

# **Chinley Buxworth and Brownside Parish Council**

Parish Room, 3 Lower Lane, Chinley, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 6BE

Parish Clerk: Mrs Georgina Cooper  
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## **Clerk's Report – Parish Council Meeting 22 September 2021**

**Agenda Item 6 (a) – Chinley Community Centre Project** – An update on progress on the project will be provided at the meeting and the decision to submit the planning application will be ratified.

**Agenda Item 6 (b) – Parish Land and Play Area Inspection Reports** – Monthly and weekly inspection reports to be presented and any matters arising to be discussed.

**Agenda Item 6 (c) – Council Tax Benefit Support Payments** – High Peak Borough Council have written to the Parish Council to seek their views on a proposal to stop making payments linked to the old Council Tax Benefit Support grant. They have identified ceasing these payments as part of their Efficiency and Rationalisation Strategy proposals since they no longer receive a grant from Government to fund these payments. The impact to the Parish Council is an annual reduction of £2,702.22. There are 3 options they are seeking the parish council's view on as follows:

- OPTION 1 - No change – the Authority continues to incur unfinanced expenditure of £51,317 and parish councils continue to receive the same cash value grant
- OPTION 2 - Remove the grant entirely from 2022/23 – this reflects the loss of Revenue Support Grant, but it is acknowledged that this gives Parish Councils limited time to financially plan for this reduction in funding
- OPTION 3 - Grants are phased out - over 2 year for grants under £2,500 or 3 years for grants over £2,500, starting from 2022/23

The deadline for a response is Friday 24 September.

**Agenda Item 6 (d) – Parish Bench and Noticeboard Audit** – Cllr Drabble and the Clerk have carried out the annual audit of benches and noticeboards in the parish. A report will be circulated detailing recommended works for consideration.

**Agenda Item 6 (e) – White Knowle Bench** – As part of the annual audit of benches, the bench on the A624 at White Knowle has been identified for removal. It is in poor condition and would require work to replace broken slats and needs sanding down and painting. There is an additional cost for strimming the grass here. It is proposed that the bench is located on a route with few passers by and unlikely to be required/used very regularly. Therefore, consideration to be given to removing this bench, thereby reducing ongoing maintenance costs and grass strimming costs.

**Agenda Item 6 (f) – Plastic Bench Slats** – In October 2020 it was resolved that the General Purposes Working Group would replace the wooden slats on six parish benches with plastic slats rather than repaint them with a view to reduce ongoing maintenance costs. A trial with a plastic slat had appeared to be successful at the time and a quote from Marmax Recycled Products for £495.90 plus VAT for 30 plastic bench slats was approved. This included a delivery charge of £90. The plastic slats were duly purchased but unfortunately over time the slats that were replaced on the original trial bench have started to bow. Marmax were happy to offer a credit note in respect of the 30 unwanted slats, less the original delivery charge and also at the Parish Council's cost. A quote was received from H. Crabtree Ltd and deemed acceptable and the items have been returned to Marmax. An invoice from H. Crabtree Ltd for £80 plus VAT to return the plastic slats is to be approved. Marmax have issued a credit note to the value £405.90 plus VAT. The decision on how to spend the credit note can be considered at a future meeting.

**Agenda Item 6 (g) – Remembrance 2021** – An update will be given on the latest plans for the parade and War Memorial service, subject to Covid restrictions. Consideration to be given to applying for a road closure for the event. A risk assessment to be presented at a future meeting. Additionally, to consider applying for permission from DCC to place poppies on lampposts as previous years. Also, to consider donation to Royal British Legion for wreaths under s137 expenditure. To agree which councillors will represent the Parish

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Council and lay wreaths at each of the four War Memorial locations. Finally, to consider removal of existing wreaths.

**Agenda Item 6 (h) – Christmas 2021** – An update will be given on the latest plans for Christmas Lights Switch On events. Provisional dates have been agreed with the headteachers of Chinley and Buxworth Primary Schools and with the local churches, subject to Covid restrictions. The Chinley date is Monday 29 November at 7pm and the Buxworth date is Friday 3 December at 6pm. Whaley Bridge Brass Band are confirmed for both dates. The current proposal is to plan on an outdoor basis only. To consider arrangements as per previous years. A risk assessment and quotes will be presented at a future meeting.

**Agenda Item 6 (i) – Playground Inspection Follow Up Works** – An update on works to be carried out at Buxworth Playground by Kompan, the play equipment manufacturer, will be given. In addition, quotes will be presented for works required in all play areas further to the annual inspections for consideration.

**Agenda Item 6 (j) – Welcome Back Fund** – Quotes will be presented for the works proposed and accepted as part of the Welcome Back Fund grant application, namely restoration of the traditional fingerpost sign at the junction of Lower Lane/Green Lane as well as for tidying the area in front of the War Memorial in Chinley and the seated entrance area to Squirrel Green.

**Agenda Item 6 (k) – Newsletter** – The Autumn/Winter 2021 edition of the parish newsletter is currently being printed ready for distribution. As per the email sent to all councillors, this is the first newsletter since Spring, due to the Community Centre consultation newsletter in between, and there were quite a number of articles submitted and as a result it has gone to 16 pages of A5. The council previously resolved 3 editions of 12 pages at £360 per edition. This longer edition will cost £460 but as there will only be one further edition in this financial year rather than two it will be under budget overall. The invoice will be presented for approval at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 6 (l) – Printer** – A quote will be presented to replace the printer in the Parish Room. £200 is included in the budget. Additional funding beyond £200 to be considered.

**Agenda Item 6 (m) – Community Association Request** – The Community Association have made a request for additional bunting out of their annual budgeted allocation. This has been purchased from Amazon at a cost of £83.60 plus VAT. Due to the 30 day payment terms this payment was set up by the Clerk and released by the Vice Chairman in September. This approval to be ratified.

16 September 2021