**PARISH OF NEW BUCKENHAM**

**MINUTES** **OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF** New Buckenham held on Tuesday 12th April 2022

 at 8.00 -8.45pm in the Village Hall, Moat Lane

Present: Councillors Karen Hobley (Chair), Andrew Bingham, Don Crossman, Mary Dowson

In Attendance: Juliet Fulford (Minutes), Steve Askew (County and District Councillor)

Public: Three

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting.

1. To consider accepting apologies for absence:

Mary Manning (MM), Steve Highton (SH) and Andrew Nettleton (AN).

Gerry Walsh and Geoff Gildersleeve

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2021

The draft Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2021 had been circulated; **The MEETING RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes as true and accurate record

1. To receive the Chairman’s Report:

The Chair welcomed Steve Askew (Breckland and Norfolk County Councillor) and three members of the public.

She talked about comings and goings - Andrew Nettleton had joined the Council in April 2021, co-opted to replace Paul Martin. In November 2021, we said goodbye to our clerk, Trevor Wenman, and welcomed Angela Thornton as our new clerk.

The Chair spoke about the many responsibilities which councillors take on in addition to the monthly meetings and actions arising from them, as outlined below:-

Allotments – Mary M., Andrew N.

Cemetery – Andrew N.

Community Project Fund – Mary D., Andrew N., Chair

Footpaths – Andrew B., Steve H.

Parish News – Mary D.

Play Area – Don C.

The Parish Council also has representatives on the Village Hall Trust, the Neighbourhood Plan group, the High Bailiff`s Trust and the William Barber Trust.

The Chair talked about the main issues which had arisen over the year; namely parking, speeding and the problem of dog excrement. The council is always trying to deal with these problems but would welcome suggestions from parishioners. Andrew B. would be talking about a village electric car and charging point later in the meeting. The council is also looking at gateways at the entrances to the village in order to slow drivers down.

There had been some successes over the year:-

* + - A new sensory Bee Maze at the Play Area
		- A number of new tenants at the allotments – everyone very enthusiastic
		- Marsh Lane has been re-surfaced
		- Work has started on the phone mast
		- BT`s Digital Voice scheme has been postponed
		- We have received a plaque from the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk to commemorate the village`s resilience during the pandemic
		- Our Community Grant Scheme has supported the Village Hall Trust with a grant towards the purchase of a new boiler and New Buckenham Junior Football Club with the purchase of a set of goals.
		- Councillors have attended a number of NALC courses
		- We are working with the Parochial Church Council to look at issues highlighted in the recent Quinquennial Report. The Parish Council will repair the steps and handrail near the South Door and review the management of the conservation area in the Churchyard.

Thanks were given to:-

• Barbara Cattermole for her work on footpaths, especially organising the bridge repairs on Footpath 4

• Steve Askew, our Breckland and Norfolk County Councillor, for all his support

• Gerry Walsh for her work on the Community Car Scheme. Thanks were also expressed to her group of volunteer drivers

• Clive Rush who has volunteered to restore the “Cemetery Bench”

• Sue Britton who is currently working on a defibrillator project

• Phil Anderson for his sterling work on grounds maintenance in the cemetery, the play area, the cricket pitch and the churchyard and various other projects around the village.

• Vicky and Alan Baker for their work in the churchyard.

• Stevie Hobley who minuted last month`s meeting and Juliet Fulford for minuting the evening`s two meetings.

1. District and County Councillor’s Report:

Cllr Askew had circulated a comprehensive written report regarding both the County and District Council activities. He had been active in pushing for both the Marsh Lane resurfacing which is now complete and a major improvement for residents and the village. Dam Brigg flooding issue is not deemed to be a high priority given the financial situation and the demands for flood defences in the County.

Cllr Askew mentioned planning issues that may have an impact on New Buckenham these include a new weather radar mast currently under appeal and the mobile phone mast which appears to be progressing all be it slowly. KH asked about the Cuffer lane retrospective application for planning a decision is due 14th April.

Cllr Askew complimented the Parish Council on their well organised approach. He emphasised that he was always on hand to help with problems that might arise. KH on behalf of all the councillors thanked Cllr Askew for all his work on behalf of the Parish.

1. New Buckenham Neighbourhood Plan:

Charles Oxley gave a report on progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. The plan has been submitted and has been returned with some minor revisions which will be made. The next stage is that the village needs to adopt the plan which will require a referendum vote. Once a date for the vote has been agreed Breckland will manage the vote which will be done as for local council elections under statutory regulations.

Charles Oxley reported that the Breckland Council has recently made the post of neighbourhood plan officer redundant. This means that for other villages embarking on a plan they will find that the support received from the officer to those involved will no longer be available. Cllr Askew agreed to raise this with the planning committee.

1. New Buckenham Community Grant Fund:

Cllr Dowson gave a report on the Community Grants Fund

This year the fund has supported:

* Junior Football Club (new goals)
* New Buckenham Village Hall Trust (contribution to a new Hybrid boiler)
1. Community Car Scheme

Gerry Walsh gave apologies but sent through a report outlining details of what the scheme has done over the year. They have been able to successfully meet all the requests from parishioners for community car lifts. There are currently7 community car drivers available, who have all had their DBS checks done and had their insurance and health checks updated.

1. Defibrillator project

Sue Britton gave an update on the project and outlined some of the choices that the PC need to make to progress the project. The Kings head PH has agreed to host the Defibrillator on an outside wall of the Pub location to be agreed with Councillors. Sue Britton has researched and given three different models to the PC for their consideration. There are options on “automatic” or “semi-automatic” from her research “semi-automatic” is deemed to be safer. The type of battery is important as this can be costly and heavy increasing the weight of the unit. Sue Britton is meeting with the manager at the Kings Head to look at proposed locations and will report to the PC at the next meeting.

1. Electric Car charging points

Cllr Bingham went through the proposal for electric car charging points. He also discussed the idea of having an Electric car as a community resource. The idea of having charging points in the village is to ensure that those residents who don’t have off road parking are still able to access and facilitate charging an electric vehicle. Given that the Government have a target of 2030 for stopping the sale of petrol and diesel cars it is important that the village considers how best to support residents for their future transport needs.

The idea of the community resource electric car is to offer a solution to households that need two cars to reduce this need by having a community hire car available. The aim is to reduce congestion and parking issues.

Both schemes have the support of Breckland Council and a meeting with Greg Pearson the Sustainability Officer will be set up. It is suggested that both schemes be managed by companies that currently operate such schemes throughout the country and on the advice and guidance of Breckland Council.

Given the poor public attendance at the Annual parish meeting it was suggested by Cllr KH, AB and MD that a special meeting be convened to discuss village transport and sustainability projects.

1. Open Session for Residents:

Cllr Bingham has received a phone call from Kim Cutmore asking to raise the issue of maintaining a wildlife and conservation area around the phone box. As this is land managed by the High Bailiff’s Trust, Kim Cutmore will be advised to contact them.

Juliet Fulford asked about having a poster campaign featuring or by the children of the village to highlight dog excrement issues.

Juliet Fulford asked about the gateway project and if this would use planters. It has been agreed at PC meetings that planters will be used.

1. Close:

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking her fellow councillors for their commitment to New Buckenham Parish Council over the previous 12 months.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Cllr Karen Hobley

Chair