**NEW BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of New Buckenham Parish Council held at New Buckenham Village Hall on Tuesday 11th July 2023.

**Present**: Karen Hobley (KH Chair), Mary Manning (MM), Mary Dowson (MD) and Andrew Bingham (AB Vice Chair).

**Also in attendance**: Angela Thornton (AT) (Clerk) 2 parishioners (Both left at 8.15pm) Steve Askew - District and County Councillor (Left at 8.30pm)

**2324/33 Apologies for Absence:** Don Crossman (DC), Steve Highton (SH) and Paul Martin (PM)

**2324/34 Minutes**: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th June 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

**2324/35 Matters Arising**:

1. Village Gateway - **ACTION AB** to complete Parish Partnership application and submit by November 2023.
2. Defibrillator – Order placed. Sue Britton and volunteers’ names to be passed to Parish Clerk. **ACTION KH**
3. County Broadband Wayleave Agreement – with solicitors as issues around easements are yet to be resolved. **Pending**
4. Establishment of community woodland working group – AB and working group met and completed village walk (26.03.23) to assess potential sites for woodland. **ACTION AB** and working group to investigate identified potential sites and bring proposal with costings to NBPC. **ACTION AB -** carried forward to September.
5. Electric Charging Point – Awaiting NCC site survey to assess viability. **Pending**
6. Cuffer Lane Planning – Ombudsman process has been investigated. NBPC cannot carry out any further appeals but will robustly monitor the site as far as is possible.
7. Streetlight concern - engineer visited light tilted. See item **2324/41**
8. Footpath Number 2 re stile /gate – ongoing. See item **2324/40 (f)**

**2324/36 Declarations of Interest**: - None were declared. MM highlighted that one of the streetlights to be discussed in item 2324/41 is in her garden. It was agreed that this is not a pecuniary interest.

**2324/37 Public Participation**:

1. Chair and Parish Councillor Reports –

KH - Chair explained that NCC advice suggests a proposed speed reduction on the B1113 is not viable. Awaiting further information on “Child shaped” bollards. The damaged bollard has been repaired but there were concerns about the quality of the repair. Report to Highways. **ACTION AT**

Information had been obtained which clarifies NBPC cannot appeal to the Ombudsman re Cuffer Lane.

The Defibrillator has been ordered and electrical work may be necessary at The Kings Head to enable installation. KH liaising with the manager of the King`s Head, who has kindly agreed that the defibrillator can be placed on the wall of the King`s Head.

AB - Requested that trees be trimmed around streetlights, particularly in Castle Hill Road. All present agreed. Clerk to arrange within pre-approved spend limit. **ACTION AT**

District and County Councillor Report – Steve Askew (SA) reiterated that the speed reduction request is not viable.

SA advised that the Mobile food bank will be available in Old Buckenham shortly. Information to go in Parish News and on New Buckenham Facebook page.

c .Public Participation.

Resident requested an update on progress on Community Wood, AB reiterated item 2324/35(4).and that he is hoping to progress this during the summer, identifying landowners of any potential sites.

Resident requested an update on Electric Vehicle Charging Points. AT reiterated 2324/35(5) stating NBPC has been accepted as a possible pilot site and that Norfolk CC will carry out a survey as the next step.

**2324/38 Financial Matters:**

1. Bank reconciliation for June was accepted.
2. Payments for July and August 2023 (below) were approved:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Approved Date** | **Payment reference** | **Payee** | **ITEM** | **FOLIO** | **Gross expenditure** | **VAT** | **Net** |
| 11/07/2023 | Direct Debit | N Power | June electricity street lights | 42 | 33.96 | 1.62 | 32.34 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online payment | BHIB | Annual Insurance | 43 | 536.92 |  | 536.92 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online payment | TT Jones | July-Sept Street light maintenance and site visit | 44 | 25.25 | 4.21 | 21.04 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online payment | County Broadband | Refund overpaid Grant | 45 | 3014.00 |  | 3014.00 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online payment | A Thornton | Clerk`s July salary | 46 | 568.91 |  | 568.91 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online payment | Norfolk County Council | Clerk`s July pension | 47 | 161.02 |  | 161.02 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online payment | Broadland Trees | June Grounds maintenance | 48 | 1230.00 | 205.00 | 1025.00 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online payment | A Thornton | Printer ink | 49 | 21.95 | 3.66 | 18.29 |
| 11/7/23 | Online Payment | St John Ambulance | Defibrillator and Cabinet | 50 | 1662.00 | 277.00 | 1385.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  | **7254.01** | **491.49** | **6762.52** |
| 11/07/2023 | Online Payment | A Thornton | Clerk`s salary August |  | 568.91 |  | 568.91 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online Payment | Norfolk County Council | Clerk`s Pension August |  | 161.02 |  | 161.02 |
| 11/07/2023 | Online Payment | Broadland Trees | July Grounds maintenance |  | 1230.00 | 205.00 | 1025.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  | **1959.93** | **205** | **1754.93** |

**2324/39 Planning**: No objections to the call for traveller sites in South Norfolk.

**2324/40 Amenities**: To consider any issues raised regarding the following:

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

**b. Closed Churchyard –** clearing along wall has taken place. MM requested that the skirt from the lime tree be removed. **ACTION** **AT** to contact contractor. Period Pointing will be continuing repairs to the flint church wall for 2 weeks commencing Monday 17th July.

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

**d. Allotments –** Thanks to Ellis Williamson and John Hobley for replacing valves, which has significantly improved water pressure at the allotments. NBPC is to review its` Allotment Policy in its` September meeting.

**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. **Ongoing**

**f. Public Footpaths –** Footpath number 2 Stile. Hazel Wright owns field but not stile **ACTION** NBPC to request Barbara Cattermole contact Ramblers re replacing stile with gate.

**2324/41 Correspondence -**

Parishioner email re Street Lights discussed.

Several parishioners have requesting lights be removed/ turned off to reduce electricity costs and glare in properties.

Other parishioners request lights remain unchanged for security and safety.

AT clarified TT Jones state there are not any dimmers, reduction in brightness or shields on any of the current streetlights.

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 obtain quotes and present to NBPC for consideration.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

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

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take on Tuesday, 12th September at 7.30pm.**

**Agenda Items for next meeting –**

**Councillors` responsibilities; Allotment Policy**