

BEDSTONE AND BUCKNELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4 March 2008

PRESENT

Mr T Hughes (Chairman), Mr C Carter, Mrs F Hughes, Mrs B Sharpe, Mr P Davies, Mrs K Law, District & County Councillor N Hartin.
9 members of the public.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr Hartin reported on the current situation with regard to the move towards a unitary authority, and also the changes to the Wards, each of which would contain around 3,000 electors. This item to be put on the agenda for future updates.

Mrs Jackson said that the river was undercutting the road at Bridge End Lane, and also near the Post Office. Mr Hartin said these two matters were ongoing and that stoning the bank needed Environment Agency approval.

Mrs Jackson also asked what was the current position re: parish plan. Mr Graves tabled a Community Council impact report (available on the internet) and asked that this be taken into account when the parish plan was discussed by the Parish Council. The Chairman read out his written proposal objecting to the creation of a parish plan. Mr Hartin suggested that a public meeting be held to ascertain whether there was any interest in the village. Miss Edwards said that the existence of a parish plan was taken into account by grant funders when any applications were being considered.

A lot of information was available from the scrutiny event which was held recently.

Mr Hartin to arrange the public meeting, and a decision would be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman then closed the open meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Mr W Davies, Mr C Savery.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 5 FEBRUARY 2008

Under "Presentation by Mr Sutton, SSHA", second sentence to commence: "Mr Sutton said that the . . ."

Subject to this correction the Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

Allotments. Mr Graves said that funding may be available for the leasing of a suitable piece of land.

Land opposite The Tyndings. Mr P Davies reported that an 86 year old resident had said that this was common land. Mr Hartin said that the District Council had been unable to trace the owner, but as the parish had had free and beneficial use of the land for more than 12 years it

may be possible for the Parish Council to claim ownership. It was agreed unanimously that this be further investigated.

Village Sewerage System. Mr Hartin said that Philip Dunne MP was now involved, and Severn Trent had agreed to make another site visit and reassess the situation.

Proposed reorganisation of local schools. Mr Hartin reported that this was on hold at present and would be reassessed shortly.

ROADS

Weston Road. Mr Hartin said that it was unlikely this work would be done now, although it was possible it could be surface dressed.

20mph signs past the school. Mr Hartin said Mr Glyn Shaw was aware of the Parish Council's request for advisory signs.

Higgins Bridge. Mr Hartin said the Contractor had used engineering bricks, and that a weathering wash would be applied.

Road in The Tyndings – potholes. Chairman said that as this was SSHA land, it was their responsibility.

PLANNING

Application No. 1/08/20412/TC Tree works (Conservation Area) at The Hall, Bucknell. No objection.

Applications Nos. 1/07/20201/F & 1/07/20202/LB Replacement conservatory at Weir House, Bucknell, had been granted.

Affordable housing for local need. Nothing to report at present.

PARISH PLAN

To be discussed next time

DAFFODIL LANE DEVELOPMENT

Miss Edwards reported that the committee was working towards a multi-use grant application to Advantage West Midlands.

Mrs Edwards said that an Easter Egg Hunt would be held on Easter Sunday, and that the football pitch was being well used, in particular by the Marches Mini Soccer Tournament, when 14 teams of under 11's took part.

A Telly-Talk system was to be installed at the garage, funded by EU money through the County Council. Mrs Edwards explained that this would involve a touch screen, and would provide direct access to the local authorities, CAB, etc.

FINANCE

Play Chest Scheme. The Chairman explained that this would involve the Parish Council in a contribution of £1,000. Funding was still being sought.

Account Balances were reported as:

Community account £414.35
Base Rate Tracker account £2,912.87

It was approved unanimously on a show of hands to pay the following:

Mr Ray Davies (grass cutting etc) £220.80
Mr Ian Bywater (hedge cutting 2007) £20.00
Bedstone & Hopton Castle village hall (hire) approved in July 07, but not paid £6.50
G Bryan Jones (servicing mower) £61.64

Church Clock Appeal. This would provide electric winding gear, and would cost in the region of £6,000+. As the church clock was an important feature of the village, the Chairman proposed a donation of £100. Agreed unanimously on a show of hands.

Office Allowance for Clerk. In line with most Parish Councils, the Chairman proposed an allowance of £100 per year for the use of home and computer. Agreed unanimously on a show of hands.

CORRESPONDENCE

Boundary Committee letter re: Electoral review of the new Shropshire Unitary Authority.
Shropshire County Council letter re: Post Offices in Shropshire. Chairman to attend meeting on 21 May at the Shirehall.
Shropshire Bus timetables. To Post Office.
South Shropshire District Council letter re: Introduction of the Standard Planning Application Form – 1APP.
SCC notice re: Multi-Agency Team Open Days. To Post Office.
CAB letter + enclosures re: Post Office Closures. To Post Office.
Enjoy England brochure: "Celebrate St George's Day".

CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Electricity Pole at the river's edge. The recent floods had now washed behind this pole, and it was leaning badly. This had previously been reported to Central Networks. Clerk to telephone again tomorrow to say this was now urgent.

Archiving old files. The Clerk asked permission to send several boxes of old files (dating from the 1930's) to Shropshire Archives in Shrewsbury for safekeeping. Agreed unanimously.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 April 2008 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.