**BUCKLAND PARISH**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023 at the Buckland Memorial Hall**

**Present:**

Mr A Wildman (AW)

Mr John Connolly (JC)

Mr Neil Brown (NB)

Mr M.Jepson (MJ)

Mrs F Bartholmew (FB)

Mr M Skipworth (MS)

David Page (clerk)

Bethia Thomas (BT) County Council

Mark Coleman (MC) Vale District Council

**In attendance:**

Thirteen residents of Buckland.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Joe Turner

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Election of Chair & Vice Chair**

AW was re-elected chair, proposed by JC and seconded by FB. JC was elected vice chair, proposed by AW and seconded by FB

AW Welcomed the new Parish Councillors Neil Brown and Mark Skipworth and the new district councillor Mark Coleman

NB and MS then gave a quick resume of who they were and what they hoped to bring to the PC

**4. VALE OF WHITE HORSE**

Mark gave a short history of himself and said he was elected to the cabinet his role being Environmental and Health. The Vale now comprised 34 Lib Dems and 4 Greens.

AW raised the problem we were having of getting 2 new bins for the village and MC agreed to look at correspondence on this. With permission Mark left the meeting for a meeting elsewhere.

**5. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th Feb 2023, having been circulated, were approved and signed.

AW read out a note from Chris Langham wishing the new councillors well and saying how much he had enjoyed his 8 years on the PC.

**6. Matters Arising**

a. The clerk reported that we are still waiting for 2 new bins

b. The clerk reported on the success of litter pick held last month

c. AW thanked the WI for the very successful coronation event the big brunch held on the Sunday of coronation weekend

d. JC reported that he had cleaned the Perspex windows of the bus shelter and will see how they keep over the next few months before recommending that new ones be installed. Also, he was waiting for a weather window

before installing the solar light at the shelter.

**7. Oxfordshire County Council**

Bethia Thomas joined the meeting. She gave an update on OCC matters and acknowledged concerns regarding the pot holes in the village and the broken-up pavements. BT agreed to walk the village to inspect with JC and then to follow up with OCC.

**8. Website**

NB has offered to design a village website to encompass the PC regulatory requirements initially with capacity for other village entities in time. The meeting readily agreed and NB to liaise with the clerk on posting minutes, etc in the first instance and no later than the June deadline.

NB told the meeting his ideas and he or AW would have a conversation with the designer of the present web site to thank him for his work.

**9. Annual Accounts, Internal Audit, Risk assessment**

* Annual Accounts

These were approved along with, Section 1 and Section 2 of the Annual Return, subject to internal and external audit.

* Risk Assessment

This had been reviewed and all items had been covered to be updated by FB and DP

* Internal Audit Review

The review of this was noted as having been completed

**10. Annual Insurance & Asset Register**

Agreed to be renewed again via BHIB

**11. Charity of John Southby and others**

AW gave a review of the last 5 years about how the grants were given, the amounts and the organisations

that had benefited as well as the amount given to individuals. The 5 year review will be included in the charity’s annual accounts.

**12. Appointment of Members to Represent BPC**

Transport Rep - Joe Turner

Neighbourhood Action Group – MJ who reported that their main concern was speed on the A420

Footpath Warden - Sophie Sheard

**13 Proposed 20mph Speed limit**

JC reported that having spoken to an official from the council it looked likely that the 20mph limit would now be set in the village in late Summer/Autumn. JC has had meetings regarding Buckland Marsh and Gainfield about controlling the speed in these areas. Residents from both Buckland Marsh and Gainfield were in

attendance seeking speed cameras to control the speed in their part of the Parish.

At this point a general

discussion took place with members of the public from Gainfield and Buckland Marsh taking part.

BT said that before any speed limit reduction could be assessed in Gainfield a speed survey needs to be under taken.

JC/AW suggested a request be made to OCC highways for poles could be put up at either end of Gainfield and Buckland Marsh and that the PC consider its ability to fund the approximately £6k required to purchase a single illuminated speed driven sign for each of these locations. AW to circulate an update on unspent CIL levels for the PC to agree how much it could contribute to the cost. BT encouraged an application to her community grant fund to assist.

JC also reported that a tractor sign would soon be erected both sides of the Home Farm turning warning motorist that a turn was coming up.

**14. Buckland School**

* A report from the school was read to the meeting from Steven Houston a governor which highlighted the last year with plans for the future which included the re-hanging of the bell. School traffic & parking remains a material concern in the village and JC is to meet Louise Warren in this regards and to specifically raise school associated traffic levels in Summerside, bad and inconsiderate parking, ignoring the voluntary one-way system and school coaches ignoring instructions to park/wait at the village hall.

**15. AOB**

Among the topics discussed were

* MS to consider running the mini bus to the film club at Longworth

MJ to consider and report back on the possible hiring of a speed radar gun for a future village speedwatch

**16. Date of next meeting**

TBC

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_