**MEETING MINUTES BURWARDSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

 Parish Council Meeting held in the Burwardsley Institute on Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 7:30pm for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Present: Councillor Stockton (Chair) Councillor Mellor Ward Councillor Jones

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed everyone.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

 No apologies received

1. **Declarations of Interest**

 No declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting

1. Chairman thanked outgoing councillors James Perry and Eric Enston for their contributions. Chairman explained that Mike Jones was to be a councillor until the outstanding two vacancies have been filled
2. Roger Carroll was co-opted on the council having been proposed by Mike Jones and seconded by Peter Stockton. Trish Mumme-Young has also expressed an interest in joining the council so in the absence of further applications is to be co opted at the next meeting. This will leave one more vacancy to be filled at which point Mike Jones will leave the Council.
3. **Responsible Finance Officer**

Roger Carroll volunteered to set the budget with the help of Peter Stockton and Tom Mellor- this was proposed by Peter Stockton and seconded by Mike Jones

1. **Appointment of a Clerk**

It was noted that there had been two applicants for the position of Clerk – a one Jane Cooke and an Edward Parry. There is to be an interview with a panel of 3 to be held at a date to be decided after the meeting.

The salary NI and pension to be paid to the Clerk was discussed and that the role would be 3 hours per week.

1. **Precept**

A precept of £5000.00 for the 2024/25 financial year was proposed by Mike Jones and seconded by Peter Stockton having been discussed in the previous meeting.

1. **Public Participation**

**Highway Concerns and Reporting Issues**

Speaker raises concerns about white lines on the road and near accidents, mentioning a formal written complaint to the highways department is required.

Speaker questions the council's stance on expediting highway improvements due to the seriousness of near misses within the parish.

 Speaker suggests approaching the local conservative councillor for a resolution, citing resource and staffing issues at Cheshire West being the reason for no response thus far.

Speaker raises concerns about highways issues, including white lines and junctions, and suggests that this has been on the agenda for over 2 years.

Speaker encourages the community to report any concerns on the reporting page to increase the likelihood of a response from the authorities.

Speaker also mentions tree maintenance and that is also dangerous from a visibility point of view and likely to cause more accidents. It was agreed that the trees would be discussed at the Bolesworth meeting.

Mike Jones made the comment that the council have told their officers to operate a policy of managed decline with regards to Highway maintenance.

Speaker mentioned hedges and whose responsibility was to cut them. Around Harthill Road it was agreed that this was the responsibility of Bolesworth and that Peter would ring Vikki in the estates department to discuss before the next Bolesworth meeting.

**Bolesworth Area Meeting Update**

Speaker provides an update on the Bolesworth area meeting, focusing on planning and affordable housing.

 Speaker mentions the Cheshire workshops and the need to accommodate affordable housing within a group application. On the candle factory site there is likely to be 8/10 premium properties.

 Speaker discusses the potential redevelopment of commercial premises into apartments and new developments at Tattenhall. This development will include affordable housing.

Speaker also discussed other land owned by Bolesworth and what the intended use would be for example the curtain factory.

**Development Plans and Public Car Park**

Speaker discusses the potential development of 8 to 10 high-end houses at the Cheshire workshops.

 Speaker raises concerns about the impact on the public car park and the need to retain it.

 Speaker suggests taking ownership of the public car park to ensure it remains accessible.

 Speaker emphasizes the importance of engaging with the local community and developers to find a mutually beneficial solution.

 Speaker mentions the need for a sustainable solution to address the village’s parking needs.

Maybe enlarge the car park and that this could be discussed at the next Bolesworth meeting as there is some bargaining power given their desire to build the high-end houses.

The next meeting to include 4 Parish Councils is to be held on the 27th March (this meeting has subsequently been rescheduled to 22nd May).

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 29th April 2025 and the AGM will be held on the 22nd May 2025 (AGM has subsequently been moved to 27th May due to date change of the Bolesworth meeting)

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