

Bucknell Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Bucknell Parish Council on Monday 11th May 2015 at 8:15pm in Bucknell Village Hall

Present: Daniel Blakey (Temporary Chair), Rachael Blakey (Clerk), Neil Wainman, Alexander Bowden, Chris Wells

In attendance: Sheena Buck, Megan Savins, Sheila Wallington.

1 Apologies

1.1 Derek Hedges

2. Minutes from the meeting held on the 12th May 2014

2.1 There were no amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting. The Chair signed the minutes.

3 Finance

3.1 The Chair read a summary on the annual accounts. These were verified by the Council ready for the audit. They are as follows:

	Total Current Year	Total Previous Year	Notes
Precept C.D.C	£ 5,117.00	£ 4,750.00	
Bank Interest	£ 0.67	£ -	
Other	£ 803.00	£ -	Speedgun, Bucknell Matters, Old PF
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 5,920.67	£ 4,750.00	
Clerks Salary	£ 2,393.36	£ 1,413.32	Bank error, o/payment. No payment for May 15
Clerks Expenses	£ 240.00	£ 150.00	
Printing Postage, Stationery	£ 117.99	£ 157.97	Incl Bucknell Matters covered by sponsorships
Insurance	£ 308.01	£ 510.08	New arrangement with Aviva
Non Contested Election	£ -	£ -	
Village Hall Hire	£ -	£ 240.00	Yet to be invoiced for rest of year
O.A.L.C.Subscriptions	£ 133.07	£ 133.07	
C.P.R.E Annual Subscription	£ -	£ 29.00	
Dog Bin Emptying	£ 210.72	£ 87.16	Emptied 3 times this year!
Bus Shelter Cleaning	£ 250.00	£ 250.00	
Village maintenance,	£ 1,250.00	£ 450.63	Churchyard, Salt Bin, Trigger Pond
Sundry Expenses	£ 108.00	£ -	Speedgun covered by donation
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 5,011.15	£ 3,421.23	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£ 909.52	£ 1,328.77	
Bank accounts and deposits 1st April 2014	£ 3,845.48	£ 2,516.00	
Current (31032015)	£ 3,428.54	£ 2,519.69	
Deposit (31032015)	£ 1,326.46	£ 1,325.79	
Total Bank Accounts	£ 4,755.00	£ 3,845.48	

- 3.2 The Annual Governance statement on the BDO audit was approved.
- 3.3 The Chair stated a note from the external examiner that care needs to be taken on what additional fees and donations are agreed, and ideally should be kept within this surplus, or BPC should continue to build reserves by accumulating the surplus.

4 Chairman's Report

4.1 Bucknell Parish Council – Chair's Annual Report

Similar to my previous report as Chair of the Parish Council, I'd like to highlight some of the larger matters which have taken up much of the focus of the council over the last year.

Draining Flooding and Sewage overflow.

We have been fortunate over the last 12 months that there has not been sufficient heavy rain to test the village's flood and sewage systems (unlike in previous years), where flooding brought distress and misery to those residents whose houses and businesses were damaged. As anticipated in my last report the Council has not reduced its efforts in working with a number of organisations to try to put in place the necessary infrastructure to prevent repeated floods when the rains do come.

We set up a flooding sub-group to coordinate the PC's efforts on this and have met regularly with Thames Water. Although sometimes frustrating, these meetings are the opportunity to hold Thames Water to account with regard to the survey and repair work they have done to the sewage systems in the village. The sewerage system is only one component of the problems and a stated aim of the meetings has been to get as many of the parties around the table as possible. To that end we extended invitations to the Environment Agency and the county council, who attended the most recent meeting. OCC have stated that they will clear all the road-side drains and offered assistance in ensuring other water management systems such as ditches are maintained. The work of the group is still ongoing and is likely to be needed throughout the next year.

The Bicester North West Development / Bicester Masterplan

The exemplar site of the EcoTown situated just over the parish border is well on the way, but this of course is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the proposed development on the North West side of Bicester and the rest of the town. The council has developed strong links with A2Dominion, meeting with them regularly to seek to do two things:

First, try to ensure that the impact of the development is minimised with respect to Bucknell. As the planning process proceeds over the coming months and likely years, we are in the position now to push on matters such as light and noise pollution, traffic infrastructure, and the surety of the so called "green buffers".

Second, and despite the efforts being made to minimise the impact of the expansion of the town it is clear that there will be an effect on Bucknell. The most obvious is the potential increase in through traffic, and therefore in the dialogue with A2D, we are pushing for section 106 money to implement a suite of traffic calming measures. The NW site is the closest actual development, however the size and shape of Bicester continues to change at a rapid pace. The knock-on impact for the village of the developments north, south, east and west of the existing town is potentially huge and we are therefore working to make our voice heard to maintain and enhance Bucknell.

The Incinerator

The Energy from Waste Plant is now operational; however issues still remain to be resolved. These include the monitoring of its function, [over]lighting, and the external appearance. The PC continues to work hard with the consultation group on these matters.

Finance

I'd like to touch briefly on the financial status of the council. We have asked for a modest increase in the precept, which is roughly in line with an inflationary increase of 2%. This year however we have managed to bring in an additional income streams through the letting of the Old Playing Field and selling advertising space in the printed "Bucknell Matters". These mean that we have been able to increase our support to the maintenance of public village spaces of the new Playing Field and Church Yard.

Looking ahead

All the councillors around the table tonight were returned uncontested in the recent election. Whilst this is financially handy as we can avoid paying the costs for a ballot, it does mean that we remain below strength in terms of the number of councillors. I'd like to ask that all here tonight look to raise interest in the council's work across these major and the myriad of smaller but equally important issues because whilst we remain quorate, we would be able to work so much better with 7.

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who work for the good of the village.

5. Election of Officers

- 5.1 DB stated his concerns about remaining as Chair and the potentially vulnerable situation it puts himself and the Clerk in. He wanted it minuted that if he is to remain as Chair it will be temporary and that it will need to be reviewed in a minimum of 6 months, by

which time hopefully the Parish Council will be in a position to appoint someone else as Chair.

- 5.2. CW proposed DB as Chair and was seconded by NW.
- 5.3 DB proposed DH as Vice Chair and was seconded by CW.

6 Review of Standing Orders

- 6.1 These were agreed, but some elements may need to be reviewed over the year, such as Freedom of Information.

7. A.O.B

- 7.1. NW highlighted the 2 vacancies. Clerk to add this as a rolling agenda item until the vacancies are filled.
- 7.2 Colin is unable to stay on the Parish Council due to Nationality issues, however, he has offered to keep responsibility of the emergency plan and attend meetings where possible.

The meeting concluded at 8:55pm

Signed Date.....