

BEDSTONE AND BUCKNELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 4 August 2009

PRESENT

Mr T Hughes (Chairman), Mr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Mr C Carter, Mr C Savery, Mrs F Hughes, Mrs B Sharpe, Mr P Davies, Mrs K Law. Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.

6 members of the public.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr Graves asked whether there were any plans to discuss the Sustainable Community Strategy, the consultation exercise would end on 30 September. Mr Graves suggested an open meeting for a full community response. The Chairman said this would be discussed at the next UC meeting.

Tourism signs at The Turnpike. A site meeting had been held on 13 July, following which estimates had been received from Herefordshire Council for various signs which would be acceptable, the costs varied between £302.77 and £774.57. Clerk to supply copies to Mr Wright, who would canvass the opinion of local traders.

Mr Cornes asked if anyone knew the exact nature of the environmental study which was taking place on the river. No information was available. It appeared a further survey would take place on 7 August.

Mr Hartin said this was nothing to do with Shropshire Council's survey of the bridges last month.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr W Davies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Carter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in his invoice to be submitted under "Finance".

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 7.7.09

Agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

Allotments. Mrs Fraser tabled a report of progress so far, and also a draft terms of agreement regarding the land in Weston Road.

Two other pieces of land were under consideration: one area by the river, which may not be big enough, and there was a problem with the access.

Another piece of land may be for sale, and Mrs Fraser was seeking grant funding. Half a pole per allotment would be required and 12 people had expressed an interest in taking on an allotment.

Coronation Oak. Mr Savery said nothing had been heard from Ms Reedy, which could mean that nothing had been heard from Defra. The condition of the oak tree was something that would have to be managed rather than cured.

Tourism signs at The Turnpike. Dealt with in the Open Meeting.

Salt bins at Bedstone. Clerk to contact Highways at Shropshire Council again.

ROADS

Proposed new street lights. Awaiting estimates from Central Networks.

Drainage in Weston Road/Tyndings. Nothing to report at present. The Chairman said Weston Road needed widening at the top end opposite the new houses, rather than further along.

Hedge along Bedstone Road. Mr Chris Fisher (Mr Martin's boss) from Highways in Craven Anns had been out to inspect the problem, but nothing had yet happened. It was considered the overhang was particularly bad for cyclists.

Vehicle Activated Signs Policy. As Mr W Davies was unavailable for comment, this would be discussed next time.

PLANNING

There were no applications for discussion, nor any decisions to be reported by the Planning Authority.

PARISH PLAN

Copies of the draft questionnaire had been distributed to members of the Parish Council. Mr Graves reported that the final version would have a more professional appearance, and that completed questionnaires would go direct to the Community Council for Shropshire for collation. Five months would be allowed to complete the questionnaire, and prize winners would be drawn out of the hat (£50, £20 and £10).

Mr Hartin asked whether a meeting would be held when the results had been received back. Mr Graves confirmed this would happen.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman considered that money prizes were not a good idea, it could be construed as bribery and was not an acceptable use of public money. Mr Graves replied that such encouragement was used by other Parish Councils in the

country, and was similar to a raffle. The Chairman did not accept this point but was not supported by the Parish Council as a whole.

All Parish Councillors emphasised that this discussion implied no criticism of the Parish Plan Steering Group, and were much obliged to all members for the considerable work involved in the preparation of the parish plan.

DAFFODIL LANE DEVELOPMENT

Miss Edwards reported that the RoSPA inspections of the play areas had been carried out and the results received. Mr Carter said that several of the items criticised had been dealt with, and he had spoken to Mrs Rachel Eardisley.

Some grant money had been received for new tables at the Memorial Hall.

The Chairman said that the grant money from the LJC had been disappointing.

Mr Hartin said that £20,000 was available for small grants and a further £29,000 for match funding.

FINANCE

Account balances were reported as:

Community account	£14,255.70
(Breakdown not available as the accounts were with the Internal Auditor.)	

Business Base Rate Tracker account	£1,926.39
------------------------------------	-----------

It was agreed unanimously to pay the following:

Npower (energy charge June 09 qtr)	£115.76
Prysmian Cables & Systems (VAT- to be reclaimed)	£73.42
Mr Ray Davies (grasscutting, etc)	£171.90
Playsafety Ltd (play area inspections)	£144.90

Mr Carter left the meeting briefly at this point.

It was unanimously by the remaining Councillors to pay the following:

Carter's Landscaping & Property Maintenance

(maintenance of school garden play area) £320.00

This sum to be drawn from the grant received for the play area.

Trimming churchyard hedges - south side. Chairman had received two quotations, one for £300 + VAT, and the other for £286 + VAT. It was agreed unanimously to accept the second of these, which was from Bucknell Nurseries.

Year End Accounts to 31.3.09 had been returned by the Internal Auditor without comment. Clerk to send to the External Auditor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Centurion Traffic Management letter re: Road Closure at Bucknell Level Crossing from 5pm on Saturday 26.9.09 - 5am on Monday 28.9.09 for essential rail track work. Councillors had no objection to this.

Shropshire Council letter re: Helicopter Noise Liaison Groups. After discussion it was agreed that this was not a problem in the parish.

Shropshire Council letter re: Local Development Framework Consultation, to take place between 10.8.09 and 2.1 0.09.

Shropshire Council letter + enclosed 2 copies of Independent Policy Commission into Primary School Organisation in Shropshire. To Post Office. Mr Hartin said that no primary schools should be closed. It had been decided that money could be saved across all education sectors.

Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014. To Post Office.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Street Light down The Causeway. Chairman had received a complaint that this was shining directly into a parishioner's bedroom, and requested that a larger shade be provided. Clerk to make enquiries.

BT Phone Box. It was hoped that BT could be prevailed upon to clean the phone box, but failing this, it may be possible to pay someone locally to do it.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 September 2009 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

THH/NEA

24.8.09