

BUXHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th April 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Hubert Mitson Cllr. Peter Jordan
 Cllr Keith Proctor Cllr. Chris Hall
 Cllr Anne Hicks
 Paula Gladwell – Clerk
 County Cllr Penny Otton, District Cllr Matthissen

2013/480

Apologies for Absence - Cllr David Steed, Cllr Derrick Gant, PC Annelly Miles

2013/481

Declarations of Interest – None

2013/482

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – It was proposed by Cllr Mitson that the minutes of the previous Parish Council Meetings were approved with all in favour. The Parish Council Meeting minutes of 17th March 2014 were signed as a true record.

Adjournment for:

Cllr Penny Otton's Report – Cllr Otton confirmed that following the recent critical Ofsted report she was asking that the portfolio holder reinstate the budget to the Improvement and Support services. There is a possible new purpose built archive centre to be approved with the digitisation of all records. The publicity for the national ladies cycle tour coming through Great Finborough, Rattlesden and Felsham on May 11th has been launched. Parish Councils can now purchase VAS in an effort to combat speeding. Fly tipping is becoming an increasing problem, if you see rubbish don't just pick it up and put it in your own bin, make sure you report all instances of fly tipping to David Abbott at MSDC and he will investigate to see if there is any evidence to prove who is to blame.

The criteria has been fixed for applications for 20mph zones and Penny is pleased to confirm that she has granted £800 from her locality budget towards the purchase of new chairs for the village hall.

Cllr John Matthissen's Report – Cllr Matthissen confirmed that council tax has risen by 1.72% for the MSDC part of our bills. Council house rents have been increased with justification given that it will make rents fairer for everyone. Members are pushing for increased involvement in creating planning policy, and are hoping to amend the current criteria for "villages in the countryside" so that the occasional new build can be realised.

Police Report – The clerk read PC Annelly Miles' report. There have been no crimes reported since the last meeting. It was noted that elderly victims are being targeted in various car park locations around Suffolk whereby their pin number is watched for at an ATM and they are then distracted at their car and cards or wallets stolen. Paws on Patrol the new police initiative for responsible dog ownership is well underway, membership will bring various rewards in return for vigilance on walks and reporting anything suspicious or community issue related.

Public Session - Concerns were expressed regarding the excess speed of cars and lorries on the road through the village from Finborough to Buxhall Vale. It was suggested that the first step would be to have some police checks carried out to gather data that can be used as evidence to support any request to extend the speed limit or purchase VAS. The benefits of Community Speedwatch schemes were discussed and hopefully people concerned will come forward to investigate the possibility of a volunteer scheme for Buxhall.

Thanks were extended to the parish council for their generous donation towards the village hall chairs and also to Cllr Otton for her locality grant.

Meeting resumed:

2013/483

Planning – There were no planning applications to consider.

- 2013/484 There were no MSDC decisions to note.
- 2013/485 **Finance** – The following payments were approved with all in favour: Clerks salary & Exp for March 2014
- 2013/486 HMRC Q4 payment
- 2013/487 Hall Hire £12.50
- 2013/488 SALC subscriptions £158.00
- 2013/489 The Asset Register was reviewed with some wording amended before being approved as a complete record of council's assets.
- 2013/490 The final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Mitson, with all in favour.
- 2013/491 Section 1 of the Annual Return was approved and signed. Proposed Cllr Mitson, with all in favour
- 2013/492 Section 2 of the Annual Return was completed, approved and signed. Proposed Cllr Mitson, with all in favour.
- 2013/493 It was resolved to adopt the new model Financial Regulations produced recently by SALC, as it was agreed that they covered all new legislation and statutory guidance and also ensured that all matters included in our current Financial Regulations were covered.
- It was noted that the grass-cutting contract now exceeded £500 and alternative quotes should be sought for next year in line with Standing orders.
- 2013/494 **Correspondence** – There were no comments to tabled correspondence.
- 2013/495 **Annual Play Equipment Inspection** – It was resolved to appoint MSDC to arrange to carry out the annual play equipment inspection at the quoted cost of £51.70.
- 2013/496 **Review of Play Equipment** – A report was given on the recent site inspection of play equipment. All items were reviewed together with 2013 annual inspection report comments and suggestions. It was agreed that a quote be sought to cover all recommended actions. The recommendation that the climbing frame is removed was approved, Cllr Jordan will remove it as soon as possible. It was suggested that once a costing is known to cover the work needed further review of the play provision should be carried out, perhaps involving some community consultation.
- 2013/497 **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – Cllr Gant the Footpath Warden has asked that consideration be given to several reports of dog fouling on the public footpaths making it increasingly unpleasant to walk around the village. It was thought that the signs on the playingfield had some effect and the clerk will provide something similar for siting on the worst affected footpaths

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at the Village Hall on Monday 19th May and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7pm