



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY VIA
ZOOM AT 7.00PM ON THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2020**

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

Officer Present: J. Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer)

Also present: Three members of the public, County Councillor Jones.

The Chairman led prayers.

145. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillor Basra.

146. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

S. Bull - Norfolk Road Playing Fields

S.Coote, G.Bonner - Freman College, should it arise.

147. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH OCTOBER 2020.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes are approved as a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

148. TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION TO THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF J. NOADES.

After advertising, the Council had received one application for co-option.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That Michael Furness be co-opted to the Council.

Councillor Furness signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join the meeting as a Councillor.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Basra had agreed to move to the Resources Committee leaving Councillor M.Furness as member of Amenities and Planning, Councillors indicated that they were happy with this arrangement.

The Chairman indicated that he was moving Agenda Item 8 forward to accommodate a member of the public present, who wished to speak on the item.

149. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE RESOURCES MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020 AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED WITHIN.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote the report of the meeting was adopted.

Recommendation - That the County Council be informed that Buntingford Town Council is in favour of a maximum 20mph speed limit throughout the town.

S.Nicholls (20's Plenty Campaign).

Mrs Nicholls addressed the meeting with reasons why the 20mph initiative should be introduced within the town.

Councillor Jones responded that he was keen to support the initiative but originally it did not get the support of the Traffic Police. The HCC Speed Management Strategy promotes the 20mph limit in appropriate areas. The strategy recognises the importance of encouraging active travel in our towns and villages in line with Policy LTP4 and the strong public desire for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit over wider areas. The framework provides a means of identifying areas suitable for 20mph using the place and movement approach, a consideration of the local road environment and existing speed measurements.

Councillor Wallace stated that his issue was he didn't like things that are blanket, where it says all residential and urban roads. Councillor Wallace stated that he would support Councillors with their aspirations for Buntingford, but this is county wide we are being asked to support.

Councillor Bull agreed and stated that it needed to be selective.

Councillor Jones responded to a question stating that we can aspire to a 20mph limit in Buntingford, Highways engineers would need to ascertain if it is suitable, it's important that it's self-enforcing, Councillor Jones stated that he is happy to take this forward.

Councillor Mrs Coote stated that her particular concern is London Road. Councillor Jones responded that London Road would need engineering, there is a move to introduce a cycle lane in London Road, with this in place it could be possible.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the County Council be informed that Buntingford Town Council is in favour of a maximum 20mph speed limit throughout the town.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

150. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting the focus has been on the new cemetery, the planting is now underway. The other issue has been the cycle rack in Church Street, hopefully this is to be changed for one more in keeping with the area, despite negative comments, there has also been positive comments. The cycle rack was funded from Central Government.

Councillor Jones stated that the funds had come in quickly from the Department for Transport, street pods had been suggested but suddenly the existing rack had been installed. A request has been submitted to move the existing rack, possibly to the East Herts Car Park. A new rack needs to be installed following the removal of the existing and Councillor Jones asked if the Town Council would consider contributing 50% of the cost of cycle pods. Councillors looked at the brochure and agreed that black pods would be most appropriate. The 50% could be funded from new Homes Bonus.

151. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.

The Chairman referred to a report from the Police which had been circulated to Councillors. The next priority setting meeting is on the 9th December 2020 at 5.30pm.

Councillor Wallace stated that priority setting is important as the issues prioritised receive a much quicker response. Councillors should not underestimate the importance of this.

There are now two COVID Marshalls in the town on a Wednesday, the Town will move into Tier 2 when the current lock down is lifted next week.

152. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020 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 5th November be adopted.

No recommendations.

153. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE NOVEMBER 2020.

Councillor Wallace stated that he had queried some items of overspend with the Clerk.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the reports of payments made November 2020 be accepted. (Copies attached).

154. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MANOR HOUSE SECURITY WORKING PARTY.

Councillor Wallace reported that there will be a meeting of the Working Party next Thursday. There was a cut-off date of the 30th November for the consultation with stakeholders, most of the responses had already been identified. The group is on track to deliver recommendations within the time frame set out.

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

Councillors acknowledged receipt of a report from the Town Clerk (copy attached).

156. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

Councillor Bull reported that DMC officers in Building Control have had to tighten up on all residential buildings as a result of the Grenfell fire. An interesting point is that from 2031 to 2038 the Council has to supply over 18,000 houses.

Councillor Jones reported that East Herts Council is concerned about officer workload and are asking that officers are only contacted directly if really necessary. They have supplied a generic email address for general use.

157. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

Councillor Jones reported that the infection rates have worryingly spiked in Buntingford, this is being investigated by HCC Public Health. The Buntingford rate per 100,000 is 322.9 compared to 142.2 for East Herts and 99.55 for Hertfordshire. A leaflet highlighting the infection rates is to be sent to all households.

HCC are currently working on logistics for mass vaccination and Duxford has been selected as a centre for the East of England, other locations will come forward closer to home.

Councillor Jones reported that he had written to the three schools in Puckeridge outlining guidelines following a report from the Police that parents are not using face coverings when collecting children from school. As a result of a near accident on Bowling Green Lane, HCC has confirmed that the area meets the criteria for an assisted crossing. Councillor Jones has asked HCC to look for a location at the Freman end of the road as this would allow the turning circle on Norris Way to be utilised. Freman have suggested that all coaches can use the Freman turning circle, this will be further discussed with School Transport and the Head teacher.

The London Road cycle lane scheme has been included in the final 6 schemes that HCC has put forward for the Emergency Access Travel fund (EATF) Tranche 2.

The results from the consultation on the A10 southern roundabout were presented to Highways Cabinet Panel last week and members resolved that Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Resources and the Executive Member for Highways & Environment to take the actions necessary to stop up an existing field access at the roundabout and provide alternative means of access. Funding for this project will be from Herts LEP, the scheme is currently high on the LEP priority list and it's hoped will come forward soon.

In a response to a question Councillor Jones reported that Redrow are keen to finalise the S278 works on Ermine Street and are applying for the road space to undertake the works.

158. TO NOTE THE CLOSURE OF THE EXTERNAL AUDIT 2019/202 AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the closure of the 2019/2020 External Audit be noted with no recommendations.

159. TOWN COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO 3/20/1950/FUL LAND EAST OF ASPENDEN ROAD,

Response not yet available, The Clerk will email the draft response to members when it is available.

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

Member of the Public - Stated the meeting had been fascinating to listen to. He lives opposite the cycle rack that had been discussed earlier in the meeting and felt that people are getting used to it.

Member of the Public - Expressed an interest in a Youth Council. The Chairman responded that if the member of the public had ideas we'd be pleased to hear them.

Meeting closed 8.39pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Full Council - Thursday 28th January 2021 at 7pm - venue or link to be confirmed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Accounts paid:	Nov-20	Full Council Meeting:	26th November 2020			
2	Committee	Budget	Payee	Details	Amount	Budget total	Budget Bal.
3	Expenditure						
4							
5	Amenities		Wrights	Clean bench	100.00		Grant to cover
6	Amenities	Pavilion maintenance	Blackaby	Service extinguishers	75.50	1500.00	1294.50
7	Amenities	Garden maintenance	Matthews	Autumn bedding	333.33		
8	Amenities	Garden maintenance	Acer	garden maintenance	3246.00	15000.00	4467.30
9	Resources	refuse collection	EHDC	MH refuse collection	531.58	2000.00	405.26
10	Resources	Cler's expenses	J Jones	Expenses	69.29	200.00	130.71
11	Resources	Communications	BT	landline/Broadband	63.39	750.00	305.45
12	Resources	Postage	Pitney Bowes	Franking machine	43.77	450.00	318.69
13	Amenities	Churchyard	Maydencroft	old churchyard maint	450.00	9000.00	3402.00
14	Amenities	Trees	Complete gardening Svs	Tree NRPF	320.00		
15	Amenities	Trees	Acer	Trees various	60.00	5000.00	2018.00
16	Resources	Windows	Classique	Clean MH windows	85.00	400.00	145.00
17	Amenities	Litter/Dog	County Supplies	Bin bags	45.56		
18	Amenities	Litter/Dog	Barclaycard	Dispenser bags	122.45	3000.00	1515.27
19	Resources	Cleaning	County Supplies	Cleaning materials	31.33	900.00	621.90
20	Amenities	Cemetery	Barclaycard	Bulbs	73.75	5000.00	4831.25
21	Resources	Stationery	Barclaycard	Stationery	64.93	1000.00	438.35
22	Resources	Audit	PKF	External Audit	1300.00	2000.00	-740.00
23	Resources	Electricity	British Gas	Electricity MH	505.46	4500.00	2072.78
24	Amenities	Town Planting	Glason	brackets for planters	36.55	3000.00	2543.45
25	Amenities	Grass	Acer	Cuts 14-18	2400.00	7560.00	-1080.00
26	Amenities	SWCC Cons area	Acer	SWCC clearing	500.00	3000.00	0.00
27	Amenities	MW/Bovis	Acer	Monks Walk, Bovis	666.00	4000.00	-396.00
28	Amenities	Wildlife area	Acer	wildlife area	750.00	1400.00	-700.00
29	Amenities	Pitch maintenance	Acer	Pitch maintenance	480.00	5000.00	1880.00
30	Resources	Copier	Sharp	Copier lease/maint	65.45	500.00	291.89
31	Resources	Grants	Buntings	Grant	1000.00	5000.00	3455.00
32	Resources	Oil	Certas	Oil MH	913.87	5000.00	3055.30
33	Resources	Rates	EHDC	2/2 rates	3743.00	7500.00	15.00
34	Resources	NL/Web	R.Ginn	Del Town Guide	300.00	3000.00	2230.00
35	Resources	salaries	Legal & General	SAA Insurance	1382.52	115500.00	45023.73
36	Amenities	L Hickey		re-paint bench	130.00		Grant to cover
37	INCOME						
38	CAB	rent		1500.00		Ecomal	rent
39	Kashec	rent		351.00		JWS	rent
40	JMAS	Rent		240.00		Nutrition Cons	rent
41	Judkins	rent		346.00		AK Comms	rent
42	Space Pods	rent		229.00		HCC	Grant
43	Space Pods	rent		687.00		Space pods	rent
44	HMRC	VAT reibunrtse		4651.83			
45	BCAT	reimburse		313.98			
46	Brainstorm	Rent		295.00			

Update to Council for November 2020

Report to Council updating Councillors on events since the report made to Council 29th October 2020.

Manor House.

The Manor House remains very quiet with most tenants working from home and very few, if any, members of the public visiting. Damaged window has now been replaced and new shutters will be fitted shortly, enabling the tenant to move back in. The Manor House Security Working Party are on course for recommendations to Council in January.

Community Centre

Alex continues to manage the Centre in Jackie's absence. The centre is currently closed due to lockdown restrictions.

Office

Alex and I have been mainly working from home during lockdown, I visit the office on most days either for meetings or to check the building. The previous arrangements will resume when lockdown is finished.

Planning

There has been several minor planning applications 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
21/10/200	3/20/2046/HH	Garage conversion with pitched roof and roof light to rear; conversion of car port to garage, front single storey porch extension with pitched roof; alteration to roof to side elevation to pitched roof; addition of chimney and alterations to fenestration.	No obs
4/11/20	3/20/2144/FUL	Erection of two storey side extension. Dropped kerb to create new parking layout with additional parking and cycle spaces. Cladding to existing part of building.	No obs

Planning Decisions

3/20/1545/HH	Westdene, Baldock Road	Granted
3/20/1732/HH	2, Coach House Mews, Baldock Road.	Granted