**NEW BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of New Buckenham Parish Council held at New Buckenham Village Hall on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

**Present**: Karen Hobley (KH Chair), Andrew Bingham (AB Vice Chair), Mary Manning (MM), and Paul Martin (PM)

**Also in attendance**: Angela Thornton (AT) (Clerk) 3 parishioners and Steve Askew - District and County Councillor.

**2324/42 Apologies for Absence:** Don Crossman (DC), Steve Highton (SH) and Mary Dowson (MD) all on leave.

**2324/43 Minutes**: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th July 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

**2324/44 Matters Arising**:

1. Village Gateway - Parish Partnership application and submit by November 2023.

**ACTION AB**

1. Defibrillator – Awaiting installation on outside wall of the Kings Head. **ACTION KH**
2. County Broadband Wayleave Agreement – with solicitors as issues around easements are yet to be resolved. **Pending**
3. Establishment of community woodland working group –1st choice of Potential site is unavailable. 2nd choice to be investigated further**. ACTION AB**
4. Electric Charging Point – NCC site surveys are complete. NBVH to agree to progress. **ACTION AB**
5. Streetlight concerns – Awaiting quotes re shades and dimmer timings.
6. Footpath Number 2 re stile /gate, The Ramblers Association volunteers are unable to help, the walkway has been closed by The Wildlife Trust. No further action at this meeting.

**2324/45 Declarations of Interest**: - None were declared.

**2324/46 Public Participation**:

1. Chair and Parish Councillor Reports –

KH - Chair highlighted that a bucket of human excrement that was left by the cemetery gate has been removed.

Victorian lamppost located in closed churchyard is undergoing repairs (via Parochial Church Council.) An application to the Community Project Fund is not appropriate as this fund is for capital items and cannot be used for maintenance / repairs.

Clarity is required, is this lamppost to be recommissioned and operated as other NBPC Streetlights? Is it purely ornamental and thus considered a “monument” within the Quinquennial / Closed Churchyard maintenance requirements? **ACTION AT to seek clarity.**

1. District and County Councillor Report – Steve Askew (SA) readvised that the Mobile food bank will be launched shortly in Old Buckenham. When date known information to go in Parish News and on New Buckenham Facebook page.

Highways staff changes are imminent however SA could only reiterate that the speed issues re B1113 are unlikely to change. AB questioned the standard of resurfacing re Cuffer Lane as grass growth not removed from the centre of road. SA explained this had happened elsewhere and Highways have instructed contractors to re do/ make good to meet the specifications of the contract.

1. Public Participation.

Resident 1 (Alice Cattermole) presented the below Speed Watch report.

Community Speedwatch has been operating in New Buckenham since July when the team of volunteers received their training from Norfolk Constabulary. We usually go out for an hour at a time, twice a week. We are trying to monitor at different times but this is dependent on when volunteers are available.

So far, we have been out on 10 occasions (since 30th July).

**Negative Findings:**

* We have been experiencing a lot more speeding traffic in our small village than most villages experience – this has been confirmed by the Community Speedwatch administration.
* Many people speeding live locally in the village.
* The vast majority of vehicles are travelling well in excess of the speed limit (high 20s, up to 40 mph and higher).
* We see a lot more speeding at the Norwich end of the village because there are no parked cars to slow traffic. This poses a very real danger to adults, children and animals (dogs) using the Common and park.
* We have witnessed a lot of tail-gating when vehicles have slowed in response to seeing us out monitoring.

**Positive Findings:**

* A good proportion of people do slow down when they see us
* Volume of traffic has reduced significantly since the A11 reopened

**We are not capturing the true picture by far as:**

* We are limited in terms of where we can stand to monitor speeding.
* We cannot report all speeding vehicles as we need to have a clear view and no other vehicles impacting the recording.
* We could easily the **treble** the numbers we have to get a truer picture of the volume of traffic speeding.
* The number of speeding vehicles will of course be higher when we are not present on the streets as some (but by no means all) drivers moderate their speed in response to our signage or upon seeing us our monitoring.
* It is not unusual for over 50% of vehicles we monitor, particularly at the Norwich end of the village, to be travelling over 30mph. Some vehicles are travelling in excess of 40mph, and the fastest vehicle we have recorded so far was travelling at 48mph within the 20mph zone.

We intend to attend the next SNAP meeting on the 19th October in Attleborough at 6pm and would appreciate support with advertising this. We would also be very pleased if a Parish Councillor could also attend this meeting

The Parish Council expressed its appreciation of the work of the Speed watch group.

**ACTION** Councillor Karen Hobley to attend SNAP Meeting.

Resident 2 expressed their disappointment that the general speeding along Church Street cannot be monitored, and thanked NBPC/ NBVH for the A board that is placed outside their property periodically as this does seem to slow drivers down. **ACTION** KH to request that NBVH writes to all village hall users regarding the speed limits of the village.

Resident 2 questioned progress of Community Wood. Requested confirmation that the preferred choice cannot progress. That the second possibility will be explored and CAG to be informed of any progress. **ACTION** AB

**2324/47 Financial Matters:**

 **a.** Bank reconciliation for August was accepted.

 **b.** Payments for September 2023 (below) were approved:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Approved Date** | **Payment reference** | **Payee** | **ITEM** | **FOLIO** | **Gross expenditure** | **VAT** | **Net** |
| 12/09/2023 | Online payment | NBVH | Hall rental April-June | 54 | 93.50 |   | 93.5 |
| 12/09/2023 | Direct Debit | npower | August streetlights elec. | 57 | 34.36 | 1.64 | 32.72 |
| 12/09/2023 | Online payment | A Thornton | Clerks September Salary | 63 | 568.91 |   | 568.91 |
| 12/09/2023 | Online payment | Norfolk County Council | Clerks Sep pension and £8.46 arrears | 58 | 172.30 |   | 172.30 |
| 12/09/2023 | Online payment | A Thornton | Printer paper | 59 | 4.20 |   | 4.20 |
| 12/09/2023 | Online payment | Broadland Trees | August Grounds Maintenance | 60 | 1230.00 | 205.00 | 1025.00 |
| 12/09/2023 | Online payment | A Thornton | Mileage June to September | 61 | 30.15 |   | 30.15 |
| 12/09/2023 | online payments | CCS Drivers | Drivers’ mileage March to September | 62 | 134.40 |   | 134.4 |
| **Totals** |  |  |  |  | **2267.82** | **206.64** | **2061.18** |
| 12/9/23 | Online | PKF Littlejohn | AGAR External Audit | 64 | 252.00 | 42.00 | 210.00 |

PKF Littlejohn invoice circulated and agreed at NBPC meeting on 12.9.23

**2324/48 Planning**: Applications re 5 Chapel Hill and Swallows Barn Tanning Lane were considered. No Objections .

**2324/49 Amenities**: To consider any issues raised regarding the following:

**a. Grounds Maintenance –** Nothing to report this month.

**b. Closed Churchyard –**KH highlighted that shrubs are growing across neighbours windows. MM stated that the pruning of rosebushes is required. **ACTION** MM to visually check churchyard and AT to contact Broadland Trees re scope of contracted work.

AB stated wildflower area has been cut hay to be removed. Yellow rattle is required to enable better wildflowers next year.

Period Pointing have completed these years scheduled repairs/ maintenance. This work will continue next year and Period Pointing are available 2 weeks in April. All present approved. **ACTION** AT to confirm with Period Pointing.

**c. Cemetery (consecrated ground) –** Registration on the Diocesan system is in place. Faculty submitted.to reuse some graves over 85 years of age ongoing.

**d. Allotments –** Broadland Trees are scheduled to complete some maintenance work.

Allotment rules considered and amended to reflect “verbal understanding” that Allotments are available to residents of New Buckenham. ACTION AT to amend rules and update on Website.

Annual billing, reallocation etc to take place in October.

**e. Play Area/ Cricket Pitch – ACTION DC** is arranging replacement and repair of broken log in Play Area and will check for replacement of worn signage. DC unavailable to update Carried Forward to next meeting.

**f. Public Footpaths –** Footpath number 2 stile /gate. The Ramblers Association volunteers are unable to help, the walkway has been closed by The Wildlife Trust. No further action at this meeting.

**g.** **Street Lights -** Streetlights maintenance contract received. This was considered and all agreed to approve extension of contract for 3 years **ACTION** **AT to contact TT Jones to confirm**.

Following last months meeting, Councillors proposed that shields be fitted to lights to reduce direct glare into properties and that light brightness reduces at midnight which will reduce the electricity usage. **ACTION** **AT** **to request quotes and present to NBPC for consideration.**

**2324/50 Correspondence –** not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

**a.** Email, The National Association of Local Councils have offered to provide NBPC email services, this will meet 2023-24 audit requirements., costs and service considered. All present approved. **ACTION** AT to contact NALC and accept their offer.

**b.** Email from Brew Daisy. The council considered a request to provide a pitch for a “café” in New Buckenham once a week. Understanding that the current village café is closing councillors agreed to offer the carpark at the children’s playground as a venue. **ACTION** KH to contact Brew Daisy.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

**The Parish Council does not meet in August**

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take on Tuesday, 10th October at 7.30pm.**

**Agenda Items for next meeting –**

**Councillors` responsibilities.**