



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM AT 7.00PM ON THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 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 (7.12pm) and D. Wallace.

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

Also present: One member of the public.

The Chairman led prayers.

103. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillor Basra and County Councillor Jones.

104. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

S. Bull - Norfolk Road Playing Fields

105. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 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.

106. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman reported that there has been no civic events. Work is still underway on the cemetery and the CCTV is up and running although some of the cameras were out of action for a few days due to a technical error.

The contractor has re-instated the verges on The Causeway. We have managed to obtain some reasonably priced spring flowering bulbs and may be asking for volunteers to help plant them.

In response to a question, the Clerk reported that following the resignation of John Noades, we are currently in the statutory period inviting people to call for an election, this period closes on 31st October. After that time, if there has not been a call for an election, the Town Council will be free to co-opt.

The Council indicated a wish to bestow the Freedom of the Town on John Noades and the Clerk was asked to call an extraordinary meeting at the end of November to formalise this.

107. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE POLICE.

The Chairman referred to a report from the Police which had been circulated to Councillors. The report showed 37 reported crimes in the past month.

Councillor Mrs Coote joined the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had been invited to attend a Zoom meeting next week with East Herts Council to discuss COVID measures such as COVID Marshalls.

108. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 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 1st October be adopted.

Councillor Lemay reported that the next stage to realise the plan for the River Rib is to seek planning permission from the Environment Agency, for this a detailed design plan is needed from a recognised consultant. The proposed design plan includes the length of the river running through Buntingford which includes nine bridges and four weirs.

Councillor Bonner asked if it's known what the cost of the final works will be and where the funds are coming from.

Councillor Lemay responded that without the design plan the project will come to a standstill. The plan will provide a budgeted amount for each section of the river.

Councillor Mrs Coote stated that it would be useful to have an indication of the level of willingness of possible funders, it's a lot of money to spend without knowing how the plan will be received.

Councillor Wallace asked if it will be project managed by FORQ as he didn't want to see it fall back on the Council.

Councillor Lemay suggested that Derek Guy who is highly qualified would be an ideal candidate to project manage.

In response to a question, Councillor Lemay stated that FORQ will prioritise the works.

Councillor Wallace queried the ownership of the plan and was reassured that the Town Council will own the plan.

Councillor Bowman stated that we have to start somewhere, if we don't act, we will lose the river forever.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That £14,500 is released from New Homes Bonus to fund the River Rib Buntingford, Design Plan.

109. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 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 Resources Committee held on 8th October 2020 be adopted.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the Town Council's response to the request from the 20's Plenty Campaign Group is: the Town Council supports the 20's Plenty initiative in principle providing proposals are in line with Herts County Council's Speed Management Strategy.

110. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PAYMENTS MADE OCTOBER 2020.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

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

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

Councillor Wallace reported that originally the question of security gates at the Manor House had arisen, at that time it had been felt that it was appropriate to review all security at the Manor House.

The Working Party has met and determined we should consider the whole footprint and undertake a survey to identify vulnerability and propose recommendations to Council. Also to consult with interested parties such as Tenants and Coach House residents. It's aimed to have a report to Council at the end of January 2021. The group will meet monthly to ensure the process remains on track.

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

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

In response to a question the Clerk stated that the Loss Adjuster is dealing with contractors to repair the damaged window, as this is a specialist task, it has proven difficult to find contractors.

Councillor Bonner agreed to speak with a local contractor who may be able to provide assistance.

Councillor Ling asked why we haven't resumed planning meetings. The Chairman responded that he will discuss this with the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

113. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR.

Councillor Bull reported that he had not attended the last District Council meeting but had provided a report to the Leader on his thoughts regarding proposed budget cuts.

114. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

Councillor Jones had submitted a report which was read out by the Clerk.

"The results of the Southern Roundabout Project were presented to group last week and will now be presented to Cabinet with a recommendation to approve taking the scheme forward for LEP funding. The benefits of the scheme are better flowing of traffic, especially during peak hours. The scheme is essential for any future proposals to dual the 2km Westmill section of the A10 to come forward. Flooding - Two areas in Buntingford have been reported to Highways for action - Aspenden Road (outside the Dandara show house) and the crossing at Station Road opposite the Co-op. Both areas require a dig out of the blocked gullies which will be undertaken, hopefully, very soon. Further CCTV survey works on these sections are scheduled for Aspenden Road, 17th/18th January and Station Road, 25th January.

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

The member of the public thanked members for attending the DJ event and thanks to Councillor Jones for organising.

The member of the public asked about arrangements for Remembrance Day. The Chairman explained that there will be a scaled down service on 8th November. Members of the Public are encouraged to remain at home and hopefully the event will be live streamed.

The member of the public asked about a gas leak opposite 1 Wyddial Road which was caused by tree roots encroaching on the gas pipes. The Chairman responded that if the tree was on the verge, it would be the responsibility of Highways.

Meeting closed 8.13pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Full Council - Thursday 26th November 2020 at 7pm - venue or link to be confirmed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Accounts paid:	Oct-20	Full Council Meeting:	29th October 2020			
2	Committee	Budget	Payee	Details	Amount	Budget total	Budget Bal.
3	Expenditure						
4	Expenditure						
5	Resources	NL/Web site	2Commune	Web hosting	470.00	3000.00	2530.00
6	Amenities	Trees	Complete gardening	Clear r/o D Hall Ley	200.00		
7	Amenities	Trees	Salmon	Cut down r/o D hall Ley	385.00	5000.00	2398.00
8	Amenities	Churchyard clear	Complete gardening	c/y clear	306.00		
9	Amenities	Churchyard clear	Maydencroft	old c/y clear	450.00		
10	Amenities	Churchyard clear	Complete gardening	c/y clear	306.00	9000.00	3852.00
11	Amenities	Pavilion Maintenance	J Clements	Roof repairs pavilion	50.00	1500.00	1370.00
12	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	Salaries Sep 20	6372.16		
13	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC Sep	2217.97		
14	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S Ann Sep	2288.71		
15	Resources	Salaries	Barclays	salaries Oct 20	5862.24		
16	Resources	Salaries	HMRC	Tax NIC Oct	1923.52		
17	Resources	Salaries	HCC	S Ann Oct	2052.45	115500.00	46408.25
18	Resources	Manor House Maint	B Brown	Heater 2nd floor	184.98		
19	Resources	Manor House Maint	Restore8	Excess	250.00	10500.00	9000.51
20	Resources	PCSO	Police Crime Comm	PCSO 2/4	3960.00	16000.00	8352.50
21	Resources	Grants	Marketing Zone	Grant Unsong heros	580.00	5000.00	4220.00
22	Resources	Electricity	British Gas	Electricity MH	329.42	4500.00	2578.24
23	Amenities	Dog/Litter	Barclaycard	Pickers/ Disp bags	170.45	3000.00	1683.28
24	Resources	Stationery	Barclaycard	Stationery	32.78		
25	Resources	Stationery	County Supplies	Stationery	9.49	1000.00	503.28
26	Resources	Cleaning	County Supplies	Cleaning materials	30.36	900.00	653.23
27							
28	INCOME						
29	Ecomal	Rent		145.00		Kashec	Rent
30	Coulier	Balance Wedding		225.00		JMAS	rent
31	CAB	Rent		1500.00		EHDC	2/2 precept
32	Nutrition Cons	Rent		265.00		Brainstorm	Rent
33	AK Comms	Rent		391.00		Nutrition Cons	Rent
34	Regency House	Rent		412.50		AK Comms	Rent
35	Piciorang	Deposit wedding		100.00		Ecomal	Rent
36	JWS	Rent		240.00		JWS	Rent

Update to Council for October 2020

Report to Council updating Councillors on events and decisions made since the report made to Council on 24th September 2020.

Manor House.

The Manor House remains very quiet with most tenants working from home and few members of the public visiting. We still await repairs to the damaged window and cannot implement further security measures to the windows in the compromised office until the window is repaired.

The Manor House Security Working Party have met and are currently undertaking a security audit of the building.

CCTV

Police are now familiar with the system but still do not have the means to view footage at the Police Station. Currently, requests for footage from the Police are dealt with from the Clerk's Office.

Community Centre

Alex continues to manage the Centre in Jackie's absence. Hirings still limited due to the required COVID measures.

Office

Alex and I are working 2 days a week each from the office and the remaining time from home.

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. We await submission of the Dandara application.

Date	Application number	Details	BTC Comments
15/9/20	3/20/1732/HH	2, Coach House Mews - Demolition of single storey side extension, proposed two storey side and single storey extension.	Concerned re. over development and access for construction vehicles and delivery of materials.
18/9/20	3/20/1764/LBC	10d, High Street - Replacement roof & velux roof windows.	No obs
24/9/20	3/20/1844/HH	97, Snells Mead - Single storey side and rear extension, garage conversion and alterations to fenestration.	No obs
13/10/20	3/20/1869/HH	20, Campbell Close - side extension to detached garage and part conversion to office and gym.	No obs

Planning Decisions

3/20/1594/HH	23, Skipps Meadow	Granted
3/20/1311/HH	Owles Farm	Refused