

Bucknell Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Bucknell Parish Council on Monday 9th May 2016 at 8:30pm in Bucknell Village Hall

Present: Dan Blakey (Temporary Chair), Derek Hedges, Andrew Parsons, Chris Wells

In attendance: Megan Savins, Sheena Buck, Clr. Ian Corkin (CDC)

1 Apologies

1.1 Alexander Bowden, Neil Wainman, Clr. Lawrie Stratford (County)

2. Minutes from the meeting held on the 11th May 2015

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:

Bucknell Parish Council			
Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2016			
Receipts and Payments Account			
	Total Current Year (15/16)	Total Previous Year (14/15)	Under/ (O/spend) Notes
	£	£	£
Receipts			
Voluntary Receipts			
Precept C.D.C	5,638	5,117	
Bank Interest Received from Deposits	0.52	0.67	
	5,638	5,117.67	
Other Receipts			
Other	507	803	
	507	803	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,145	5,921	4%
Payments			
Clerks Salary	1,496	2,393.36	897.51 14/15 over payment deducted from 15/16.
Clerks Expenses	150	240	90.00
Total Staff Costs	1,646	2,633	987.51
Other Administrative costs			
Printing Postage, Stationery	28	118	90.00
Broadband & Telephone	0	0	0.00
Legal & Professional	130	0	(130.00)
B.D.O.E. Audit Fee	0	0	0.00
Insurance	308	308	0.00
Non Contested Election	39	0	(39.00)
Village Hall Hire	0	0	0.00
O.A.L.C. Subscriptions	133	133	0.00
C.P.R.E Annual Subscription	0	0	0.00
Mowing	0	0	0.00
Dog Bin Emptying	240	211	(29.53)
Bus Shelter Cleaning	250	250	0.00
Village maintenance,	1,290	1,250	(40.00)
Sundry Expenses	0	108	108.00
Bank Interest Payable	0	0	0.00
Capital Purchases			0.00
Donations	200	0	(200.00) Queens 90th Village Celebrations
Total Other Payments	2,618	2,378	(240.53)
Sub Total Expenditure	4,264	5,011	15%
			746.98
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1,881	910	
Bank accounts and deposits 1st April 2015	4,755	3,845	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1,881	910	
Bank a/cs and Deposit a/cs 31st March 2016	6,636	4,755	
Statement of Assets and Liabilities			
Bank Accounts			
Bank Accounts - Current	5,309	3,428.54	
CBF Deposit Accounts	1,327	1,326.46	
Total Bank Accounts	6,636	4,755	
Check Totals	0.00	0.00	

3.2 The Annual Governance statement on the BDO audit was approved.

4 Chairman's Report

4.1 Bucknell Parish Council – Chair's Annual Report

The Year in Reflection

Looking back I'd like to take this opportunity to focus on some of the larger issues with which the council has been dealing. That's not to belittle or unfairly sideline the more routine matters such as planning applications, village Spring Cleans, the giving of grants to the church and the playing field all of which greatly contribute to village life. However there are four items which have dominated the discussions of the council: the eco town and Bicester developments; the

incinerator and its waste ash; Thames Water, drainage and flooding in the village; and car parking.

The first phase of the eco town is well under way and its indirect impact on the village has already been felt, with increased traffic whilst the road works were in place and the light from the white street lamps being visible from Bucknell. This is, of course, only the start. WE have dealt with various planning and consultation specifically for the Eco town and expect to see more over the coming year. We have also been in discussions with the primary developer, A2 Dominion, to seek to make the plans as sympathetic to the village as possible and ideally obtain some direct resources for Bucknell.

The continued consultations around the future of Bicester and Cherwell in terms of planning and development have also been heavily on the agenda. Whilst these will not likely impact on the village to the same extent as the eco town, it is nevertheless vital to retain our voice and so retain the characteristic rural nature of Bucknell.

The incinerator looms large on the horizon. We continue to fight our corner to try to ensure that the planning rulings are adhered to, and that improvements are made, for example to the lighting. The ongoing engagement with Viridor whilst certainly frustrating is worthwhile as without it Bucknell's views would be lost.

We have been fortunate this year to be spared the type of rainfall which has previously led to sewage in homes and along the village's roads. Thames Water has also undertaken some improvement works to the pumping station near Lower Barns Farm. Whilst this does appear to have worked for the village proper, it does seem to have shifted the problem to Bicester road and this may have been a contributory factor to the serious crash a few months ago. Clearly more work is needed.

In addition, a continuing source of frustration is the parlous state of the roadside drains throughout the village. This is becoming a more and more serious problem and appears to be symptomatic of the general malaise in the County Council services which are no doubt down to the moratorium on council tax rate increases coupled with the reduction of central government funding. We have and will continue to make a nuisance of ourselves with Gordon Hunt and his team until this is sorted.

In March last year we welcomed our new publicans to the Trigger Pond and saw an immediate revitalization of the pub. Perhaps the only down side of this has been the increase in patrons visiting by car, the number of which outstrips the capacity of the off street parking at the pub. The overspill from the car park onto the surrounds of the pond opposite and nearby roads continues to be an issue. On street parking is not always sympathetic to residents and often closer to junctions that recommended in the Highway Code. Parking on the grass verge is also a matter in which the council takes an interest as we own that piece of land and it is maintained by volunteers as a village amenity. We take the view that cars should not park there as they are in danger of damaging the grass, making it difficult to maintain, prevent residents enjoying the pond area, and reduce visibility for traffic.

Although this is not within the mandate of the parish council to enforce such matters, when they are brought to our attention we do need to discuss them and come up with solutions with the

various parties involved. I therefore welcome the work to the pub car park undertaken over the last few weeks which will hopefully ameliorate this issue.

Looking Ahead

We will have a change of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. The new appointment could be a person from outside the village, or without previous clerk experience, or both. In any case this transition will mean that the new clerk will have to be brought up to speed with the relevant issues and our ways of working. While I'm one the subject of vacancies, we continue to carry a casual vacancy for a Councillor and it would be terrific to see that position filled in the near future.

It is clear from examining other PC's web-sites that we have some work to do in terms of bringing some of our documentation up to date, such as a Freedom of Information policy, Councillors' code of conduct, Complaints Procedures, etc. At the end of the day we are accountable to the parishioners of Bucknell and setting out these fundamentals will let them know how.

A big challenge over the coming year will be the next phases of the planning applications for the EcoTown. Given what we have seen for the outline planning stages these are likely to be considerable document portfolios which will require careful scrutiny to assess what the EcoTown will really mean for Bucknell in the short, medium and long terms.

Finally, I'd like to again thank our Councillors, Clerk, and members of the village who have given up their time and energy over the last year to make Bucknell such a great place to live.

Dan Blakey

Chair, Bucknell Parish Council.

5. Election of Officers

- 5.1 Following Mrs Rachael Blakey's resignation from her position as clerk, the potential conflict of interest between her and the Temporary Chair has been removed. DB was elected as Chair
- 5.3 DB proposed AP 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 ongoing vacancy for a Councillor, and the need to co-opt onto the Council.

Signed

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