

Buckden Parish Council Chair's Report January 2022

1) Council meetings

In December Parish Councils were advised not to meet in the light of the new Covid variant. As we had to pass the budget, the decision was taken to hold a one item only meeting with a minimum number of Councillors to ensure the Council was quorate. No further guidance has been received. In January all Councillors were consulted on whether or not to hold face to face meetings and the majority of Councillors wished to continue with in person meetings. We will therefore continue to meet unless advised differently.

2) Tree Planting

An oak tree will be planted in the grounds of the Towers on Tuesday 11th January on behalf of the Parish Council to mark the Queen's Platinum jubilee. A second tree is being planted by the Friends of the Towers.

3) Highways Advisory Groups and Committees

In the light of the resignation of Cllr Elaine Scott it has been agreed that I will take over the Chairing of this group on a temporary basis. Amy and Gerald will be Parish Council members. Further volunteers required. Elaine has offered to continue as resident, and I will email the lead for the Speed watch to ask her to join the group. I will convene a meeting before the end of January.

John Thelwall has kindly volunteered to lead the Large-Scale Planning Group. At the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed that this group could meet as an Advisory Group to give more flexibility in relation to Agendas and Minutes, but it was agreed that it would revert to a Committee if this is required.

4) Flooding High Street Drainage works

The following information was sent to Residents and the Council before Christmas unfortunately the copy sent to me was not received.

Dear Resident,

Ahead of the period of Christmas leave I wanted to provide you with an update regarding the drainage works at Buckden that has been prepared in consultation with colleagues in Cambridgeshire Highways and MilestoneFRA, who are project managing the scheme. The design proposals for highway surface water drainage at Buckden High Street include the following elements, in order to facilitate carriageway drainage maintenance and associated works:

- The installation of 2 sections of 300mm pipe and associated gullies to outfall into the culvert under High Street, Buckden, as per the attached drawing
- Drawings have been submitted to the subcontractor for pricing and subsequent approval by Cambridgeshire Highways
- In order to facilitate the necessary work, a temporary Traffic Regulation Order has been confirmed that will come into effect on 17th January 2022.
- As regards an actual start date for the work, this cannot be confirmed at this time, as it will be influenced by several factors such as but not limited to, obtaining and confirming financial approval from the council for the work and lead times for delivery of necessary materials e.g. concrete pipes.

In any event, I will provide you with another update in January 2022 and in the interim, if you have any questions please email me.

Yours sincerely, Brian Heffernan Principal Officer Flood Risk Direct line: 01223 715676

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