**PARISH OF NEW BUCKENHAM**

**MINUTES** **OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF** New Buckenham held on Tuesday 9th April 2024

at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, Moat Lane

Present: Councillors Karen Hobley (Chair - KH), Andrew Bingham (Vice Chair - AB), Don Crossman (DC), Mary Manning (MM), Mary Dowson (MD), Paul Martin (PM), Angela Thornton (Clerk – Minutes AT) and Steve Askew (County and District Councillor (SA))

Public: 5

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

1. Apologies for absence:

Steve Highton (Councillor -SH) Residents - Tom Nash, Geoff Gildersleeve and Alice Cattermole

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2023

The meeting resolvedto approve the Minutes as a true and accurate record. KH proposed, MM seconded. All agreed

1. To receive the Chair’s Report:

The Chair welcomed everyone. The Chair talked about the main issues which had arisen over the year in her annual report. (Attached).

1. District and County Councillor’s Report:

Steve Askew (Breckland and Norfolk County Councillor).

Cllr Askew stated he will forward his report to be saved with mins.

Highlights:-

* Rural Safety Community Fund Bid for B113 speed reduction was unsuccessful. Steve is requesting a detailed explanation of the refusal.
* SA is happy to have contributed to New Buckenham Village Gateway which will be installed in this financial year.
* Food bank available in Old Buckenham. This is also a good place for advice.
* SA reported that Speedwatch is a very useful service taking place in New Buckenham. Speedwatch members are also attending SNAP meetings to highlight speeding.
* SA was glad that the flooding in Church Street has been resolved.

1. Neighbourhood plan

MM explained how the Neighbourhood Plan is being implemented within the parish, giving examples including Village Gateway, refurbishment of the flint walls in the Churchyard, footpaths are well looked after and that the village now has a defibrillator. The review report is available on NBPC website

1. Green Issues

AB reported that a Biodiversity Plan is under consideration.

Moving forward, NBPC will ensure NBPC verges and outer edges of green spaces are not mown before June.

The conservation area in the closed churchyard continues to thrive and NBPC is continuing with its` aspirations to create a community woodland.

EV charging points will be live imminently and sited at the Village Hall

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1. Speedwatch

SF reported that many people are driving over 20mph in the 20mph zone. Generally, people do slow down when Speedwatch are out. Speedwatch will continue to be out and about again regularly. They will be monitoring traffic on a number of “2-wheel Tuesday” evenings..

It was noted that, when A11 reopened, speeding and volume of traffic through the village did reduce.

Speedwatch are looking for more members. A resident offered to do some admin work for the group.

1. Community Car Scheme

Gerry Walsh stated that she has now stepped down as coordinator, handing over to Alice Cattermole. There are 7 drivers - Llnda Bryant, Sue Britton, Gordan Chase, Kathy Steel,

Rory Lester, Maria Lloyd and Gerry - who have covered 1300 miles from over 100 referrals. This supports 12 residents to access medical appoints in Norwich, Diss and East Harling. Breckland District Council have awarded funding for 2024-25. All DBS Checks will be renewed this year. NBPC expressed its` thanks to Gerry and all of the drivers for their service to the community.

10. New Buckenham Community Project Fund:

MD summarised Awards made this year as follows:-:

* Support for Old Buckenham Primary School in refurbishing its` library as this is New Buckenham’s designated Primary School with more than 20 village children attending.
* Support for New Buckenham Village Fundraising group with a 50% contribution to a secure storage facility.

The Community Project Fund group consists of 3 Parish Councillors and 2 village residents who consider applications and make recommendations to NBPC.

1. Village Cemetery

AT reported that the faculty to reuse graves over 75 years of age without headstones and untended has been approved.

1. Open Session

Residents talked through their thoughts on how to address speeding issues giving examples of how these are addressed in other parts of the country.

Resident expressed pleasure that the Village Green and the Market Cross Green is looking much better this year with appropriate maintenance.

Resident asked about cost to produce Parish News.MD explained how this works mainly via sponsors and advertising.

KH gave a farewell speech as this will be her last meeting as Chair, although she will conduct the

“Election of Chair” item at the start of the next meeting`s agenda. All present expressed their thanks

to Karen for all her time and dedication to NBPC over the last 25 years.

**Cllr Askew requested the below be recorded in the minutes**: “I just wanted to extend my thanks and appreciation and congratulations to you Karen for your umpteen years of service as chairman of NBPC. You have guided the parish for its` betterment with skill, wisdom and most importantly, good humour and I know that you have the appreciation of the many. I hope you continue to serve on the PC and help to keep New Buckenham as one of the jewels in Breckland’s crown that it undoubtedly is. My very best wishes and thanks.”

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 21:15

Cllr Karen Hobley

Chair