

MINUTES OF THE GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Parish Hall on Monday 5 July 2021 under the awning.

The meeting opened at 7 PM.

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE.

Present: Councillor R Collier (RC), Councillor A Lee (AL), Councillor S Coppel (SC), Councillor M Torrence (MC), Councillor D Hammond (DH), Councillor R Wilkinson (RW) Cheshire West Councillor Norman Wright (NW).

Members of the Public: John Williamson, Bill Anderson, John Travis, and Rosalind Barclay.

In view of the absence of the Parish Clerk, DH was appointed acting clerk for the purposes of taking minutes of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES.

Gill Ayres (Parish Clerk), Councillor Jane Robins (JR), Cheshire West Councillors Lynn Gibbon & Phil Marshall.

3. DECLARATIONS of INTEREST.

None.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

None.

5. UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE WEST COUNCILLOR.

NW reported that the highways would look at a one-way system between Great Budworth & Comberbach, but there would be costs involved. There is no realistic prospect of a replacement bridge from Marbury Mere to the A559.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021 were approved.

7. BUDGET 2021/22.

- a. The budget for 2021/2022 was reviewed against the spend to date and approved.
- b. Payments listed in the agenda were approved.
- c. The terms of reference for the Finance Committee were considered and agreed and it was decided that special meetings would not be held unless there was a matter of urgency. It was agreed that 3 competitive quotes for projects costing less than £500 would not automatically be sought unless it seemed commercially prudent.

8. CASUAL VACANCY.

Following the resignation of Councillor Bowman, 3 expressions of interest had been received to date from Bill Anderson, Justin Culver and John Travis. Subject to each candidate being proposed and seconded, an election to co-opt an additional member to replace Councillor Bowman would be held at the next meeting; candidates would be encouraged to put forward a short resume/manifesto for consideration.

9. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was proposed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 6 September on the same date that the next Parish Council is scheduled.

10. HGV's IN THE VILLAGE.

The report of the meeting with Cheshire West was discussed and the response to date was considered unsatisfactory. Recent pothole repairs have been done to a very poor standard with potholes being missed, the general state of the roads is deplorable, no significant solutions have been suggested by Cheshire West and additional vehicles came through the village on their way to the Arley Hall Garden Festival. It was noted that the consultation would be held on possible yellow lines to facilitate vehicular access to properties to the south of the High Street.

11. TOP PUMPHOUSE TREES.

There had been no recent news to be considered.

12. LOWER PUMPHOUSE.

AL had no progress to report on the water quality risk assessment and testing.

13. TREES FOR CLIMATE PROJECT.

MT said that this might best be linked to Jubilee celebrations and was probably better for private landowners than the Parish Council. The Parish Council has limited land available, and planting trees would have future revenue cost implications.

14. PARISH HALL AND PARISH FIELD AGREEMENT.

DH reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Village Club & Bowling Green Charity (the Parish Hall Committee) had been called for 10 August 2021 in the Parish Hall at which it was expected that the transfer of the assets and undertaking to the newly established Great Budworth Parish Hall Charity CIO would be agreed. Once this had been agreed and implemented, the CIO would be able to enter into an agreement with the Parish Council on the terms discussed.

Parish Field - the work to improve the parking surface of the Parish Field earlier in the year appeared to be satisfactory, and further work was required to lay the remaining matting to be covered by additional stone. The Parish Council agreed that further stone would be supplied by the Parish Council using the ring fenced funds from the War of the World's film.

Bowling Green and Tennis Club Agreement – RW reported that a meeting still needed to be arranged between the Parish Council and the other parties to discuss the terms looking forward. AL & BW to progress.

15. KISSING GATE.

RW will look at the gates to see if access to the Avenue for prams and dog walkers might be improved.

16. THE AVENUE.

The Avenue has been strimmed and the appearance and access improved. However, there is still growth and there was some discussion about the merits and problems of removing this vegetation. A number of those present agreed that they would have a working party to see what might be achieved.

17. POST COVID EVENT.

This item was deferred for future consideration.

18. QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

JR was not present to report on progress.

19. PARISH COUNCIL ASSET REPORT

AL will approach 3rd parties to see if somebody suitably qualified might be prepared to do the work pro bono. RC undertook the work last time.

20. AOB.

It appears that the defibrillator pads need to be replaced at cost of approximately £100. As a matter of urgency and for public safety, it was agreed that the Parish Council would cover this cost.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:50 PM.

Following the closure of the meeting there was a short informal discussion about the location of the historic Minute Books of the Parish Council; these appear to have been lost/mislaid. It was also reported that there is a fireproof safe in the Village Hall and it would probably be appropriate for the Parish Clerk to have keys to this asset.