

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 – November 2017

Agenda Item 6 (c) – Chinley Playground Project – An article has gone out in the Winter newsletter to publicise that plans for a new playground in Chinley are in the early stages. A few comments have been received and we now need to discuss how we take forward a consultation.

Agenda Item 6 (d) – Seating/benches in the Parish – Phil Manford has submitted an invoice for treatment of four of the ten benches identified in the bench audit. The invoice also includes one path sweep at Buxworth. This expenditure needs to be approved. Cllr Drabble to update us on the bench at New Smithy and any costs associated with repairing it.

Agenda Item 6 (e) – Tree Survey – The tree survey report has now been circulated. I am awaiting a quote from Mark Appleby to carry out these works which will hopefully be available for approval at the November meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (f) – Grounds Maintenance – The General Purposes Group have met to discuss the Grounds Maintenance tender for 2017/18. An update will be provided at the meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (g) – Christmas 2017 – Arrangements are all in place for the parish Christmas trees. The trees are due to be delivered on Thursday 23rd November and will be erected and lights installed on Friday 24th and Monday 27th November in time for the Christmas Lights Switch On events in Chinley on Monday 4th December at 7pm and in Buxworth on Friday 8th December at 6pm. Last meeting we resolved to approve a donation of £50 for Friends of Buxworth School (FOBS) towards refreshments. However having spoken to the headteacher of Buxworth School the refreshments are not provided free of charge like they are in Chinley. A Christmas market is held after the Lights Switch On as a fundraising event for FOBS. We need to confirm that we still wish to make this donation of £50 to FOBS. Furthermore a cheque was written to FOBS last year for the same amount and this cheque has not yet been cashed. The headteacher at Buxworth School has no knowledge of ever receiving this cheque and so we need to decide whether to re-issue it or cancel it as refreshments were not provided free of charge last year either. We also need to consider what type of tree we would like for the Parish Room window. Stanway & Hallows have quoted £25 for a 4 foot pre-lit artificial Christmas tree. Alternatively we could purchase a real tree locally. It is understood that a real tree was purchased last year locally but there is no record of this expenditure.

Agenda Item 6 (h) – Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Agreement 2017/18 – I have met with Tony Brackenbury to better understand the works required on Footpath 30. Whilst we were on site the landowner came over to discuss options with us. He is happy for any work to be carried out on his land without any further permissions. I have met with one contractor so far and am awaiting for his quote to identify what work can be done with the Minor Maintenance Scheme money. This should be available at the meeting. I am also looking to get a further quote and will hopefully be able to provide this information at the meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (i) – Grit bins – We have received one request to fill the grit bin on Dolly Lane near the Cattery via the online contact form. Cllr Drabble has done an audit of our grit bins to establish fill levels (according to previous documentation there are 8 grit bins in total). There was some confusion over whether the Parish Council had responsibility over all of these bins but I have been in touch with DCC and it would appear we are responsible for 9. The DCC list and our list

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don't entirely match up so I will investigate further and update with a full and accurate list at the meeting. In the meantime Chapel Tool Hire have been around and topped up the bins that Cllr Drabble had identified. We have an invoice for £200 plus VAT to approve. Please note that no grit bins were filled last year and six of the eight bins needed partially or fully filling. Further to this we have had a request from Diana Guthrie to install a grit bin on the unnamed road between The Wash and New Smithy. Apparently DCC place a salt heap along this road each year but as it gets driven over, parked on and combined with the rain there is often none left when it is required. She believes if it was stored in a grit bin it would be better protected for when it is required.

Agenda Item 6 (j) – s137 Funding Requests – Further to advertising in the newsletter, to date we have had two requests for funding. The first request to consider is for a donation towards rugs and musical instruments for a new baby and toddler music class that has started in Chinley. The second request is from Chinley Primary School PTA who are hoping to purchase some chicken hatching equipment. Further requests may also come in before the meeting.

Agenda Item 6 (k) – Buxworth Broadband – BT have now come up with a more cost effective way of installing Fibre to the Premises in Buxworth. They could connect approximately 150 households for £9630.75 and no formal survey would be required. Due to this much reduced cost, spanning more households, Emma Makarova and Dianne Davies are going to discuss with Digital Derbyshire whether they would fund it. If Digital Derbyshire won't and they are going to continue down the route of collecting money from the householders DALC have taken legal advice on our behalf and said that they don't believe it is in our power to make the necessary expenditure. BT have provided contact details of other parish councils that have acted as contracting bodies in a similar situation so that we can establish what legal advice they were given, if any. A further update will be provided at the meeting if necessary.

Agenda Item 6 (l) – Chinley Stores – It has been brought to our attention that Chinley Stores is up for sale and so far no buyer has come forward. There is concern in the village about the impact of losing this facility should it close down. A discussion would be useful to identify any ways that we could help facilitate the provision of a village grocery store.

Agenda Item 8 (b) – WaterPlus bill – A letter was received from WaterPlus advising us that they didn't send a scheduled bill for water services recently and that payment was taken by Direct Debit without prior notification in October. Since this payment has not therefore been agreed prior to payment we need to retrospectively agree the payment as part of October's accounts payable.

Agenda Item 8 (c) – nPower renewal – The fixed term contract with nPower for electricity supply to the Parish Room comes to an end on 16 January 2018. Renewal prices are as follows: Daily standing charge 56.88 pence per day. This remains unchanged. Prices per kWh are 18.60 pence on a one year deal, 17.60 pence on a two year deal and 16.60 pence on a three year deal. Please note quotes are only valid on the day they are given so there is a chance the prices may go up. The current price paid is 16.06 pence per kWh. A request for a free smart meter has been made.

Agenda Item 8 (f) – Finance Group meetings – Provisional dates have been set for two meetings of the Finance Group and/or other interested members. On Monday 11 December at 7:30pm we will be meeting to discuss banking arrangements including online provision. On Monday 15 January at 7:30pm we will be meeting to discuss the budget.