

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Initial Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th May 2017
in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT

Cllr J Kemp, Cllr I Owen, Cllr N Edwards, Cllr W Davies, Cllr D Cullimore, Cllr S Jones,
Cllr C Davies.

Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.

20 members of the public.

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk).

Cllr Kemp (as then Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining that it combined the initial meeting of the newly elected Parish Council with the Annual Parish Assembly. He then handed over to the Parish Clerk to conduct the election for the 2017 Chair.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Kemp was proposed by Cllr C Davies and seconded by Cllr Owen.

Cllr C Davies was proposed by Cllr Kemp, but declined the post.

Cllr Kemp was therefore re-elected unanimously.

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Owen was proposed by Cllr Edwards and seconded by Cllr C Davies.

Cllr C Davies was proposed by Cllr C Kemp, who declined the post.

Cllr Owen was therefore re-elected unanimously.

3 INTRODUCTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Councillors introduced themselves and stated their particular aims and interests.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

There was no representation from Bedstone where there were two vacancies for Parish Councillors. Applications for co-option would close on 26th May.

5 INTRODUCTION OF NEW SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

The Chairman introduced Cllr Hartin, who summarised the composition of the new Shropshire Council, and also how this impacted at Parish level. He noted additionally that the Police and Crime Commissioner would take over the Fire Authority.

6 PARISH PLAN:

Youth Group. Chairman said that a Youth Club was starting in the village, and representatives would be present at 8.15pm to give a report.

Dementia-friendly village. Mrs Hay-Campbell explained what was involved in achieving such status, starting with a public meeting in July to gauge interest in the parish.

The Chairman suspended the Parish Council meeting at this point and invited questions on

matters of concern.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr Hughes asked when the new Roads Contractor would be taking over, as work by the previous Contractor was not up to standard on occasions. Cllr Hartin said that Ringway had underestimated its costs, and a new Contractor was in the process of being appointed. Following a question by Cllr Owen, Cllr Hartin undertook to find out the extent that the new contract included street lighting maintenance.

Mr Hay-Campbell asked about the planning process in general terms, which the Chairman explained, together with Cllr Hartin.

The possibility of a 20mph speed limit through the village was raised, but Cllr Hartin said this would not be possible without the support of the police, which was unlikely to be forthcoming. Cllr Cullimore suggested that an advisory limit of 20mph be implemented.

Mr Fairclough welcomed the new Parish Councillors and asked that they represent all parishioners. He specifically mentioned the grass area opposite the Baron of Beef: the illegible recycling sign and the proposal to install posts to stop vehicles parking on the grass. Mr Fairclough had taken it upon himself to repair ruts caused by vehicles. The Chairman said that main thing was to improve communications between parishioners and the Parish Council.

In answer to a question from the public, the Chairman detailed the history of the damaged street light on the Old Post Office in Chapel Lawn Road, and the Parish Council's attempts to restore this light with the substantial costs being borne by the Company whose lorry driver damaged it.

Revd Ballard asked whether the Community Cars scheme could be expanded to include a Good Neighbours scheme where, for example, minor repairs could be done for parishioners. Mrs Hay-Campbell replied that this had been tried in the past, but it had been construed as taking paid work from local tradesmen. There were also insurance implications.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

7 PARISH PLAN:

Youth Group. Annie Dummer and Chris Bennell reported that the first Youth Group meeting had been held when a film was shown and pizza and popcorn provided. Twenty-seven boys and girls had attended, aged between 11 and 16 years, from Bucknell and neighbouring villages. Ten adults were helping to run the youth group and were being DBS checked and First Aid trained at the moment. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday 5th June. Future events, to be held in the Memorial Hall on Mondays, included a music night, games evening and a barbeque. The Chairman thanked Annie and Chris, and especially Juliet Earp for setting up the youth group.

8 NEW COUNCILLOR GOVERNANCE ISSUES:

Acceptance of Office/Declarations of Interest forms. Completed by all Parish Councillors present.

SALC Information for Councillors. Clerk distributed copies to all Councillors.

New Councillors. Clerk to supply Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and

Good Councillor's Guide.

SALC Training Courses: "Fundamentals for Councillors". Cllr Edwards and Cllr C Davies to attend on 29th June. Cllr Jones to attend on 3rd July. Clerk to book them in and provide details.

9 COMMITTEE & OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERSHIP:

South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee. Chairman to continue to represent the Parish Council.

Shropshire Town and Parish Council Forum. Possibly the Clerk to attend these meetings.

10 LEAD COUNCILLORS:

The Chair was grateful for several offers made by Councillors. He would circulate a listing of subjects with a view to finalising leads at the June meeting.

11 FINANCE:

Appointment of Cheque Signatories. Presently Cllrs Kemp, Owen and W Davies. It was unanimously agreed to reappoint all three en bloc.

Invoices to pay: Deferred until the next meeting.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Item for next Agenda: Co-option of two Bedstone Councillors.

13 DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

The Chair undertook to prepare an updated listing for Notice Boards. As things stood, the November, December, January and February meetings would be held at Bedstone.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th June 2017 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Cllr Owen to arrive late (by 8pm).

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

JK/NEA
23.5.17