



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD AT 7:45PM ON THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2022.

Present: Councillors, D. Wallace, M. Furness, Mrs J. Danagher, G. Bonner, J. Ling, S. Bull, G. Waite, B. Lemay & Mrs S. Coote.

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

Also Present: Sgt Terry Alcock, Councillor Jeff Jones & 21 members of the public.

Members agreed to move item 14 (public questions) forward to follow the report from police.

202. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies approved from Councillors Bowman, Mrs Furness and Mrs Bonner.

203. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

None

204. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 2022.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 8 in favour and 1 abstention

RESOLVED

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

205. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1/10 - The Chairman and a number of Councillors attended a quiz night at Bishop Stortford.

5/10 - The Chairman and the Clerk met with the project manager for the Freman 3g pitch project.

8/10 - The Chairman attended the scouts promise ceremony for King Charles III.

18/10 - The Chairman attended the EHDC quarterly parish meeting via zoom.

25/10 - The Chairman and the Clerk had another meeting with the project manager for the Freman 3g pitch project.

It was reported that the coronation of King Charles III will be on 6th May 2023 and the Council will look to mark the occasion in some way. It was noted that it will also be election week and it is currently unclear when the bank holiday will be.

The Chairman noted that the Council are still looking for a member to represent the Council on the Twinning Association and asked Councillors to consider it.

206. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.

The statistics were circulated via email prior to the meeting.

The town had seen a marginal increase in incidents from September from 25 to 27.

There were 3 burglaries in the town and Sgt Terry Alcock urged members of the public to look after their neighbours.

There were 2 sexual offences in the town, both of these were online grooming cases and parents were urged to look after their children online.

Anti-social behaviour reduced this month from 30 to 20 cases, this is mainly down to Hare Street Road playing fields being a police priority.

It was noted that speeding in the town has been reintroduced as a police priority and the police are trying to get the public more involved.

East Herts overall has seen an increase in vehicle thefts however Buntingford has not been affected by this.

Speeding on Baldock Road and ASB in Layston Court Gardens have been introduced as police priorities.

Extra patrols will be out in the town for Halloween and bonfire night.

The Chairman invited questions to the police.

It was asked if the police have managed to catch anyone responsible for the burglaries. It was reported that nobody has been caught yet and it was explained that it has become extremely difficult to catch burglars, mainly because the crimes are reported much later than they happen.

207. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS.

The majority of the public were present to question the Active Travel Fund scheme on London Road.

One resident sent questions to HCC but received no reply, the questions were regarding trees and traffic calming measures at Aspenden Road.

Councillor Jones stated that initially 27 trees were going to be removed, now it is only 7 and 3 of them are dead or dying. The traffic calming measures at Aspenden road will be reducing the road width at Aspenden Road / London Road junction, making it safer for pedestrians.

It was also asked if the road will be closed for 7 months.

It was explained that the roadworks will be done in stages, however there will be no through road access for 7 months. Residential access will be possible with traffic light control.

There were questions asked regarding how many people in Buntingford want the new path.

An issue has arisen within Crouch Gardens and Olvega Drive, the emergency access that links the two roads is to be opened for through traffic. Residents are concerned that if there is any damage to the road, they will be liable as the residents own the road, not the County Council. Councillor Jones agreed to investigate this and see if plans can be changed so no works will be done that could potentially cause damage.

A number of residents stated that they did not receive any letters. It was explained that they would have all received a letter, and that the consultation was publicised online as well.

It was suggested that people will not use the new path and it was a waste of money. It was explained that the money is government funded and has been earmarked for Active Travel Fund only and cannot be spent on anything else.

Concerns were raised regarding Gigaclear owning a monopoly for internet access in Buntingford. It was explained that resident will not have to use Gigaclear for their internet access and there will be other options.

It was asked if the new path will be for pedestrians and cyclists.

It was explained that the path will be 3.7 meters wide and there will be plenty of room for both pedestrians and cyclists.

It was asked if the BCAT bus will be starting again soon.

It was explained that the service will resume, however it will slightly change. The reason it has not resumed already is that the group are struggling to find drivers.

It was reiterated that residents believe people will not use the cycle path.

It was explained that the project is more than just a cycle path. It is improvements to the footway and changes to London Road to make the road safer as well.

Questions were asked about how parking will be affected on London Road.

Councillor Jones stated all the plans were on the HCC website.

It was stated that HCC continue to say that the path will make access safer for pedestrians, however it was argued that the current paths would be safe if they were maintained. There were concerns the new

path would not be maintained.

Councillor Jones assured the public that the path would be maintained.

It was argued that there is a continuous lack of consultation with many projects in the town. There were also concerns with the busses using Bowling Green Lane during construction of the new path as all traffic will be sent up Baldock Road as a diversion and the busses may cause severe delays.

Discussion turned to the turning circle on Norris Way and the opening of Neale Drive. Councillor Jones could not give a date on when Neale Drive will be opened, but was hopeful that it will be opened.

No further questions.

16 members of the public left the meeting 5 remain.

The Chairman called a short break

The meeting reconvened at 20:51

208. TO RECEIVE SHORT PRESENTATION FROM THE BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY SUPPORTERS CLUB

3 members of the public representing the Buntingford Library Supporters Club gave a short presentation of their updated proposal for the Buntingford Library. It was noted that the group believe there is enough S106 money available to undertake their proposal. There are concerns that this money will go back to the developer. The group stated that they would like the Town Council to support their project and urge HCC to move forward with it.

The Chairman stated that he did not want to see the S106 money go back to the developers.

County Councillor Jones stated that the facility is owned and managed by HCC and that any work will be their decision. It was stated that there is strong measure in place to spend the S106 money.

Councillor Jones stated that he is working to get library improvements done. Councillor Jones believes that the Buntingford Library Supporters Club are proving to be an obstacle in any work. Due to the time it has taken to get any work done, HCC can no longer match fund the project due to budget constraints.

Councillor Jones has met with the library director and the design company to discuss plans.

It was suggested that a consultation should go to the town before the initial design proposal to see what the town want.

It was suggested that the consultation will go to the whole town once a design has been made as the library service are the experts and will know how best to improve the library.

It was suggested that the Chairman and Clerk draft a letter to HCC urging them to undertake library improvement works as soon as possible.

209. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 6TH OCTOBER 2022.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 6th October 2022 be adopted.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council purchases a dual-purpose picnic bench to be installed in Layston Court Gardens, to be funded from New Homes Bonus, not to exceed £2,000.

210. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 13TH OCTOBER 2022.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 13th October 2022 be adopted.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 8 in favour and 1 abstention

RESOLVED

That this Council grant £3,500 to Buntingford Town Football Club towards the firework event, to be funded from New Homes Bonus.

211. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH SEPTEMBER AND 13TH OCTOBER 2022.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29th September and 13th October 2022 be adopted.

212. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE OCTOBER 2022.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the reports of payments made October 2022 be received. (Copy attached).

213. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

It was reported that East Herts are looking at how and where to save money and where they can increase income, one way they are looking at is to increase parking fees. Councillor Bull believes that Buntingford is very different to the rest of the towns in East Herts and should be looked at differently.

214. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

The construction of the new first school has begun and it should be open in September 2023. It aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. It will be the first carbon neutral school in Hertfordshire.

215. TO APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs Danagher is appointed onto the planning committee.

Meeting Closed: 21:31

Next meeting of the Full Council 24th November 2022.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1	Accounts paid:	Oct-22	Full Council Meeting:	27th October 2022					
2	Committee	Budget	Payee	Details	Amount	Budget total	Budget Bal.	Notes	
3	Expenditure								
4	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries Sep	8282.73				
5	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC Sep	2368.96				
6	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S.Ann Sep	2738.07				
7	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries Oct	8282.93				
8	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC Oct	2368.76				
9	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S.Ann Oct	2738.07	160000	69431.45		
10	Amenities	Churchyard Maintenance	CGS	Churchyard maintenance	306.00	8000.00	6011.00		
11	Amenities	Garden Maintenance	CGS	Holiday cover	128.50				
12	Amenities	Garden Maintenance	Broadmead	RoSPA repairs	245.00				
13	Amenities	Garden Maintenance	Barclaycard	hoses	22.95				
14	Amenities	Garden Maintenance	Barclaycard	Tracks for hoses	31.99				
15	Amenities	Garden Maintenance	Matthews	Autumn bedding	859.00	5000.00	1381.92		
16	Amenities	Litter/Dog	CGS	Install waste bins NRPF	360.00				
17	Amenities	Litter/Dog	Barclaycard	bin bags	33.29				
18	Amenities	Litter/Dog	Barclaycard	dispenser bags	134.25				
19	Amenities	Litter/Dog	Barclaycard	dispenser bags	232.00	3000.00	-809.33		
20	Resources	Audit	PKF Littlejohn	External audit	1600.00	2700.00	-368.00		
21	Amenities	Cemetery expenditure	John O'Conner	two plots	134.00				
22	Amenities	Cemetery expenditure	ADV	Skip empty/hire	260.00				
23	Amenities	Cemetery expenditure	CGS	Cemetery maintenance	978.91	15000.00	6333.90		
24	Amenities	Playground maintenance	Broadmead	Inspections	140.00				
25	Amenities	Playground maintenance	Broadmead	Maintenance	210.00				
26	Amenities	Playground maintenance	Broadmead	Maintenance	475.00			Allocated reserves	
27	Amenities	Fuel	A.Jones	Fuel	8.33	100.00	-39.95		
28	Resources	Software support	Sage	Support	23.20	750.00	-201.76		
29	Resources	Communications	BT	Broadband	49.94	750.00	400.42		
30	Amenities	Trees	Blue Tree Company	Tree surgery	2785.00			Allocated reserves	
31	Resources	Stationery	Barclaycard	Stationery	39.94				
32	Resources	Stationery	Barclaycard	Stationery	9.16	750.00	601.01		
33	Resources	Cleaning	Barclaycard	Cleaning materials	16.62				
34	Resources	Cleaning	Barclaycard	Cleaning materials	73.84	700.00	326.94		
35	Resources	Postage	Pitney Bowes	Franking machine	43.77	450.00	153.06		
36	Resources	Refuse collection	EHDC	Recycling collection	111.80	2300.00	1478.40		
37	Resources	Windows	Classique	Window cleaning MH	85.00	400.00	230.00		
38	Amenities	Open areas	CGS	Open area maintenance	500.93	4514.00	1007.55		
39	Resources	Electricity	British Gas	Electricity MH	244.16	7000.00	4925.01		
40									
41	INCOME								
42	14/09/2022	Judkins	Rent		712.00	29/09/2022	Nutrition Cons	Rent	273.00
43	15/09/2022	Kashec	Rent		248.00	30/09/2022	EHDC	2/2 Precept	158632.50
44	22/09/2022	Furness	reimburse tickets		116.00	30/09/2022	Brainstorm	Rent	304.00
45	22/09/2022	Lemay	reimburse tickets		18.00	03/10/2022	JWS	Rent	247.50
46	28/09/2022	Newby	Cemetery fees		300.00	03/10/2022	AK Comms	Rent	403.00
47	29/09/2022	Caners	Hire		70.00	03/10/2022	Orbital Travel	Rent	594.00
48	06/10/2022	BRINC	Hire		8.75	03/10/2022	Ecomal	Rent	150.00
49	06/10/2022	JMAS	Reny		247.50	03/10/2022	Regency House Publ.	Rent	111.00