

**MINUTES of the GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING**

**Held at the Parish Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

**1. ATTENDANCE**

Vice-Chairman and Chair of the Meeting: W Anderson (BA)

Parish Councillors: M Torrance (MC), A Lee (AL), S Coppell (SC), J. Gill (JA)

Also present: Cllr L Gibbon (LG), Parish Clerk: H Bashford-Malkie (HBM)

Members of the Public: S Jennings (SJ), J Bowman (JB), R Bowman (RB), C Wise (CW), K Bashford (KB), C Whyllie, V Chesworth, D Hiatt, J Hiatt, P Kordel, L Tottle (LT), I. Ritchie, N Duncalf, J Williamson, D Critchley, R Barclay

**2. APOLOGIES**

Chairman: Cllr D Hammond (DH), Cllr B Wilkinson (BW), Cllr J Culver

**3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None, apart from representations referred forward to Agenda #20 - School Fencing

**5. UPDATE FROM CWACC COUNCILLORS**

LG gave a full update.

CW&CC – possible funding available from ‘Space Hive’. Consultations on ‘Participate Now’, ‘Together with Tenants’ and the proposed ‘Hydrogen Line information available on CW&CC website.

CW&CC Heritage Strategy – check on website where people can ‘Define Local Heritage in their own terms’

CW&CC IT Project – major overspend

Northwich Library - £200,00 cost to date out of £2mil budget.

Soot Hill – there is an In Time Progress Report available on the CW&CC Planning Portal.

Another 10 months expected

Chester Christmas Market is now open

Chester – new carpark is now open

**Action:** The Clerk (HBM) to check on CW&CC website if any funding is available under any ‘Participate Now’ schemes/grants

**6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was agreed the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were a correct record and they were approved. Proposed BA, Seconded AL.

**7. MATTERS ARISING**

Items #10, 11 and 15 have been Actioned. Items #12 and 14 are referred forward to this Agenda - Items #12 and 18

## **8. BUDGET**

- a) 2022/23 spend to date: HBM provided an updated Summary
- b) All payments as stated and in the Summary were approved
- c) Replacement Parish Council Laptop approved. Budget approved £500 plus VAT

## **9. BANKING MANDATE**

Mandate changes agreed as listed

## **10. UPDATE ON TREE WORK**

All completed. A check to be made on the Lime Tree which was felled on The Avenue – query as to whether the removal of the stump and planting a replacement tree was in the Treefellers quote. HBM informed the meeting that was not in the original quote

**Action:** AL to take photographs of the felled tree on The Avenue. BA to obtain three quotes for Stump Grinding removal

## **11. UPDATE ON WATER TESTING**

CW&CC Officer has said the Laboratory the Parish Council used for the recent Water Test (Oakwater Laboratories) is not registered/qualified to test water for CW&CC. Even so, the Test showed the quality of the water was acceptable. DH conducted another later Test which showed the water quality overall had improved. The Parish Council (Ref DH) had managed to obtain and agreed to a 50% payment towards Oakwater Laboratories.

There will be ongoing Testing and another Test to be confirmed before the end of the year.

AL informed the Meeting the Public Notice giving information on the quality of the water had been persistently removed from the Lower Pump House and when the gate was locked the chain was deliberately broken

**Action:** further Water Test of Lower pump house water to be taken before end of 2022 – DH to arrange – agreed in absence. AL to speak to the CW&CC Officer reference Water Testing

## **12. BOWLING CLUB & TENNIS CLUB LEASE AGREEMENT**

The Tennis and Bowling Club Agreement is complete but unfortunately not all parties were at this Meeting. SJ to arrange for signatories to meet and sign.

**Action:** SJ to arrange for all signatories to meet and sign the Agreement

## **13. BOWLING CLUB & TENNIS CLUB RENT**

SJ advised 'Peppercorn Rent' is an 'amount to be advised and demanded' not necessarily £1.00

**Action:** BW to advise the Clerk the amount agreed as Peppercorn Rent

## **14. H M KING CHARLES CORONATION 06.05.2023**

Agreement was made by all present for some sort of celebration on the Village Field. Members of the Public were invited to think of ideas of what they would like to do. A decision and details of any celebrations to be discussed and confirmed at the next Parish Council Meeting in January 2023

*[ Agenda Numbers 15 & 16 not used in error ]*

## 17. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

Signing of these documents was carried out and noted as Agenda Item: 07.11.22#17

## 18. CW&CC HIGHWAYS

HBM advised the cutting back of foliage around the road signs on the A550 junction had been completed but two signs were still covered in green algae

It was noted the streetlamp on Westage Lane was fixed on 30.09.2022 and also some potholes on Westage Lane too but not all of them

**Action:** The Clerk to follow up with CW&CC highways on cleaning of the road traffic signs  
Including the light up one

## 19. ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

LG and SJ had suggested the Parish Council make an application with CW&CC to register The Village Field as an Asset of Community Value. HBM had applied online with CW&CC and was waiting for a response

## 20. SCHOOL FENCING PLANNING PROPOSAL APPLICATION 22/0202/FUL

A Working Group has been formed of Parish Councillors and Residents: AL, SJ, LT and CW  
They commissioned an Independent Planning consultant to produce a Report, which had been completed and circulated.

LG: The Built Environment & Conservation Officer from CW&CC has produced a statement. Members of the Public and Parish Councillors made various comments: -

AL- Antrobus C of E primary School has applied for the same fence

RB- Great Budworth is a conservation Area with a Grade I Listed Church whose wall is Grade II Listed. The Avenue is a community asset also. The Planning Officers Report is out of balance.

BA- Has anyone asked the pupils about being in a 'cage'?

**Action:** LG to send the statement from CW&CC Built Environment & Conservation Office to the Clerk

Working Group Report:

AL, SJ & CW met with Rachael Evans, Independent Planning Consultant from Northwich and she has drafted a fourteen-page letter to the Planning Officer.

Points from the Report –

No Tree Survey

No Report on Security Issues

OFSTED: 'Current arrangements for safeguarding are effective' – the fencing is not being driven by OFSTED for Safeguarding issues

CW&C has two roles in determining this planning application: as the planning authority (which must assess it strictly on the basis of planning law) and as owner, which means they may simply decline consent without giving any reason.

No agreement between the School/Diocese and CW&CC for the use of the Field  
Noted in the letter from School Governors in Budworth Bulletin, the school will 'allow residents to use the field'

Concerns:

The Application may go ahead under Permitted Development

CW&CC may give permission

Who or what is driving this?

SJ- the consultancy fee so far was £340. And he would be grateful for contributions towards this cost

Should we contact our Local MP?

**Action:** Parish Council to contact Local MP ref. DH nominated in absence

AL – confirmed she had sent a copy of the planning Consultation to all members of the Parish Council

LT - What was the reason why the land was sold by Arley Estate? Did Lord Ashcroft sell or bequeath the field?

The sequence of ownership is as follows:

Arley > Runcorn Rural Council > Vale Royal Council > CW&CC.

BA – hoping to hear back from Arley Estate by the end of November

LT- Is the school possibly preparing to become an Academy School and this is part of the criteria?

JG – The OFSTED Report should go to CW&CC

A general discussion *took place* on the pros and cons of trying to buy the Field by the Village Community:

CT- Councils are encouraging local people to take community assets over

SJ – Parish Council should push for the Title Deed to be transferred to the Parish Council as a cohesive body

BA- Maintaining the field would be expensive

SJ – The Parish Council could rent the use of the field to the Diocese as an offset

SC - Also the cost of maintaining and mowing, can it be offset? Concerned about the pupils still being able to use the field if the Parish Council owned it

**Action:** BA to investigate purchase options with CW&CC Head of Property with support from LG

It was noted – In 2016 the Diocese bought the Car park area from CW&CC

**Action:** LG to find out more details of the sale of the Car park areas to the diocese in 2016

AL – In favour of purchasing the field. It is not a 'Zero Sum game' if the community did own it

JG – Worst case scenario, the Parish Council cut the grass at their own cost

LT- Do the school know they do not actually own the field?

JB – The school children do not come from the village

BA – The school is under threat of closure and we would lose a big asset if it did

LT – Marketing by the school as a 'Forest School' but the proposed fencing would put the parents off if they were expecting open land and trees

KB – Do we have to ask to use the field? Can we put a building on it? We should try to raise funds for purchase now. We should also use the field now - Christmas Celebrations and not wait seven months until the Coronation

JG – Is Possessory Title possible?

**Action:** The Clerk to investigate if this is possible

LG – Looking on google Maps the Planning Officer did not realise the fence went across the Carpark. The Carpark is also used by the Church, Residents and visitors Risk has to be in proportion

JB – Thankyou to the Working Group and Cllr Lynn Gibbon for their work

LG – Need to state if it does not adhere to the Local plan in anyway. There is nothing else the parish Council can do until the Planning hearing.

AL – Strongly believed that the The Parish Council should attend any meetings between CW&C Departments, especially given their tendency to function in silos.

MT – the Heritage Society have sent a letter to CW&CC. Has the Independent Report been sent to the school?

CW- When he met with the Diocese and the school representatives including Rev.Alec Brown as Vice Chair of Governors, they were not prepared to compromise. They insist the height of the fence should be as the application and is mandatory. The Application is founded on false facts and OFSTED too – the school are now aware of that.

**Action:** The Parish Council should be represented at any meetings. LG to speak back with the Planning Officer to make sure this happens

SC- Do you find out if a Planning Application is incorrect?

CW- The Agent should do that

LG – Should the Parish Council write to the school to inform them of the Independent Report

AL – We do not know who the Chair of Governors is as the school website is out of date

**Action:** Parish Council to send a letter drafted by the Working Group, to the School with a copy of the Budworth bulletin plus the Independent Report cc'd Rev.Alec Brown as Vice-Chair of Governors

## 21. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2023

Agreed: 16th January, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> November

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm

**Signed as a true record**.....

**Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council**

