

BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY OF BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00pm on THURSDAY 19 MAY 2022 AT BUCKHURST HILL LIBRARY, 165 QUEENS ROAD

001/21 PRESENT

Cllr M Vance
Cllr J Forker-Clark
Cllr D Saunders
Cllr A Hall
Cllr R Kaul
V King (EFDC Community Champion)
T Ward (BHLGCIC)
A Ward (BHLGCIC)
A Young (BH U3A and BHRS)
J Page (BHRS)
P Foxtton (BHRS)
L Leszlyzynski (BHCA)
M Davies
D Aradeon
P Halama
S Patel
S Saunders

In attendance: Mrs E P Petyt-Start (Parish Clerk)
Mrs L Davies (Admin and Projects Asst.)

002/21 WELCOME BY CLLR VANCE ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Vance welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

The clerk read a statement from the Chair, Cllr Williamson

I am really sorry that I cannot be at tonight's meeting. This is our first holiday for three years, so I hope you will all understand.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Staff for their service during the last difficult years and also to my fellow Councilors' who have served during the year.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work throughout the Parish by all of the voluntary groups who do so much for our residents, especially those groups who are present this evening. This part of the meeting is your opportunity to highlight the work you are doing. The floor is yours.

003/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from –

Sylvia Watson, Chair BHCA
Rory Worthington, BH Parish History Recorder
Angela Ross EF Scottish Association
Patrick Arnold EFDC Senior Community Engagement Officer
Peter Davey, Chairman, EALC

Kevin Lucas U3A
Cllr Neville
Cllr Williamson
Cllr Chambers Bagshaw

004/21 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 23 March 2021 were approved as a correct record and authorised to be signed by Cllr Vance.

005/21 UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

There were updates from representatives of local community organisations:-

U3A

Re-opened four months ago. 300 members now similar to pre Covid. %0-70 people at each meeting. Operating several outings which are fully subscribed and have been grateful that only a few refunds have been taken for the Covid period. 16 interest groups

Cllr Vance encouraged more people to become involved.

Memory Café

Slow Uptake after re-opening, lost care homes due to the inability of them to transport users to the café. 35 people at last meeting. Thank you to BHPC for continued support of free let and grant fund which is yet to be spent. When started, the café was for people and carers with dementia and now this has been extended to people who are living isolated and/or experiencing loneliness. It's a friendly atmospheres to have fun and relax and give carers release too so they can have a chat. The aim of the café is to help. There's now a direct link with Singing for the Brain at St Johns and training for Dementia Friends. Next couple of months will be starting a Dementia Carers Support Groups at St Stephens.

Cllr Vance congratulated the volunteers on the excellent work they are doing with the Memory Cafe

Buckhurst Hill Residents Society and U3A

Membership is stable with 350 members but there is concern about ability of members being active in the community as there is an aging membership. Lynn Haseldine Jones and Margaret Drew have both moved on and re missed by the society for their contribution and hard work. Zoom talks and meetings gave access to speakers over the country. Currently there is change from evening to afternoon meetings with attendance between 15 and 25, find the right time for meetings is a work in progress.

Rose Walton Centre has been the society's charity but this is now changing to the Noah's Ark Community Hub.

Very much looking forward to the event on 4th June.

Cllr Vance enquired about the core objectives of the BHRS

It was explained there are main themes – keep village atmosphere; protect green belt; to support those in need; social events, talks, lunches.

BHLGCIC – Tim Ward

185 plots and up to 200/250 members although it's difficult at the moment to recruit committee members

Would like to do more community outreach work. Pandemic was a benefit to the allotments as everyone wanted to use the allotments and grow produce etc. Full plots currently with a waiting list. Feel more back to normal.

Thanks to the BHPC, ECC and Waitrose for funding support for the Easy Access Zone at Lower Queens Road, which is four raised beds accessibility for those with limited mobility and wheelchair users making the allotments easier to use for people.

New drainage at River Housing.

Open Day 13th August at River Housing coinciding with National Allotment Week

Waste Not Initiative at Lower Queens with Queens Road Nursery, trying to do some more outreach and soon to be doing something with St Johns School.

Bedford House Community Association

Celebrating 75th years of Adult Education. Run 35-40 courses per week all year round. 350 members. On road to recovery after Covid 19. Have 1 day memberships.

Association is optimistic about the future although financially aware times are hard having used reserves. There is a new Chair and many fabulous future events planned.

Event planned for 18th June, Summer show 17th July, Summer school 1st August onwards which can dip in and out to.

Next year there will be more courses than ever

There's a planned development of the garden, money has been raised and looking forward to new frontage.

Annual programme and list of courses now available.

Mailing list can be signed up to

There was a discussion around abilities and range of courses available.

Family courses are going to be run, most courses are mixed ability.

Further information can be provided for people with learning disabilities

Leigh Languages is a hirer operating separately to the association.

SpeedWatch

Has been operating for three months. Assessed 120 cars speeding, high speed of 57mph noted along Buckhurst Way, Loughton way same car assessed three times. Group has one of the highest accuracy 92% of reporting.

Hope to survive through summer(with number of volunteers)

Keen to see what else can be added in the parish to keep the momentum up of increasing speed awareness and tackling problem of speed.

The Co-ordinator is trying to set up a District wide SpeedWatch at the same time and day to have an impact.

Cllr Vance advised he's planning to meet with the cabinet member for Highways and will discuss speed issues

006/21 PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Cllr Vance noted the Annual Report was available and invited Chair of committees

to present (all reports attached)

Chairman's Report – Cllr Williamson (available in report)

Finance & Establishment Committee - Cllr Vance

Planning & Environment Committee – Cllr Chambers Bagshaw – read by Cllr Saunders

007/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Q) How will Buckhurst Hill in Bloom be run?

A) This will be decided by the Recreation and Community Committee

Comment

Ride London – Hope Essex Highways will fill the potholes in time for the event

Cllr Vance advised there is no business compensation due to Ride London

Q) When will the planters at Lower Queens Road be filled

A) The contractor has been asked to complete them before the end of May

Q) Why is there no BHPC rep on the Epping Forest consultative committee

A) This is not a committee the BHPC is aware but will look into it and seek information

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

Chairman

Date