



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY VIA
ZOOM AT 7.00PM ON THURSDAY 29TH APRIL 2021.**

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

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

Also present: 2 members of the public.

The Chairman asked all present to join him in a minutes silence in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh and serving Councillor Surjit Basra, this was followed by prayers.

352. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from County Councillor Jones due to purdah.

353. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

S.Bull - Norfolk Road Playing Field

354. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2021.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 10 in favour and 1 abstention it was

RESOLVED

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

355. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported that it has once again been a busy month culminating in the official opening of Layston Cemetery tomorrow. It was further reported that the Chairman along with Councillors Wallace and Bonner had been involved in street licensing, looking at the Coffee Shop, The Falcon and Wellies and Walkies, who all intended having outside seating

Councillor Bull offered congratulations to all that had been involved in the cemetery development, it's a special facility for the community and a fitting tribute to Eunice Woods.

356. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.

The Chairman noted that everyone had received a report from the Police. Incidents of anti-social behaviour was the same number as the previous month. No burglaries and one robbery. Four incidents of vehicle crime. Total crime up slightly on January and February.

Councillor Mrs Furness stated that she had seen an increase in scam calls and emails over the past few weeks.

It was reported that there had been a Police community engagement event at the top of Church Street, the main issues being speeding vehicles, parking and dog fouling. The Police have issued tickets to speeding motorists in Baldock Road. Ermine Street is not enforceable until the road works have been completed, this is due to start imminently.

357. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD 1ST APRIL 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.

358. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH APRIL 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 8th April 2021 be adopted.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the Resources Committee proposes to Full Council that we have a plan for furniture in the High Street.

Councillor Ling stated that the resolution related to a number of things, we need to ensure we have a plan in place, Resources will continue to work on this.

359. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE APRIL 2021.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

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

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

Councillors acknowledged receipt of a report from the Town Clerk (copy attached). The Clerk reminded Councillors that face to face meetings will resume from the 8th May. Alex Georgiou reported that he had been working with Jackie Smith who seems to be coping well following her illness.

361. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

Councillor Bull reported that the Leader and Chairmen of Committees will remain unchanged. The new Chairman of the Council will be Ken Crofton. The pink bags have been delivered for the community litter pickers. The Chairman noted that the A507 and A10 around the Buntingford Business Park looks much tidier.

362. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

No report due to purdah.

363. TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2021/2022 BUDGET (NO MONETARY CHANGE).

The Clerk explained that following decisions made at the Amenities Committee with regard to various contracts for grounds maintenance, the budget headings needed to be vired across from one to another. This does not affect the overall budget total.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That amendments to the 2021/22 budget be approved.

In response to a question, the Clerk explained that receipt of any New Homes Bonus is not expected this year.

364. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR M. FURNESS AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON HOME-START ROYSTON.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor M.Furness be appointed the Town Council representative on Home-Start Royston.

365. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRIC UTILITY VEHICLE FOR USE BY COUNCIL STAFF, TO BE FUNDED FROM NEW HOMES BONUS.

The Chairman explained that now we have more control over our own land and we also have the added responsibility of the cemetery, we need to look at means of getting from one area to another with equipment etc. We need a small utility vehicle that will get through narrow openings. We came across a small electric vehicle modelled on a golf buggy with a flatbed on the back. As far as we can work out, it

will fit into narrow places but we have organised a demonstration. There are virtually no running costs, no road tax but will need an MOT after three years. The vehicle can be charged in a 13amp socket and will fit into the Manor House gardens. It's four hours charge time, 25mph speed limited and has a range of 45 miles.

Councillor Mrs Furness asked if one can be purchased second hand. The Chairman responded there are very few available, if any, and lease/rental is very expensive.

Councillor Ling asked why this was urgent. The Chairman responded that we have already taken bookings for cremated remains plots at the cemetery and the equipment needed to prepare the plots has to be transported to the cemetery, at the moment, the only way is in his car.

Councillor Lemay noted that we do have a tractor and trailer but this has not been used for some years. It has to be collected by Wrights of Melbourn for test and service.

The Chairman stated that we are trying to achieve efficiency, one of the other things the vehicle could be used for is collecting litter sacks, at the moment the litter picker has to make several trips to each area as he only has a limited amount of space on his trolley. It's a question of moving into the 21st century and becoming greener, the estimated cost of the vehicle is £17,000. Or around £8,000 a year for a two and a half year lease.

Councillor Mrs Coote stated she was concerned that when the Council looked at the cost analysis, it made sense but now there seems to be other costs involved, do we need to look at the thing as a whole.

Councillor Wallace stated that there will be initial start up costs and more clarity is needed, we need to pull together some costings and options. It may be more prudent to invest in a more up to date mower.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this matter is referred back to the Amenities Committee for further discussion.

Councillor Bonner asked if everyone was happy to fund this from New Homes Bonus.

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

Member of the public - Stated that he had no questions, he was a new resident and was interested to see how the meetings were run.

It was agreed that the Amenities meeting to be held on the 6th May should be held at the Community Centre.

Councillor Bull reported that along with Councillor Jones and ex Councillor Noades he had attended Councillor Basra's funeral. It had been heartening to see so many people at the house, it was much appreciated by the family. Perhaps we could give thought to a suitable memorial for Councillor Basra.

Meeting closed 8.13pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Full Council - Thursday 27th May at the cessation of the Annual Town meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council at 7pm - venue - Seth Ward Community Centre confirmed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Accounts paid:	Apr-21	Full Council Meeting:	29th April 2021				
2	Committee	Budget	Payee	Details	Amount	Budget total	Budget Bal.	
3	Expenditure 2020/2021							
4	Amenities	Cemetery expenditure	Complete gardening	plots	260.00	5000.00	4126.33	
5	Amenities	Churchyard maintenance	Complete gardening	churchyard maintenance	306.00			
6	Amenities	Churchyard maintenance	Maydencroft	Old churchyard maintenance	450.00	8000.00	1196.00	
7	Council	NHB	Cricket Club	NHB Grant for nets	10140.00		NHB	
8	Amenities	Playground repairs	Broadmead	RoSPA repairs	1425.00	2000.00	-307.64	
9	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries March	5827.04	115500.00		
10	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC	1923.72			
11	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S Ann	2052.48	115500.00	-4687.94	
12	Resources	Communications	BT	Landline/Broadband	56.01	750.00	-45.38	
13	Resources	Software	sage	Support	23.20	300.00	-70.12	
14	Expenditure 2021/2022							
15	Amenities	Open areas	Complete gardening	All open areas maint	772.14	4514.00	3741.86	
16	Resources	Subscriptions	HAPTC	Subs 2021	1227.18	1400.00	172.82	
17	Amenities	Playground maintenance	Barclaycard	Barrier tape	16.60			
18	Amenities	Playground repairs	Kompan	repair mound SWCC	500.00	2000.00	1483.40	
19	Amenities	Trees	Complete gardening	Trees Bovis	320.00	5000.00	4680.00	
20	Amenities	Dog/litter	Barclaycard	dispenser bags	194.13	3000.00	2805.87	
21	Resources	Cleaning	Barclaycard	Cleaning materials	78.18	900.00	821.82	
22	Resources	Communications	BT	Comms	68.24	750.00	681.76	
23	Resources	Electricity	British Gas	Electricity MH	504.37	4500.00	3995.63	
24	Resources	Oil	Certas	Oil MH	1049.29	5000.00	3950.71	
25	Resources	PCSO funding	Police cr Comm	PCSO contribution	3960.00	16000.00	12040.00	
26	Amenities	Cemetery expenditure	ICCM	Subs 2021	95.00	5000.00	4905.00	
27	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries April	5899.51			
28	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC	1886.34			
29	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S Ann	2062.03	149000.00	139152.12	
30	Income							
31	03/03/2021	regency	rent	550.00	30/03/2021	Nutrition Consultant	rent	265.00
32	04/03/2021	JWS	Rent	240.00	30/03/2021	AK Comms	rent	391.00
33	04/03/2021	AK Comms	Rent	391.00	31/03/2021	Brainstorm	Rent	295.00
34	08/03/2021	Nutrition Consultant	rent	265.00	01/04/2021	P leonard FA	rent	185
35	11/03/2021	Film Club	Hire	26.25	01/04/2021	regency House	Rent	550
36	15/03/2021	Judkins	Rent	346.00	01/04/2021	Watling	cemetery fees	1350
37	15/03/2021	Kashec	Rent	351.00	01/04/2021	Ecomal	rent	145
38	24/03/2021	Picioring	Wedding balance	150.00	06/04/2021	Clark	cemetery fees	1350
39	30/03/2021	Nutrition Consultant	Hire	26.25	06/04/2021	JMAS	rent	240
40	06/04/2021	EHDC	reimb High St counting	365.12	06/04/2021	JWS	rent	240

Update to Council for April 2021

Report to Council updating Councillors on events since the report made to Council in March 21.

Manor House.

Waiting for quotes for plumbing work in connection with Legionella testing.
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.
Security lighting at the rear of the building will be installed shortly, cameras will follow.

Community Centre

Centre is open for limited use. Jackie now back at work but on limited duties, Alex will support her.

Office

No change whilst restrictions are still in place.

Other

First interment of cremated remains will take place in May, several enquiries received, mainly for cremated remains plots. The official opening of the cemetery is due to take place on the 30th April, this will have to be managed within the COVID guidelines.

S106 Working Party continues to meet.

As agreed by the Amenities Committee, Layston Court Gardens now closes at 7pm, this will increase to 8pm on the 21st June.

Remote Internal Audit underway presenting the same challenges as last year.

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
23/2/21	3/21/0429/FUL	Two storey side extension & storage bldg., new parking layout 3, Watermill Ind Est.	No obs
19/3/21	3/21/0684/FUL 3/21/0685/LBC 3/21/0686/ADV	Erection of awning and repositioning of sign 69, High Street	No obs but concern re. space for outside tables
17/3/21	3/21/0666/HH	Single storey rear and side extn, front porch xtn and additional parking area	No obs providing neighbour concerns are addressed
31/3/21	3/21/0564/LBC	Two grab rails either side of front door 86, High Street	No obs
23/3/21	3/21/0719/LBC	Extensive internal and external alterations 100, High Street	No obs but seek assurance that Conservation Officer is satisfied with the number colour and position of the proposed 7 CCTV cameras.
8/4/21	3/21/0837/OUT	Erection of 2 light industrial/warehouse units. Land to north of Watermill Ind Est	Concurs with Herts Highways re lac of trip generation taking into account other permitted applications in the area.
16/4/21	3/21/0952/HH	Two storey side and basement xtens Aspen House, St Francis Close	No obs

Planning Decisions

Date	Application	Decision
3/21/0270/HH	3, Owles Lane.	Refused