**NEW BUCKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**Present**: Karen Hobley (KH Chair), Mary Manning (MM), Paul Martin (PM), and Steve Highton (SH)

**Also in attendance**: Angela Thornton Clerk (Minutes) 2 parishioners and Councillor Askew.

**2324/60 Apologies for Absence:** Mary Dowson (MD) conflicting engagement, Andrew Bingham (AB Vice Chair) conflicting appointment, Don Crossman (DC) holiday. All approved

**2324/61 Minutes**: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th November 2023 were approved.

**2324/62 Matters Arising**:

1. Village Gateway - Parish Partnership application submitted to NCC. **Pending**
2. County Broadband Wayleave Agreement – with solicitors as issues around easements are yet to be resolved. **Pending**
3. Establishment of community woodland –1st choice of potential site is unavailable. 2nd choice not viable. 3rd choice to be investigated. **Pending ACTION -AB**
4. Electric Charging Point – NBVHT agreed to progress subject to satisfactory insurance.
5. NBPC email services – **ACTION AT** to progress with NCC.

**2324/63 Declarations of Interest**: - None were declared.

**2324/64 Public Participation**:

1. Chair and Parish Councillor Reports. Christmas Tree is in place.

MM reported Wire fencing on Common where cows graze now requires moving.

1. District and County Councillor Report – Mobile Food Van visits Old Buckenham on a Friday is proving a valuable resource. SA reiterated his intension to financially support the Village Gateway.

Utilising the Rural Safety Community Fund. SA has put 2 bids forward:

* for a crossing on B1066 at Garboldisham
* for a change in speed limit on the B113 from 60-40 on the approach to New Buckenham.

1. Public Participation –Resident reported large puddle at junction of Rosemary Lane and Church Street possibly a blocked drain. **Action SA** will report to Highways.

GW reported Alice Cattermole will take on Coordinator role of the Community Car Scheme from 1/4/23 AC work with GW to complete grant application. KH thanked GW for all her hard work.

**2324/65 Financial Matters:**

 **a.** Bank reconciliation for November was considered. MM proposed KH seconded.

 **b.** Payments for December 2023 (below) were approved: SH proposed PM seconded all in favour.

**c.** Community Project Fund Applications,

Village Fundraisers requested £1500 towards storage container. Recommendation from PWG, £1500 Proposed by KH seconded by MM all approved.

SN has resigned from CPF. **ACTION KH** to advertise vacancy in Parish News

An application from PCC has been received but CPG have not had chance to meet. This will be considered at Januarys meeting.

**d.** Councillors present considered the revised budget including 1250 from reserves for Village gateway. Emails from absent councillors were read and their vote on precept options was included in below result:

Option a 1 vote, option b 5 votes, option c no votes. (1 councillor not in attendance and no preference stated).

KH proposed and MM seconded adopting revised budget and option B precept, which utilised a small amount from reserves, supporting a nil increase next year’s precept. **ACTION AT** to forward precept requirements for 2024-25 to BDC

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| Payment Approved date | Invoice date | Payment type | Payee | item | Gross expenditure | VAT | NET |
| 12/12/2023 | December | Online Payment | A Thornton | Clerk RFO December Salary | 604.36 | 0 | 604.36 |
| 12/12/2023 | December | Online Payment | Norfolk County Council | RFO Clerk December Pension | 174.71 | 0 | 174.71 |
| 12/12/2023 | December | Direct Debit | npower | November electricity street lights | 66.92 | 3.19 | 63.73 |
| 07/12/2023 | 07/12/2023 | online Payment | A Thornton | Printer ink | 18.99 | 0 | 18.99 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**TOTALS 864.98 3.19 861.79**

**2324/66 Planning**: No comment.

**2324/67 Amenities**: To consider any issues raised regarding the following:

**a. Grounds Maintenance** – Nothing at this meeting

**b. Closed Churchyard –** An email from PCC was noted.

**c. Cemetery (consecrated ground) –** Minute from PCC application Progressing.

**d. Allotments –** Work on gate has taken place the compost bin has not yet been relocated to the allotments as is in use in churchyard.

Use of cleared area **Action AT** to follow up contact with Mr Gridley to coordinate allotment tenants’ views, bringing a plan for consideration to the January meeting.

The water has been turned off for the winter.

Of the 4 vacant plots allocation of 3 is progressing.

**e. Play Area/ Cricket Pitch.** Nothing to report this month.

**f. Public Footpaths** Nothing to report this month.

**g. Community Car Scheme –** see item 2324/64c

**h.** **Street Lights –**  4 Councillors walked the village to check which lights require a shield and which streetlights, it is felt “safe” to be off from midnight to 0530hrs to support reduced electricity/ environmental costs. Recommendation no change to streetlights timings. Proposer MM seconded by KH all in favour.

**i. Defibrillator**  This is available in the village an article is to be placed in Parish News, The Villager, and is on NBPC website.

**2324/68 Correspondence –**

**a.** Kings Coronation Heritage Fund. We cannot progress as currently NBPC have no space for trees.

**b.** Councillor KH proposed and DC seconded a 2024-25 budget provision of 1k for any NB village D Day 80 event. Approved by all **ACTION AT** to include in 2024-25 budget utilising reserves and not increase precept already approved.

Meeting closed at 20:45

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take on Tuesday, 9th January at 7.30pm.**