

BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00pm on THURSDAY 25th JULY 2019 AT BUCKHURST HILL LIBRARY, 165 QUEENS ROAD

025/19 PRESENT

Cllrs: Mrs S Patel (Chairman)
Ms G Reynolds (Vice-Chair)
Mr J Barkham
Mr S Clark
Mrs J Forker-Clark
Mr S Neville
Mrs J Share-Bernia

Also present 1 Member of the public

In attendance: Mrs E. Petyt-Start (Clerk) Mrs V Evans (Interim RFO)

026/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Mr B Nagpal, Mr N Wright, Mr K Williamson and Miss S Watson

027/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members in any item on the agenda.

028/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke regarding the Essex County Council strategy for the future provision of libraries services. He gave the opinion that investment into the library building is much needed.

He stated the Parish Council office should move back into the Library building.

029/19 MINUTES

An amendment for those Present at the meeting the Parish Council on 28 March 2019, circulated previously was noted. Subsequently, the minutes were agreed to be a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign them.

030/19 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following committee meetings were noted:

- **Planning & Environment:** 6th, 20th June, 4th, 18th (draft) July
- **Accommodation:** 6th June (draft)
- **Finance and Establishment:** 20th June (draft)

031/19 CHAIRMAN'S AND CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair provided an update following attendance at the Cycling Action Group meeting. Following a discussion Councillors requested the group attend a future meeting with a formal proposal for consideration.

032/19 FINANCE

- (a) The financial position of Central Funds and Personnel as at 31 May 2019 was noted

033/19 CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

The Chairman proposed two charities for 2019/2020 namely Families in Focus and PACT for Autism. It was proposed that each should receive 50% of

fundraising over the year.

Council unanimously AGREED to support the Chairman's proposed charities for 2019/2020

034/19 FORWARD PLAN

The Clerk provided an overview of the detail of the Forward Plan making particular reference to the updated comments and number of outputs the parish council achieves both delegated by committee and routinely.

035/19 LIBRARY

- a) The Clerk acknowledged the County Library Strategy had been agreed by Cabinet 23rd July 2019. The strategy indicates Buckhurst Hills' library is a tier 4 category. The Clerk has requested an information and fact finding meeting with the Customer & Revenue Optimisation Manager of Essex County Council. It is anticipated this will be agreed for September. The Chair noted she would like to progress a second public consultation meeting now the strategy had been published.
- b) The Clerk advised agreement had been made in principle between the Parish and Essex County Council regarding the surrender of the lease for the old office.

036/19 STANDING ORDERS

A discussion was held around the history of the Parish Council offices moving from the office in Queens Road, reasons for the surrender of the lease, the view that the office is unavailable and the public do not like this, the view that it should return to the library was offered. The opinion was given that the public do not know how to contact the office.

The Clerk disagreed this was accurate and offered the opinion that since she had become Clerk communication from the office was quicker, more proactive and responsive.

The Chair noted many attempts had historically been made to resolve the issues with the old office being located within the library but agreement had failed to be reached.

Following minor amendments, the revised Standing Orders were UNANIMOUSLY agreed.

037/19 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Training and Development Policy was reviewed and subsequently UNANIMOUSLY agreed

038/19 VEDAY 75

The Clerk provided an outline of national events which were being planned for the VEDAY75 and noted the District had requested to be advised of planned events in the Parish.

Councillors discussed the potential range of celebrations. It was noted this should be included as a consideration for the Recreation and Community Committee budget for 2020/21.

039/19 STREET LIGHTING

- a) The Clerk provided an update that Essex County Council had indicated to District it would be possible to programme certain light columns on

specific days etc.

- b) Following a discussion on the merits and disadvantages of re-introducing street lighting, it was proposed the Clerk progress a quotation for the street lighting
'to be turned back on in all roads Friday and Saturday night between the hours of 1am and 5 am for a duration of twelve months, after this period the re-introduction would be reviewed'

040/19 ITEMS OF CONCERN

- a) There were none
- b) Neighbourhood Watch was proposed as an item for the next meeting

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 20:23hrs

Chairman

Date