

BUCKMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th May 2019

Present:

Councillor Liz Exton Chairman
Councillor Jill Arnold
Councillor Graham Exton
Councillor Kate Bygott
Councillor Daniel Bird

Borough Councillor Malise Graham

MINUTES

- 01/19-20 **Election of Chairman** – Mrs Elizabeth Exton was elected as chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- 02/19-20 **Apologies for non-attendance** – All councillors were present
- 03/19-20 **Apologies for absence** – County Councillor Byron Rhodes and Police Constable Roscoe
- 04/19-20 **Approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2019**
The minutes were approved without amendment
- 05/19-20 **To receive declarations of interest both personal and prejudicial on matters arising on the agenda** – No declarations were made
- 06/19-20 **Public Participation** – Members of the public were not present
- 07/19-20 **To receive reports –**

Borough Councillor Malise Graham

I am to be confirmed by the Council at the AGM on Thursday 16th May as Mayor of the Borough for the Council Year 2019/2020. It is 25 years since I was last Mayor and we have a 21 year Councillor - so it was a lifetime ago! I am doing it to fill a gap as the last Deputy Mayor was unable to stand for re-election and as such we had made no plans. If and when things change I will keep you informed.

The last year for the Borough Council was, like every final year, one of tidying up.

We have signed a new refuse collection contract, which at a time of ever rising costs is actually on better terms than the last one and as it is with the same provider there is minimum change apart from the odd collection day.

We have invested heavily in the Cattle Market to secure its future.

We are having to invest in our housing stock to bring some properties back up to "Decent Homes Standard".

The Local Plan has been adopted, which will aid planning decision making.

Most of our work is behind the scenes and involves partnership working. The major change over the last few years is the Government Austerity Programme, which seems to have shifted responsibility for cutting costs from Central Government onto Local Government. Budgets are extremely tight as we have a policy of having a balanced budget. It is frustrating because one goes into Local Government hoping to improve things but at the moment most meetings are about what should we stop doing. Much of your Council's work is statutory and therefore a very high proportion of fixed costs are on salaries for people to undertake those roles. To retain good staff we need to pay the same as larger authorities. We are one of the lowest Boroughs in the Country when it comes to population but one of the largest when it comes to area, this produces many problems that are not fully reflected in the Government grants that we receive. I am concerned about this situation because a lot of preventive housekeeping is being cut and this is building up problems, that will need to be addressed when or if the belt is ever loosened again

Having said all that, I enjoy being a Councillor for Wymondham Ward and as I have said before, much of the satisfaction comes from either sorting out issues that occur or helping those in need, so please do keep me in touch and let me know if there is anything I can do to help you and/or the Parish Council and I look forward to working with you all over the next four years.

The Clerk

Installation of Sewstern Noticeboard

The new noticeboard had been installed at Sewstern.

Installation of replacement Glasdon Dog Bin

The dog bin had been installed.

Installation of Airfield Memorial Plaque

The airfield memorial plaque provided by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust to be installed at Aerodrome Farm had been received. Plans for the installation were being made.

Planning Consultancy – Skillington Quarry Development

Decisions on the planning applications for which the Parish Council acted in a consultancy role were awaited.

Closure of Roads in Sewstern

Recent closures of roads in Sewstern that had been undertaken without prior warning were being investigated. LCC had so far been unable to identify why the signs were set up and by whom although accepted that they were official Highway signs. The process for closing roads was being examined.

Grant Thornton Audit

Grant Thornton had confirmed that their external audit had been completed and would be posted to the clerk.

The Chairman

The chairman had consulted with the tenants of Aerodrome Farm concerning the placement of the memorial plaque and a plan to incorporate the plaque in minor developments at the farm was being considered. It was anticipated that the tenants would confirm the positioning arrangements in the near future.

The chairman thought it useful if those who would normally provide reports at the parish council meetings could provide a written report on any relevant items if they were unable to be present. It was agreed that the clerk would ask for relevant reports when circulating papers prior to future meetings.

08/19-20

Co-opting of Council Member and acceptance of office

Papers covering the acceptance of office and pecuniary interest were duly signed by councillors and countersigned as necessary by the clerk. The Council recognised the need to co-opt a suitable member of the parish to fill the vacant position in the Buckminster Ward. A potential Sewstern resident had been identified, however, it was agreed that a resident of Buckminster should be sought before the appointment deadline was reached. The clerk would confirm with the Borough Council Electoral Officer whether the decision could be deferred to the July meeting; an extraordinary meeting would be scheduled, if required, to endorse the appointment.

- 09/19-20 **LRALC AGM Representative**
The vice chairman would attend the LRALC AGM as the Parish Council's representative and voting member. The clerk would notify the LRALC. The council authorised the payment of expenses for the vice chairman.
- 10/19-20 **Internal Audit Result and AGAR Part 2**
The Internal Auditor's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report had not identified any anomalies. The council approved the accounting statements and the AGAR 2018/19 Part 2 was duly signed by the Chairman and the RFO. The council confirmed that it was exempt from external audit; the clerk would notify the external auditor.
- 11/19-20 **Provision of Local Government Finance Settlement**
Discussion focused on an earlier e mail from the NALC confirming that the government had decided to continue the deferral of setting referendum principles for town and parish councils. Funding would extend to the cap limit. The NALC chairman had met with the local government finance minister to discuss this topic and a wide range of other issues.
- 12/19-20 **Sewstern Main Street Flooding**
It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Estate to explore what action could be taken to implement the solution proposed by Leicestershire County Council.
- 13/19-20 **Planning Matters**
The following applications have been approved:
New Planning Applications – None
Applications Refused – None
Applications awaiting enforcement – None
Planning Consultancy Skillington Quarry – SKDC decision awaited
- 14/19-20 **Invoices for approval** – ASL Internal Audit £360.00 was approved
- 15/19-20 **To Approve and Sign the bank reconciliation for the current period**
Current (Community) Account - £8067.71
Deposit (BMM) Account - £1154.48
Total account balance including unrepresented payments - £8862.19
The bank reconciliation was approved and signed.
- 16/19-20 **Correspondence Received** – Parish Council Elections – 2 May 2019 dated 11 April 2019

17/19-20 **Future meetings of the Parish Council**

9 July 2019

10 September 2019

19 November 2019

25 February 2020

12 May 2020 Annual Meeting

E Exton
Chairman

Date

DRAFT