

BUXHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th November 2015 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr David Steed (in chair) Cllr Anne Hicks Cllr M Manning
Cllr Chris Hall Cllr Arthur Hicks

Paula Gladwell – Clerk

0 member of the public

- 2015/756 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Hubert Mitson, Cllr Jackie Taylor, County Cllr Penny Otton, District Councillor John Matthissen
- 2015/757 **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Arthur Hicks declared a non pecuniary interest for Item 7c (min no.)
- 2015/758 **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr Steed that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meetings were approved with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 26th October 2015 were signed as a true record.

Meeting adjourned.

County Cllr Penny Otton – The clerk read Cllr Otton's report. There is to be a review of rural transport as the contract with Suffolk Links finishes in April 2016. Providers will "bid" for the contract as a new "model" for rural transport is needed to address the 50% cut in funding; this gives concerns that there will be a drastic reduction in rural bus services. Unanimous agreement to object to the proposal to close the magistrates courts at Bury and Lowestoft. The call on landowners to put forward suitable site for Gypsy and Traveller transit sites has a deadline of 16th November 2015. Cllr Otton has asked SCC if they would be willing to indemnify local communities in the same way that they do for snow clearing, to take on cutting and clearing of footpaths, a response is still waited. Last weeks cabinet were considering a proposal for establishing a commercial company for the purpose of deriving profit through developing houses. The company would be jointly owned by SCC, Forest Heath DC and St Edmundsbury BC and will provide a revenue income through dividend payments to all councils. It is unclear why MSDC and Babergh DC are not included. There is to be a consultation on the proposed cuts to the Fires Service from 16th Nov – 22nd February 2016. Cabinet will be looking at Highway Infrastructure Asset management Policy which concentrates on "empowering local communities" this will encourage parish councils and volunteers to contribute to highway maintenance through new initiatives to train and empower local groups to improve their environment and local amenities, we wait to see if this will make a difference!

District Cllr John Matthissen – No report

Public Session – No questions

Meeting resumed:

- 2015/759 **Clerks Report** – There have been several issues with Barclays Bank and the mandate forms. There has been no response to council's letter regarding reinstating the internet facility therefore we are still unable to access statements. Cllr Hall and the clerk will arrange to visit the branch in order to try to submit the mandate and rectify the issues.
- 2015/760 Confirmation is still awaited from SCC Highways that the work order for the VAS has been approved, the machine will not be ordered until we are confident the work order is authorised.
- 2015/761 **Planning** – It was resolved to send the following comments to MSDC for application no. 3886/15 Continued use of Sports Hall for school and local community purposes and additional use of first floor for wedding receptions, functions, conferences and other events. Internal alterations. Finborough School, Finborough Hall, Great

Finborough – “*Buxhall Parish Council have NO OBJECTION to this application based on the information available*”

- 2015/762 The following MSDC decisions were noted – 2741/15 and 2779/15 Erection of single storey side extension. Replace 1no. French doors with window, Maypole farm, Rattlesden Road – WITHDRAWN and 3429/15 Notification of a proposed larger home extension. Old Lawn Cottage – Prior Approval - GRANTED
- 2015/763 **Finance** – The clerks Financial Report for November 2015 was approved.
- 2015/764 The following payments were approved, proposed by Cllr Steed, with all in favour: Clerk’s salary October.
- 2015/765 Eon direct debit £27.06
- 2015/766 Heelis & Lodge Internal Audit £42.00
- 2015/767 Village Hall Hire £12.50
- 2015/768 It was agreed that a letter of support be provided for the Village Hall Committees bid for S106 money from MSDC.
- 2015/769 It was resolved to award a grant of £2000 to the Village Hall Committee to help with purchase of new tables. Proposed Cllr Manning, seconded Cllr Anne Hicks, with all in favour.
- 2015/770 The draft budget for 2016/2017 was considered, it was noted that the tax base had yet to be received from MSDC and review of the budget was possible up until the precept request deadline in January 2016. It was agreed that further consideration of the budget could take place at the next meeting.
- 2015/771 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.
- 2015/772 **Housing Needs Working Group** – It was noted that a meeting with CAS and MSDC Housing was scheduled for this week; the recommendations from this would be reported at the next council meeting. Cllr Arthur Hicks was co opted to the working group.
- 2015/773 **Play Equipment review** – The quote, in excess of £2000, for repair to the multi play was considered and it was noted that alternative quotes had been difficult to source. It was agreed that repairing the equipment probably did not represent value for money. It was resolved to consult with residents regarding provision of new play equipment. Quotes will be sought for cleaning the basket ball court and a quote is awaited for knocking back the rear boundary hedge that is encroaching onto the field and bench.
- 2015/774 **Conservation Area Application** – The small number of resident replies to the public consultation regarding an application for Conservation Area Status were considered. It is apparent from the responses that there are a few residents who feel conservation area protection would be a positive thing for Buxhall however in order to take a project such as this forward the council would need a significant number of residents in support of the application. It was agreed that no application would be undertaken at this time due to the lack of resident support for a Conservation Area.
- 2015/775 **Village Sign** – Research into the WI archive minutes has revealed some of the history around the village sign. It was agreed that ongoing maintenance of the grass around the sign was the responsibility of the parish council and must be prioritised next summer, if a volunteer is not found then quotes will be sought for a grass cutting contract.
- 2015/755 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – It was suggested that the scheduled date for the annual meetings in May be re considered.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 18th January 2016, 7.30pm at The Village Hall