

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2018
In Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr J Kemp (Chairman), Cllr W Davies, Cllr C Savery, Cllr D Cullimore, Cllr C Davies, Cllr S Jones, Cllr N Edwards, Cllr I Owen (Vice Chairman).
Shropshire Cllr N Hartin.
No members of the public.
Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk).

1 OPEN DISCUSSION

The pot holes at the station had been reported to Shropshire Council.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None. Cllr Owen had sent his apologies for late arrival.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As and when required.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2018

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

5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

(a) Shropshire Cllr N Hartin. Shropshire Council were proposing to increase Council Tax by 5.99% with 2% of that reserved for adult social care. A proposal to hold an Inquiry in the imposition of a blanket 20mph in residential areas across Shropshire had been voted out. A consultation on the Council's budget was in progress. Parking charges across Shropshire are to be changed. The Police authority were consulting on a 4% increase; the Fire authority had yet to make a decision. Shropshire Council had purchased a shopping centre in Shrewsbury for £50m as a form of future funding.

(b) South Shropshire LJC and Shropshire Town & Parish Councils Forum. The next meeting date had been changed to 22nd February, Agenda not yet issued. ST&PCF meeting not yet held.

(c) Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group: **(i) quotes for work to complete changing rooms.** An application was being made for funding to complete the changing rooms. **(ii) repairs to play area gate.** Soft closing latch still to be done. **(iii) "No Horses" sign** had been obtained, would be put up soon. **(iv) Further funding streams** were coming out, notably one from Garfield Weston.

6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:

(a) Roads: (i) drainage at Willow Cottage, Mynd. Cllr C Davies had been keeping the soakaway open as Shropshire Highways had not attended. Clerk to write to Ian Martin, Highways. Action: Clerk

(ii) new recycling sign opposite The Baron. Cllr Edwards said that a like-for-like double sided replacement was not available and suggested that two signs back-to-back would suffice. Alternatively she offered to repaint the existing sign. Chairman to remove the sign and decide the way forward with Cllr Edwards.

Action: Chairman/Cllr Edwards

(iii) gritting/salting of paths, etc. Clerk had circulated information from our Insurers, some information to go on the website; Cllr Cullimore to draft something suitable and circulate to all Parish Councillors for comment.

Action: Cllr Cullimore

Additional salt bin at The Causeway. Chairman had contacted Ian Martin, Highways. Cllr Hartin said that owing to financial constraints, nothing would happen on this before April.

(b) Street lighting: (i) failed lights and action taken. Cllr C Davies said that all lights were working except No. 20 at Stonelea. **(ii) light on Old Post Office – unmetered usage refund.** Clerk had not received a reply from npower, but no bills had been sent either. To be removed from Agenda. **(iii) SOX lamps phase out.** After discussion it was decided that the failed lamp at Stonelea be replaced by an LED light installation. Action: Clerk

(c) Other pathways issues: (i) grass triangle by the ford at Seabridge Meadow. Chairman had attended a site meeting with Ian Martin, Highways, who had been shocked at the state of this area, including the fact that vehicles were at risk of ending up in the river. Mr Martin suggested a raft of improvements including alterations to the tarmac roadway and the installation of verge markers around the grass triangle to discourage car parking/turning, this cannot be started until April for financial reasons. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Ms Reckless, who had drawn attention to this matter, and informing her of the rectification work which is to be done.

Action: Clerk

(d) Other open space issues. (i) common land at Chapel Lawn Road: (1) new notice board. Cllr C Davies had managed to obtain two quotes: one made from marine ply with metal posts at a cost of £3,261.93 + VAT, or £3,043.88 with ordinary ply and softwood posts. The other quote was from a local man for £786 but Councillors considered that some minor alterations were needed. Cllr C Davies to obtain an updated quotation and email it round. Mr Hornsey had kindly offered to donate £600 towards the cost of the new notice board and it was thought a suitable plaque should be included. Action: Cllr C Davies

(2) replacement recycling sign. Already dealt with. **(ii) lime tree on common land by Old School House.** Cllr W Davies said the tree was not in danger of falling but would contact two contractors to quote for removing the dead wood and possibly lower the height of the tree. Action: Cllr W Davies

(iii) Bert Green memorial seat on the Causeway. The approved seat with brass plaque had been ordered from Corido. Clerk to establish delivery date. Action: Clerk

7 ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD

(a) Flagpole. Cllr Cullimore reported that contributions had been received to cover the cost of the new flagpole. The first stage (foundations etc) had been done. Someone else had offered to pay for flags. The old metal base, etc had been removed by local man George Wilkie, who had asked for a payment of £20 for this work. Agreed unanimously. Cllr Cullimore to continue to monitor this project. Action: Cllr Cullimore

8 PLANNING:

Application No. 17/05987/FUL: Four new dwellings, vehicular access and parking adjacent Doukel, Chapel Lawn Road, Bucknell, had been received between meetings and a response in support had been communicated to the planners.

Application No. 17/06136/FUL: Alterations to roof to create first floor accommodation and single storey extension at Hillberry, Chapel Lawn Road, Bucknell. No objection. Action: Clerk

There were no decisions to be reported by planning authority.

9 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:

(a) Parish Council Election costs. Chairman said that payment of the approximate £2,000 appeared to be unavoidable. An invoice would be sent in April.

(b) Vacancy for new website manager and revamp of site. Deferred to the end of the meeting,

(c) Further application for Transparency Fund Grant. Chairman to finalise this with SALC and the application form would be retrospectively approved at the next Parish Council meeting. Action: Chairman

(d) Parish Council meeting reports in Bucknell Newsletter. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman write to Peter Baron, Chair of Bucknell Newsletter. Action: Chairman

(e) Parish Council Agendas. These appear on the FaceBook page, but not on the website.

(f) Bucknell school report. Cllr C Davies read out a comprehensive report from Mrs Hartin, a copy of which to be appended to these Minutes. A copy also to be put on the website. The Chairman asked Cllr Hartin to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to Mrs Hartin.

10 COUNCIL FINANCE:

(a) Account balances were reported as:

Community (current) account		£7,902.59
Business Savings account		£10,963.67
Of which:		
Parish Plan account	£78.14	
Transparency Grant fund	£752.53	
Youth Group	£927.92	
Parish Council account	£9,205.08.	

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

Bridgnorth & South Shropshire Crucial Crew (donation)		£40.00
Ms N Adams (salary – January 18))	£260.55
HMRC (PAYE – January))	£65.20
Ray Davies (grounds maintenance: January + backpay to November 2017)		£276.40.

(c) Youth Group funding request. This was to contribute towards the proposed summer and autumn activities. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would like to support the Youth Group but the finances needed clarification. There were also problems with transferring the ring fenced money in the Parish Council bank account as this was grant money and its use would need to be justified. Chairman to contact Mathew Mead.

Action: Chairman

The Youth Group also planned to create a wildflower meadow and asked whether the Parish Council could suggest a suitable piece of land.

(d) Forward budget plan. Cllr Savery said that the finances were on course to have a surplus of between £12,000 and £13,000 at the end of the financial year in accordance with the plan.

11 CORRESPONDENCE:

Further letter from Mrs Palmer. Cllr Edwards declared an interest. Mrs Palmer wanted a meeting with the Chairman and Clerk to establish why the Parish Council was unable to help her. Chairman to discuss this with Cllr Hartin.

Action: Chairman

“Spotlight” leaflets for February. Distributed to Councillors present.

Chairman had laminated posters for notice boards and these were distributed.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

13 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th March 2018 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Cllr Jones left the meeting at this point.

9(b) Vacancy for new website manager and revamp of site

Cllr Edwards said that six quotes had been received, two of which were very close in price. The cheapest was not as clear and user friendly as the next cheapest. After discussion it was agreed that this second cheapest quote be pursued as clarification was needed on a couple of points, namely what was the business continuity plan, and were there any provisions for other people to post on the site.

Action: Cllr Edwards

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.32pm.

