

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

www.bedstoneandbucknell.org/

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th February 2017 in Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr J Kemp (Chairman), Cllr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Cllr C Savery, Cllr D Cullimore.

Shropshire Councillor N Hartin (late arrival).

Mr M Mead (Shropshire Council).

2 members of the public.

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk).

1 OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr B Sharpe, Cllr F Hughes, Cllr A Faulkner.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As and when required.

4 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3.1.17

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

5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

(a) South West Shropshire LJC. The next meeting was scheduled for this Thursday at Clun, and the Chairman would attend. Mr Mead to write to all Chairmen of Parish Councils on the LJC asking for a £150 contribution. (The maximum grant would remain at £150.) Councils were to be asked to approach local businesses for contributions.

Also on the Agenda were broadband and mobile phone reception as highlighted by the Parish Plan. The extension of the youth grant should be drawn to the attention of the Youth Group working party chaired by Juliet Earp.

(b) Parish Plan Revision Group. Cllr Cullimore presented the finished Plan, which was discussed. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council adopt the revised Parish Plan, seconded by Cllr Savery and agreed unanimously. Chairman to write a formal covering letter to accompany each copy of the Plan. Mr Ian Gilby, Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, to receive a copy.

(c) Bucknell school report. Cllr Hartin reported that there were now 54 pupils on the roll, with 3 expressions of interest, and a possibility of 58/59 pupils at the start of the new school year. Whereas this would help to safeguard the school funding, there was a potential problem with lack of space and staffing. The federation agreement with Clunbury and Newcastle schools continued, but there were new funding arrangements which would adversely affect the schools.

The pre-school presently had 20 pupils with 4 on the waiting list.

The meals arrangement with Bedstone school was working well.

(d) **Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.** The Council was tendering for a new Roads Contractor to start in April 2018 and it was essential that there was equal access to road repairs throughout the county. Finances remained very stretched.

Cllr Hartin was hoping to have a site meeting with Glyn Shaw from Highways, and the Parish Council to discuss various matters.

The trees in Redlake Meadow were causing problems for residents, but it was unlikely that Shropshire Council would take any remedial action.

(e) **Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group.** No report from Miss Edwards, but the Chairman reported that the walnut tree had been planted and an invoice from Bucknell Nurseries for £27.00 had been received. Guards, stake, fencing, etc to be provided by Cllr Davies FOC.

6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:

(a) **Road conditions: (i) Speeding through the village.** Nothing to report at present.
(ii) Drainage on The Mynd. Ian Martin, Highways, had confirmed that the remedial action was still in the future works programme.

(b) **Street lighting: (i) Remaining failed lights.** Clerk to report the Parish Council lights to Highline. **(ii) Failed Shropshire Council lights.** Cllr Hartin asked the Clerk to forward information re: these. It was suggested that the Parish Council take on the Shropshire Council lights, but after discussion this was rejected by Councillors. **(iii) Failed street light at The Causeway.** Chairman said that the light unit had burned out, and Highline proposed replacing it with an LED which would also involve reducing the height of the column. After discussion it was unanimously agreed that this be done.

Meeting afternote: Replacement street light on Old Post Office. A quorum of Councillors decided that this be replaced at the Parish Council's expense in preference to pursuing the culprit through the Courts. Highline would provide the new street light and Western Power would connect to the mains supply.

(c) **Pathways issues.** None.

(d) **Other open space issues: (i)** More dog waste bags were required at the garage. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman obtain these, approximate cost to the Parish Council £20.00.

(ii) Shropshire Council's play area at Chestnut Meadow. Parish Councillors were reluctant to make an expression of interest as the replacement of play equipment in the future could be expensive. **(iii) Allotments.** Contacts for Bucknell Allotment Association were: Chair - Adrian Lewis 01547 530576 and Secretary - Jim Hughes 01547 530077. These contact details to go on the website.

7 ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD

(a) **Steps to Chapel Lawn Road.** The report from the Diocesan Advisory Committee following the recent visit agreed that the steps needed work, but suggested that this be done by relaying the steps, coating with a resin bonding material to reduce slipping, and installing two new handrails. There was little that could be done about the gate, although a warning notice posted inside could warn of the danger. Such

works could be considered as repair and routine maintenance not affecting historic material and could be carried out without the need for either a Faculty or planning permission. Chairman suggested a soft-close spring for the gate. Cllr Savery had notified the Bedstone church wall contractor and asked for a quotation.

- (b) **Churchyard trees.** Bucknell Nurseries had carried out a survey and recommended remedial action. Another quotation to be sought.
- (c) **Gate on sloping path.** This was always left open and it was now rotted through. The suggestion was that it should be removed but Cllrs to check first.

8 PLANNING:

There were no applications for discussion, nor any decisions to be reported by planning authority.

9 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:

- (a) **Internal Financial Audit for December 2016 quarter.** Clerk and Cllr Savery to meet out of committee to complete this.

10 COUNCIL FINANCE:

- (a) **Account balances were reported as:**

Community (current) account	£6,482.32	
Business Premium account	£10,961.75.	
Clerk and Cllr Cullimore to check whether there were any expenses outstanding for		Parish Plan.

Incoming:

Transparency Grant	£1,415.00.
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- (b) **It was unanimously agreed to pay the following:**

Ms N Adams (salary January)	£251.34
HMRC (PAYE January)	£63.00
npower (3rd/last payment of arrears)	£196.56
	(includes £9.36 VAT)
npower (energy charge Oct/Nov)	£163.73
	(includes £7.80 VAT)
Mr R Davies (grasscutting etc)	£228.00
The Really UK Co Ltd (Parish Council laptop)	£350.00
Bucknell Nurseries (walnut tree)	£27.00
	(includes £4.50 VAT)
Crucial Crew (donation: Bucknell school)	£50.00.

Bedstone school. A request for Crucial Crew donation for 10 children from Bedstone school had been received, this would be £100.00. After discussion it was decided that the Parish Council should not fund a private school. Chairman to speak to the Crucial Crew organiser.

- (c) **Settlement of account made out of committee.** Mr R Davies had provided a timesheet between meetings and a cheque for £285.00 was paid to him. This was approved by all Councillors present.

(d) Forward budget plan against expenditure to date. To be tabled next time.

11 CORRESPONDENCE:

Spotlight leaflets for February. Distributed to those present.

Email from Shropshire Council asking whether the parish has a Tree Warden. After discussion it was decided this was not necessary.

Notice re: Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum - land management post-Brexit, 27.2.17.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

13 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th March 2017 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

JK/NEA

16.2.17