

PARISH OF NEW BUCKENHAM

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING, held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Moat Lane, New Buckenham

Present:

Chairman of the Meeting, Councillor K Hobley (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Councillor A Bingham
10 Members of the Public
Hilary Clutten (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Prior to the start of the Meeting, Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed by the two recently elected Council Members, Karen Hobley and Andrew Bingham.

1. Welcome:

The Chair of the Meeting welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

2. Apologies:

No apologies had been received.

3. Discussion of the Recent Elections:

Only two residents had stood as candidates in the recent Parish Council Elections. The Parish Council needs at least three Councillors to carry on its work so another election is being held by Breckland Council to fill the five remaining seats; this will take place on 18th June 2015.

There were a few interested members of the public so there followed a discussion on what the Parish Council does in the village and generally on what Parish Council can and can't do.

The Norfolk Association of Local Councils runs training courses for new Councillors and gives its members invaluable help in relation to unfamiliar areas of Parish Council Law.

The Chair explained that there are two new projects being developed at the moment. The first follows the results of a Housing Needs Survey carried out by Breckland Council which has identified the need for six low cost properties in the village. The Council has discussed this with Saffron Housing Association which is fairly positive about obtaining funding for these properties and is currently in discussion with a local landowner on the purchase of land.

There have also been a number of discussions about the street lights as most are becoming obsolete and some may not be in the most appropriate places. There will always be those who support the provision of street lights and others who have the opposite opinion so it is likely that the Parish Council will

take a view from the village about this once more details of costs etc are known.

The Parish Council also financially supports, along with Breckland Council, the running of the Community Car Scheme, and provides allotments and a burial ground. As the Churchyard is a 'closed churchyard' the Parish Council also has a responsibility to financially support the upkeep of it.

There was also a discussion about how much time is taken up with Parish Council work; this was estimated at one day per month.

The Clerk handed a set of nomination papers to an interested resident and said that she could be contacted by email if any other residents wished to stand.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed Karen Hobley, Chair, 12th April 2016