

PARISH OF NEW BUCKENHAM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF New Buckenham held on Tuesday 11th May 2021
at 8.00 -8.31pm in the Village Hall, Moat Lane

Present: Councillors Karen Hobley (Chair), Andrew Bingham, Don Crossman, Mary Dowson Steve Highton, Mary Manning, Andrew Nettleton

In Attendance: Trevor Wenman (Clerk), Steve Askew (County and District Councillor)

Public: Four

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting.

2. To consider accepting apologies for absence:

There were none

3. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2019

The draft Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2019 had been circulated; **The MEETING RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes as true and accurate record

4. To receive the Chairman's Report:

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Karen Hobley gave a report on the Parish Council's activities over the previous year.

The previous year had, of course been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and from April 2020 to April 2021 all Parish Council meetings had been held remotely via Zoom. The Chair thanked the Councillors and Parishioners for their support during this period. The Chair welcomed Cllr Andrew Nettleton, who had been co-opted onto the Council following the resignation of Paul Martin.

The Chair paid particular tribute to Violet Highton, who had sadly passed away during the year. Violet had for many years been a stalwart of the village, managing the Community Car Scheme for 13 years and being a regular attendee of Parish Council meetings. Violet would be sadly missed.

Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan had been slowed by the Pandemic restrictions but the Parish Council had been able to provide support to several aspect of village life, including the installation of Adult exercise equipment at the Play Area and providing financial support to Parish News and to the snowdrops on the Market Place. Vicky and Alan Baker had continued their maintenance of the ornamental garden in the Churchyard, whilst Phil Anderson continued to maintain the grassed part of the Churchyard, Cemetery, play area and Cricket pitch as the Council's Grounds maintenance contractor.

During the lockdowns there had been renewed interest in the allotments which were now flourishing.

There were as always some issues to be resolved, such as the resurfacing of Marsh Lane, flood amelioration at the Dam Brigg and the formation of a wildlife management plan for the area around the Moat and the Cricket Pitch in consultation with Norfolk Wildlife Trust .

5.

6. District and County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Askew had circulated a comprehensive written report regarding both the County and District Council activities. On two issues already raised, he had been active in pushing for both the Marsh Lane resurfacing (which had been delayed, but was now due to be done this summer) and the Dam Brigg flooding issues. A very useful site meeting had been held with highways staff, and options were being examined. Solving the Dam Brigg problems was not, however, likely to be a quick job.

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. He also pointed out that as County Councillor he had £10,000 this financial year to allocate for small highways projects in the Division, which could be combined with Parish Partnership funds for a suitable project.

7. New Buckenham Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr Mary Manning and Charles Oxley gave a report on progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. The project had been launched in 2017, and as its fourth anniversary approached the following landmarks were worth noting:

- The Residents survey had achieved an 83% response rate
- Three workshops held with the Parish Councillors
- 40+ Social Media Posts
- Every household in the village had received a physical copy of the consultation version of the Plan

The current status of the plan was as follows:

- The revised Neighbourhood Plan document of 76 pages was with the proof-readers
- The Consultation Statement was now complete
- The Basic Condition Statement was awaiting final comment from the Steering Group's Town Planner
- The end was therefore in sight.

8. New Buckenham Community Grant Fund:

Councillor Bingham gave a report on the Community Grants Fund

The year had, been, understandably quiet, but support had been given during the year to:

- Junior Football Club (new nets)
- New Buckenham Climate Action Now (CAN)

9. Community Car Scheme

Gerry Walsh had taken on management of the scheme pro tem, from Violet Highton. The scheme had been in abeyance for most of the last year. There were currently 8 drivers available, but all needed their DBS checks re-done and their insurance and health checks updated before the service could resume. Gerry and the Clerk were liaising on the process.

10. Open Session for Residents:

Gerry Walsh pointed out that the "Helping Hands" services organised by volunteers in the village had been immensely important to the Community over the last year and should be acknowledged.

It was also pointed out that a number of villagers had found the adult exercise equipment really useful. This was being well used.

11. Close:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.31pm.

Cllr Karen Hobley
Chair