk	0.00	217.00
101820	Mrs H A Clutten expenses plus any additional hours less tax	0.00	95.74
	Total	£0.00	£312.74

For information: payments by DDR /SO

01.03.2016	Anglian Water, Allotments	3.37	20.24
08.03.2016	Mrs H A Clutten, Basic Pay and Office Allowance less tax	0.00	238.74
11.03.2016	E-ON Street Lighting March 2016 Energy	2.73	57.40

16/43 Housing Needs Survey – Update:

Councillor Chirodian voiced the opinion that the Parish Council has a responsibility to maintain the current settlement boundary no matter what sort of housing is involved; the history of the village needs to be protected.

Councillor Bingham pointed out that the building of the Village Hall had breached the settlement boundary so why should affordable housing be different? Councillor Chirodian said that the Village Hall was a valuable asset for the whole of the village not just a few residents.

There was a suggestion that the Council should pass a resolution on the settlement boundary but the agenda did not provide for that for making such a resolution at this meeting.

The Chair pointed out that in January 2016 the Council had agreed to wait to hear from Saffron after they had had time to carry out an evaluation of the two offered sites offered and then make a decision one way or another; this decision could not be changed for six months under current Parish Council Standing Orders.

16/44 Speeding Awareness and Speeding on Chapel Street:

Councillor Redfern agreed to take this to the next SNAP meeting.

16/45 Parking Issue on King Street:

Councillor Redfern agreed to take this to the next SNAP meeting.

16/46 Parish Council Information Leaflet:

Councillor Felton had circulated a draft version of the leaflet; there was a comment at the meeting that it was quite 'wordy'. The Council was asked to consider if it wanted a logo to go on the front of the leaflet and what that should be. Meanwhile the leaflet will be put into a possible format for circulation and put forward for consideration to Councillors at the next meeting.

16/47 Street Lighting Project – update on arrangements for exhibition and survey:

Councillor Redfern advised that he had been unable to progress the project and exhibition for personal reasons; item to be carried forward to the agenda of next month's meeting.

16/48 Consideration of a Defibrillator for the village - Update:

The Clerk had circulated information from a charitable provider of defibrillators. A representative from Fornsett St Peter Parish Council has offered to come and talk to New Buckenham Parish Council about its scheme as two have been installed there. The Council agreed to take up this offer for the June meeting.

16/49 Notice Board - update:

A number of suggested locations were put forth including under the Market Cross (this might require the installation of a disabled ramp) and near the Play Area on the Common. This item to be reconsidered next month; Councillors to identify other possible locations in the village.

16/50 Play Area Improvement:

Nothing to report; item carried forward to next month's agenda.

16/51 To receive items of correspondence:

HAGS SMP, playground equipment leaflet
Wicksteed Playgrounds, leaflet regarding their brochure 'Funding Your Playground'

Clerks and Councils Direct, March 2016

Tower Mint, leaflet re commemorative crown for Queen's 90th Birthday including sample crown

Breckland Council, details of a competition to introduce the voluntary code to make children's play areas smoke-free zones – Design a Sign is a competition for children

Outline Planning Permission for Castle Hill Garage

16/52 To confirm the date of the next Parish Council Meeting:

Date of next meeting confirmed as 12th April 2016 at 7pm to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting. Items for the Parish Council agenda will include:

Purchase of a computer

Street Lighting Survey and Exhibition

Report from the next SNAP meeting

Parish Council Leaflet

Parish Council Notice Board

Play Area Project

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.31pm.

Signed Karen Hobley, Chair, 12th April 2016