



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM AT 7.00PM ON THURSDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2021.

Present: Councillors, G. Waite (Chairman), G. Bonner, Mrs P. Furness, M.Furness, J. Ling, Mrs T.Bonner, B.Lemay, S. Bowman (Deputy Chairman) and D.Wallace.

Officer Present: J. Jones (Town Clerk)

Also present: County Councillor Jones.

The Chairman led prayers.

268. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillors Basra, Bull and Mrs S.Coote also Alex Georgiou.

269. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations.

270. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 28TH JANUARY 2021.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes are a true record and the Chairman authorised to sign them.

271. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported that it has once again been a busy month, work to the cemetery is ongoing and there has been an incident of fly tipping on The Causeway. The Chairman reported that he had spoken with an Officer at EHDC who has arranged collection of the fly tipping. There was talk of installing a camera but signs would have to be displayed an example of which the Chairman showed to Members. The Chairman further reported that he had cleared the blocked drains at the Manor House that morning. The plumbing at the Community Centre is now finished and quotes are being sought to address the works required at The Manor House identified in the Legionella survey. Various companies have been contacted for quotes as part of the S106 Outdoor Sports investigations. The Chairman and Councillor Lemay had been invited to meet with the River Rib Surveyors, the survey should soon be presented to the Environment Agency for comment and permissions, the general opinion is that funding should be available.

272. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.

The Chairman referred to a report from PCSO Dearman that had been circulated to Members. There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour and graffiti appearing in the town. Violence against persons is up, also vehicle crime. There has been an increase in shoplifting and the Council has received CCTV requests from the Police.

Councillor Wallace stated that there has been exaggerated reports on social media about dog theft. A van had been identified but this has no connection to dog thefts.

In response to a question from Councillor Bowman, the Chairman reported that the Police are not yet able to view CCTV at the Police Station, they await permission from their IT Department.

The Clerk was asked to contact Sergeant Hunt to request Police presence at the next Full Council meeting to answer questions.

273. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 4TH FEBRUARY 2021 AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED WITHIN.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 4th February 2021 be adopted.

No recommendations.

274. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2021 AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED WITHIN.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 14th January 2021 be adopted.

No recommendations.

275. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE FEBRUARY 2021.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the reports of payments made February 2021 accepted. (Copy attached).

276. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK.

Councillors acknowledged receipt of a report from the Town Clerk (copy attached). The Clerk reported that there is a wedding booked at the Manor House on the 29th March which will be able to go ahead with six attendees. Elections in May will also go ahead.

277. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

Councillor Jones reported that introduction letters have been sent out regarding the green waste charge with an early bird offer of £45. East Herts will hold off collecting up the unwanted brown bins to give people the opportunity to change their minds. Councillor Bonner stated that he was disappointed that the offer was not available to telephone customers, only on line. Councillor Jones agreed and responded that many Members had raised this issue and after a lot of lobbying, people can now book by telephone and pay by card. Councillor Mrs Bonner stated that she knew many people who had no internet access and were being penalised for this. The Chairman expressed concern that the scheme may lead to an increase in fly tipping. Councillor Jones stated that this had also been raised but Members had been assured that research showed the green waste charge did not lead to an increase in fly tipping.

278. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

Councillor Jones reported that he had attended an eight hour remote meeting to approve the budget. Council Tax has been agreed at a 1.99% increase and the Adult Care precept at 2%, effectively a 3.99% increase. The London Road consultation is now active. Over 200 projects were whittled down to 11 with six schemes taken forward for consultation. The results of this consultation will go to a more detailed consultation with public meetings etc. If there is no support for the scheme, one of the five in reserve will be taken up. It was noted that the on line consultation is not very user friendly.

Councillor Jones further reported that the order is in for the cycle pods at the top of Church Street. There seems to be an issue with permission which has to be signed off.

With regard to the Neale Drive situation. Works to open the access onto the A10 commences on the 8th March, it's a ten week project and will include traffic calming works on Ermine Street. This has caused a lot of panic amongst residents. Redrow have stated that they will be building as per the approved plans. With regard to the turning circle. Edwinstree and Freman are keen to use their own turning circle for coaches but happy to encourage parents to use the Redrow turning circle, County Transport support this. Councillor Jones further reported that he had been speaking with the Health Centre and had suggested that they speak with Redrow about having a new Health Centre with a vehicle drop off for schools on the land at the turning circle.

In response to a question from Councillor Wallace, Councillor Jones reported that he had funded a dropped kerb at Applewood from his Locality Budget. Councillor Jones had also funded from the same budget, computer tablets for residents at Nevetts. There has been complaints from neighbours that Nevetts staff are using their grass verge for parking which is making the area look untidy. Nevetts has asked if they could park up to eight of their vehicles in the Norfolk Road Car Park. Councillors agreed that they had no objections to this but could not reserve spaces in the car park for the exclusive use of Nevetts. In response to a question from the Chairman, Councillor Jones stated that he had submitted to Highways a request that Buntingford is included on the list for a 20mph area. Westmill would also like to be considered for this.

279. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE MEETING.

No public present.

Meeting closed 8.16pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Full Council - Thursday 25th March 2021 at 7pm - venue or link to be confirmed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Accounts paid:	Feb-21	Full Council Meeting:	25th February 2021			
2	Committee	Budget	Payee	Details	Amount	Budget total	Budget Bal.
3	Expenditure						
4	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries January	5862.04		
5	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC Jan	1923.72		
6	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S.Ann Jan	2052.48	115500.00	15147.98
7	Resources	PCSO Funding	PCC	PCSO 1/4	3960.00	16000.00	4392.50
8	Council	NHB	Complete Garden Services	Plots/bin cemetery	790.00		NHB
9	Council	NHB	ATB	Phase 9 Cemetery development	26689.75		NHB
10	Resources	Salaries	A. Jones	LP holiday cover	248.56		
11	Resources	refuse collection	EHDC	MH refuse collection	531.58	2000.00	-126.32
12	Resources	MH Maintenance	Prestige Sash restoration	Shutters ground floor	1485.00	10500.00	7515.51
13	Resources	CCTV maintenance	Videcom	1 year maintenance	586.28	2000.00	1413.72
14	Amenities	Trees	Complete Garden Services	tree SWCC	120.00		
15	Amenities	Trees	Salmon	Tress bovis land	760.00	5000.00	353.00
16	Amenities	Playground repairs	Barclaycard	red tape	13.32	2000.00	1117.36
17	Amenities	Dog/Litter	Barclaycard	Bin/dog bags	542.17		
18	Amenities	Dog/Litter	County Supplies	Bin bags	32.06	3000.00	290.39
19	Council	NHB	Barclaycard	Notice board	555.00		NHB
20	Resources	Cleaning	Barclaycard	Cleaning materials	34.98	900.00	528.82
21	Resources	office equipment	Barclaycard	stapler	14.99		
22	Resources	office equipment	Barclaycard	adapter	13.33	200.00	136.67
23	Resources	Contingency	Barclaycard	Data Protection registration	40.00	500.00	88.02
24	Resources	Subscriptions	Barclaycard	SLCC subs 2021	401.00	1400.00	-157.78
25	Amenities	protective equipment	Barclaycard	First Aid box	7.49	200.00	192.51
26	Resources	Electricity	British Gas	Electricity MH	627.36	4500.00	384.56
27	Resources	Oil	Certas	Oil MH	1020.78	5000.00	2034.52
28	Council	NHB	Videcom	Additional cameras	325.00		NHB
29	Council	NHB	Brunel Engraving	Plot markers	2700.50		NHB
30	Resources	postage	Pitney Bowes	Cartidge franking machine	83.75	450.00	191.17
31	Resources	Copier	Sharp	Copier lease/maintenance	67.54	500.00	291.89
32	Council	NHB	Complete Garden Services	Clearway pathways between c/y	340.00		NHB
33	INCOME						
34	INCOME						
35	Nutrition Cons	Rent		265.00		Judkins	Rent
36	AK Comms	Rent		391.00		Brainstorm	Rent
37	JWS	Rent		240.00		Paul Leonard FA	Rent
38	EHCAS	Rent		1500.00		HMRC	VAT refund
39	Space Pods	Rent		229.00			
40	Kashec	Rent		351.00			
41							

Update to Council for February 2021

Report to Council updating Councillors on events since the report made to Council in January 2021

Manor House.

The situation at The Manor House remains unchanged.

Quotes now accepted for repairs to the French doors, the entrance way and the window cill in the Council Chamber.

It has been confirmed that elections will take place in May but I have yet to hear if the March wedding can go ahead.

Most tenants are working from home, it is unclear if Orbital Travel will return, their offices have not been occupied since last March. Only one very small office is vacant on the 2nd floor.

CAB are still working remotely.

Community Centre

Centre remains closed and Alex continues to manage the Centre in Jackie's absence. Jackie's sick leave expires on 31st March and she is hoping to return on 1st April. Plumbing work not yet completed, hopefully will be done by early March.

Office

No change whilst we are in lock down. The previous arrangements will resume when lockdown is finished.

Other

The outdoor gym is currently closed in line with Government restrictions. Layston Court Gardens is open but the Council took the decision to close the playgrounds whilst the COVID rates are still high in Buntingford. Cemetery almost finished, we are probably in a position to accept interments if required to do so.

Planning

See below minor planning applications received during the period all of which have been looked at by the Clerk and the Chairman of the Planning Committee. Details below.

Date	Application number	Details	BTC Comments
9/2/21	3/21/0270/HH	Loft conversion, double storey side extension and front porch. 3, Owles Lane.	No obs to the development but concern with the loss of 14 trees. District Arborist to check.
Despite EHDC being inundated with household planning applications, we have seen very few applications this month.			

Planning Decisions

3/20/2572/HH	32, Snells Mead	Granted
3/20/1764/LBC	10d, High Street	Granted
3/20/2521/HH	26, Campbell Close	Granted
3/20/2516/LBC	52, High Street	Granted
3/20/2479/HH	25, Vicarage Road	Refused