

# Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2016  
in Bedstone & Hopton Castle village hall at 7.30pm.

## **PRESENT**

Cllr J Kemp (Chairman), Cllr D Cullimore, Cllr B Sharpe, Cllr F Hughes, Cllr C Savery.  
Shropshire Cllr N Hartin.  
3 members of the public.  
Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk).

## **1 OPEN DISCUSSION**

Miss Edwards asked whether it would be possible to have a sign on the T junction in Redlake Meadow stating which house numbers were to the left, and which to the right, as there had been problems with lorries taking the wrong road and having difficulty turning round. One householder had her car damaged by a reversing lorry. Clerk to contact Glyn Shaw at Highways.

Mr Hughes said that the flooding problems at his property on The Mynd had been helped considerably by work carried out by Highways two years ago, but some work was still outstanding, including concrete gullies and a larger sump gully. Clerk to contact Highways and remind them of this work.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Cllr A Faulkner, Cllr W Davies.

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As and when required.

## **4 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4.10.16**

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

## **5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

**(a) Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.** Cllr Hartin reported that there was very little going on at the moment.

**(b) South West Shropshire LJC.** Chairman reported that the main subject for discussion at the meeting on 13.10.16 had been the campaign to save the SpArC centre. Cllr Savery said the problem was that the initial build had not been to the highest standards. Marks & Spencer had funded a pool cover and pva cells on the roof.

Parish Councils within the LJC area were asked to contribute £100, which could then be used for community projects.

SALC had sent notification of the Town & Parish Councils' Forum, next meeting scheduled for Thursday 24th November at 10am.

**(c) Parish Plan Review Group.** Cllr Cullimore said that the draft had been amended to avoid implied criticism of the shops within the parish. Recommended actions for getting things done could firstly

involve local volunteers to sort the problems. An open meeting would be held on 22nd November in the memorial hall to discuss the draft plan. Mathew Mead could be invited, also a representative of the police to speak about speeding traffic in the village. This meeting would be advertised on the website, in the newsletter and Chairman to do a flyer which Cllr Hartin would distribute door-to-door.

Mr Jackson had handed over a large map of the parish, this could be used for open meetings.

Cllr Hartin said there would be no youth budget at all as from next year, and Shropshire roads budget would be moving towards a "managed decline".

**(d) Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group.**

Miss Edwards reported that the changing rooms building was still being rented out, and that mowing of the field had been completed for this year. The working party clean-up day was yet to be arranged. The 100 club tickets were now mostly due for renewal and could be purchased from committee members. It was not known whether the walnut tree had been planted to commemorate HM Queen's 90th birthday. Chairman to liaise with Nick Coull.

**(e) St Mary's school report.**

Cllr Hartin tabled a written report stating there were 46 on roll. The school had done very well in National tests with the children scoring above average in each subject; in Key Stage 2 the results in maths put them in the top 1% in the country. Events staged included Joseph & his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, an Open Day, a coffee morning to raise money for MacMillan, and the school Harvest festival. An Advent Fayre was scheduled for Thursday 24th November.

**6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:**

**(a) (i) "Road Narrows" sign in Weston Road.** Clerk reported that Ian Martin, Highways, would replace this as a maintenance item. **(ii) Speeding through the village.** Mr Mike Starr had enquired about a Community Speed Watch scheme. Further investigations to be made. Police representative to be asked to attend the meeting on 22.11.16. **(iii) Potholes to north of the railway crossing.** Cllr Hartin had reported these twice. **Pothole down Oil Mill Lane.** Clerk had reported this.

**(b) Street lamp failures:** **(i)** Damaged lamp on Old Post Office; **(ii)** Parish lights out at Dog Kennel Lane eastern end, Upper House Farm and Causeway; **(iii)** Shropshire Council light out at Chestnut Meadow; **(iv)** Chairman had written a letter to the Chief Executive of Shropshire Council complaining about poor service from the street lighting contractor.

**(c) Pathways issues.** Nothing to report.

**(d) Other public open space issues:** **(i)** Dog waste notices could now be collected from the garage. **(ii)** Overgrown railway hedge by school garden had been reported to Network Rail. **(iii)** School garden play area - work has been completed in accordance with the RoSPA report. **(iv)** Abandoned vehicle in school car park. This had been investigated between meetings and was found to be on private property. **(v)** Highways land in the parish. Clerk to distribute copies of the plan to all Councillors.

**(e) Proposed closure of phone box in Bedstone.** Chairman had written a letter to BT stating the importance of retaining this public telephone.

**7 ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD**

**(a) Meeting with Hereford Diocesan Advisory Committee.** Yet to be arranged.

**(b) Further quotation for work on churchyard steps.** Still awaited.

**8 PLANNING**

**Application Nos. 16/04520/LBC & 16/04519/FUL.** Single storey extension following removal of C20 single storey extension, alterations to access, removal of ground floor bathroom to reinstate original hallway.

Cllr Cullimore declared an interest. After discussion it was agreed to make no comment. Cllr Cullimore would comment in a personal capacity.

There were no decisions to be reported by planning authority.

## **9 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:**

**(a) Implementing the *Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities*.** Almost complete. The Risk Management Register circulated at the last meeting was approved unanimously. Internal Financial Audit: Clerk to redraft the form for Cllr Savery to complete for the last three months. Application for grant for office equipment, etc: Clerk pursuing this.

**(b) Council Financial Regulation.** Clerk to circulate the latest amended version before the next meeting.

**(c) Clerk's Terms & Conditions of Employment.** Completed.

**(d) Relevant paperwork for Cllr Cullimore.** Done.

## **10 COUNCIL FINANCE:**

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

Community current account:		£9,823.54
Business Premium account:		£10,960.38
of which:		
Parish Plan account	£1,006.34	
Parish Council account	£9,954.04.	

**(b) It was unanimously agreed to pay the following:**

Ms N Adams (October salary)	)	£251.34
HMRC (PAYE)	)	£63.00
SALC (Good Councillors' Guides)		£8.80
Bucknell Nurseries (mowing, strimming, hedge trimming)		£265.00
	(includes £44.17 VAT)	
Ray Davies (grasscutting, work on school garden play area, etc)		£293.38
Mr J Kemp (refund for flowers for Terry Powell's funeral)		£50.00
Chris Tranter (mowing Daffodil Lane field)		£150.00.

**(c) npower bills and fixed contract proposal.**

Clerk tabled npower invoices totalling £598.60 which would clear the account up to 22.10.16 and said that only two npower bills had been paid this financial year. There were outstanding charges for the last financial year included in this amount. Councillors considered that more information was required as this was a very large bill. Enquiries could be made re: changing supplier, although the Parish Council lights were an un-metered supply which could complicate matters.

npower had offered a Fixed Contract which would save around £200 per year, but Councillors considered that the outstanding large bill should be investigated first.

**(d) Forward budget plan against expenditure to date.**

Clerk and Cllr Savery had identified some of the differences.

**(e) Incoming:** Western Power Wayleave £21.64.

## **11 CORRESPONDENCE**

Spotlight leaflets for November. Distributed to those present.

Shropshire Hills AONB letter re: Proposed formation of an Independent Conservation Board for the Shropshire Hills AONB. After discussion it was decided that the Clerk send a letter of support. There were no circulated emails for discussion.

**12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman said there were only 5 months until the next Election. Current Parish Councillors needed to think whether they would stand again and/or who in the parish may wish to stand for election. Cllr Sharpe suggested this be mentioned at the open meeting on 22.11.16.

**13 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th December in Bedstone & Hopton Castle village hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28pm.

JK/NEA  
8.11.16