

# Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2016  
in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

## **PRESENT**

Mr J Kemp (Chairman), Mr C Savery, Mrs B Sharpe, Mrs F Hughes.  
Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.  
5 members of the public.  
Mrs N Adams (Parish Clerk)

## **1 OPEN DISCUSSION**

Miss Edwards said the street light at the Bedstone Road end of Dog Kennel Lane was still out. Clerk had reported this several times and would give the Contractor's contact details to the Chairman.

Also Miss Edwards mentioned that weeds along the riverbank in the narrow section of The Causeway were very overgrown. Clerk said this path had been adopted by Highways. Chairman to speak to Mr Ian Martin.

Mr Bates asked whether any more dog waste bags had been purchased. Chairman replied that the new supply was at the garage. Mr Bates suggested that notices needed to be put on the boards, and that campers from the Baron of Beef site should be made aware of the supply of free bags.

Mrs Fenlon asked whether it was possible to have a 20mph speed limit past the school. The Chairman said this possibility had been explored, but the school was set back from the road and there was little possibility of children running out in front of traffic. A 20mph limit through the narrows past the churchyard wall could be advantageous, Mr Hartin to discuss this with Mr Glyn Shaw from Highways. Chairman said that any parishioner was at liberty to contact the police, Shropshire Council, etc in a private capacity.

Miss Edwards had heard that Shropshire Council would be contacting Parish Councils to ask whether they would be prepared to take responsibility for play areas. Mr Hartin said this would most likely include the one behind Chestnut Meadow.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Mr A Faulkner.

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As and when required.

## **4 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7.6.16**

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

## **5        MATTERS ARISING:**

**St Mary's closed churchyard: steps to Chapel Lawn Road.** Chairman had spoken to the Archdeacon of Ludlow who had advised that there were two alternatives:

- (a)        have the gate opening inwards and rebuild the steps to modern standards, which would require an Architect's opinion, and a faculty would have to be applied for.
- (b)        keep the current arrangement and adjust and repair as necessary, this could be done without a faculty.

There was the possibility of a sliding gate but this would need permissions.

Mr Savery suggested that this could be linked to the narrow road problem, with traffic lights and a one-way priority system.

The gate could be closed off, but this could result in pedestrians walking on the road through the narrows.

Mr Hartin said Glyn Shaw from Highways was coming to the village on 12th July at 10am and would take a look at this situation.

**Land opposite The Tyndings.** Mr Hartin had established that no planning permission was required to fell the trees, and there were no flooding issues. To be removed from the Agenda.

**Disused footpath in Bucknell Wood.** Mr Hartin reported that whilst the parishioner had started the process to have this path reinstated, it would be a lengthy procedure based on historical evidence alone. To be removed from the Agenda.

## **6        TO RECEIVE REPORTS:**

**Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.** Very quiet at the moment. Shropshire Council want to pass various services to Parish Councils, but have not made it clear which services they were talking about. It may be that Parish Councils do not have the power to do these things as SALC had provided legal advice that Precept money must be spent for the benefit of those living within the parish where it is raised.

The Chairman added that, with Councillors Savery and Faulkner, he had attended an LJC meeting on 14th June and he had also attended a SALC Southern Area committee meeting on 30th June. At both these meetings the above legal point had been raised as well as the difficulty in finding out exactly which services would no longer be provided by Shropshire. In some instances conflicting advice had been given. Mr Hartin said that cutting grass verges may be one service to be passed on, but Highways have not been able to provide a definitive answer. Chairman and Mr Hartin to write to Shropshire Council.

**Parish Plan Revision Steering Group.** Mr Cullimore tabled a list of Headlines - Survey results. The whole result was 61 pages long and needed a more detailed study before the Plan could be prepared. There had been a 50% response, ie 169 surveys had been received, 15 of which were from Bedstone. 55% female, 45% male, mainly in the older age groups. The Primary and Secondary school age young people were yet to be surveyed. Chairman asked whether this information could go on the website, Mr Cullimore replied that Mr Rolfe still had work to do before this could happen.

**Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group.** Miss Edwards reported that the grass was continuing to be mown on the playing field. The grass was growing over the paths, it was suggested that a working party be held to cut this back. The changing rooms building was still being rented out. A children's football session had been held recently, possibly a cricket session

also. A car boot sale was to be held to raise money for the Bucknell Show.

**Tree to commemorate HM Queen's 90th birthday.** Species still being discussed, possibly walnut or mulberry. Chairman to speak to Bucknell Nurseries.

**South West Shropshire LJC.** Report incorporated above.

## **7 ROADS/STREETSCENE**

**Pot holes** by the railway crossing would be re-done when the road was closed by Severn Trent at the station.

**Broken fence/overgrown path by the footbridge.** Highways were taking action on this.

**Severn Trent** were closing the road at the railway crossing for 7 days from 25th July.

**Damaged street light on Old Post Office.** Nothing to report at present. Clerk said these things tend to take some time.

**Status of The Causeway.** Nothing to report at present.

## **8 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT**

**A Finances Committee** to be set up comprising: Chairman, Clerk and Mr Savery to review and make further arrangements for the implementation of:

Transparency Code/Financial Regulations/Internal Financial Audit/Clerk's Terms & Conditions of Employment.

Letter from Miss Stone complained that the Parish Council was failing to fully comply with all regulations. Councillors considered that great strides had been made towards this end, although there were still some items to be addressed.

The aim was to have all these settled by the September Parish Council Meeting.

**Management of Bank accounts/payment of Clerk's salary by BACS.** Still being investigated with information from other Clerks.

**Assets Register.** This was discussed and updated, and will be put on the website with the locations of the Parish Council-owned street lights.

**Parish Council Vacancies.** There had been no applications within the deadline. Chairman to re-advertise the vacancies with a closing date end July. A short Parish Council meeting to be held in August to discuss any Applicants, and to pay the Clerk and Ray Davies.

## **9 FINANCE**

**Bank balances were reported as:**

Community (current) account		£17,841.29
Business Premium account		£10,959.01
of which:		
Parish Plan account	£1,834.71	
Parish Council account	£9,124.30.	

**It was unanimously agreed to pay the following:**

Mrs N Adams (expenses)		£107.62
Mrs N Adams (June salary)	)	£251.52
HMRC (PAYE)	)	£62.80
Mr J Kemp (refund for dog waste bags)		£11.65
Ray Davies (grasscutting etc)		£360.00

Bucknell Nurseries (mowing/strimming land at Chapel Lawn Road) (includes £35.33 VAT)	£212.00
Chris Tranter (mowing Daffodil Lane playing field)	£150.00.

**npower outstanding invoices.** Still to be finalised. The Direct Debit Mandate to be discussed in the future.

**Annual Return: accts to year ended 31.3.16.** The Internal Auditor's report was accepted and it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk sign the Annual Governance Statement.

**Expenses to February not recorded in March Minutes.** It was thought two cheques were paid between meetings and not recorded in the Minutes of the next meeting. Clerk to check the accounts to 31.3.16 and report.

**Forward budget plan.** Mr Savery reported that expenses were aligning closely with budget estimates.

## **10 PLANNING**

There were no applications for discussion.

**Application No. 15/01153/FUL.** Amendments to previous application for detached house and garage at Weir House, Bucknell, had not been issued in paper form. This application had subsequently been granted.

There were no further decisions to be reported by planning authority.

## **11 CORRESPONDENCE**

"Spotlight" leaflets for July. Distributed to those present.

There were no circulated emails for discussion.

## **12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**School report.** Mrs Hartin had written a report for this meeting. Mr Hartin to ask her to produce one report at the beginning of each term, and one at the end.

**Items for next Agenda:** Payment of Clerk's salary, Ray Davies's salary, npower bill.  
Review of applications for Parish Councillor vacancies.

## **13 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

A short meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd August 2016 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.