

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2017 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr J Kemp (Chairman), Cllr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Cllr C Savery, Cllr S Jones,
Cllr N Edwards, Cllr D Cullimore.

Shropshire Cllr N Hartin.

5 members off the public.

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk).

1 OPEN DISCUSSION

Churchyard. Mr Bates thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the PCC for the reconstruction of the churchyard steps. The flagpole in the churchyard had rotted half way up and needed to be replaced, possibly in fibreglass, the work to be done after the Remembrance Service in November. Funding was available from the church and a local benefactor. Mr Bates asked whether the Parish Council would consider making a contribution. Cllr Owen said the Parish Council already contributed considerably to the churchyard and suggested trying to get sponsorship and contributions from local businesses for the flag pole. The Chairman asked Mr Bates to obtain specification and quotations in time for the next Parish Council meeting.

War memorial. Mrs Meredith tabled photographs of the new memorial as a work in progress. There would be a service of dedication at 10.30am on 11th November. Clerk asked that Mr Protheroe's bill be made out to the Parish Council in order to assume ownership for the parish. Mrs Meredith said that fund raising would continue with a Tea Dance on 22nd October in the Memorial Hall.

Dog waste bin, Weston Road. Mrs Meredith said there were 27 dogs in Weston Road plus those with walkers, etc, and asked for another dog bin to be installed. Clerk said there were problems with extra bins and as yet had not had a response to her email of 14th August to the Streetscene department at Shropshire Council about a new dog bin opposite the Post Office. She would chase them up with this additional demand.

Common land opposite the Baron. Mr Fairclough thanked the Parish Council for reconsidering the issue of bollards round the green. This project had been led by Cllr Carol Davies. The Chair pointed out that the Parish Council had not formally made a final determination on this matter.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Davies, Cllr W Davies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As and when required.

4 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 4.7.17

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

5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS:

(a) Shropshire Cllr N Hartin. Not much had happened in August. A Scrutiny meeting had been held recently to discuss the proposed merger of the Police and Fire Service. The recommendation had been that the Council object.

A Planning meeting had been held but South Shropshire had not been involved.

(b) SW Shropshire LJC & Shrops Town & Parish Councils Forum. Chairman said that no meeting of the Shrops T&PCF had been held recently. The Minutes of the last LJC meeting had not yet been circulated.

(c) Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group. Cllr Edwards tabled three quotations for fencing + a new gate at the playing field, and declared an interest in one of them. Cllr Owen recommended that the specification for the gate be approved by RoSPA. This matter to be discussed next time, together with a possible contribution from the Parish Council, two proposals were suggested: 50% of the cost and 100% of the cost.

Cllr Edwards was still trying to obtain quotations to complete the changing rooms.

(d) Bucknell school. Cllr Hartin reported that the Federation was still moving ahead. There had been 11 starters at the playschool this time.

6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:

(a) Road conditions: **(i) verge cutting by Willow Cottage.** It was understood this had been done. **(ii) overgrown vegetation on the Causeway.** This had been cut back. **(iii) overhanging trees at Woolacombe.** Clerk had written to the householder asking that these be cut back. **(iv) parking at Hornsey Steels.** There were problems with residential parking which made access to the factory difficult. This was being dealt with by Glyn Shaw from Highways. **(v) speeding - 20mph event seminar.** Cllr Cullimore to attend.

(b) Street lights: **(i) Damaged street light on Old Post Office.** Western Power Division had been instructed to replace this. Clerk was making enquiries about a refund of electricity charges from the date this light failed. **(ii) Shropshire Council/Developer in Chestnut Meadow.** Clerk had not received a reply to her email of 25th July and would liaise with Cllr C Davies and report on this next time.

(c) Pathways issues: **(i) bollards down the Causeway and painting of seats.** Chairman reported that this had been done and he had written to Ray Davies to thank him. **(ii) grasscutting by street light at the Chapel Lawn Road side of the ford.** Clerk to ask Ian Martin to add this into his grasscutting programme.

(d) Other open space issues: **(i) Common land at Chapel Lawn Road (1) posts around the green.** Chairman explained that the proposal to put posts in had been prompted by the parking of cars and a skip, which caused damage to the grass. However there had been objections from several people including two Parish Councillors. No official motion had been submitted to withdraw the proposal. Cllr Edwards suggested that the situation be monitored. The Chairman said he would produce suitable notices discouraging parking on the green also a paragraph

would be put in the newsletter. After discussion this was agreed by Councillors present. **(2) replacement notice board.** Three differing quotations had been received. After discussion the Clerk was asked to redraw the specification for approval by Councillors by email and then send out for further quotations. **(ii) lime tree on common land by The Old School House.** Cllr W Davies had examined the tree and although it was sound, he suggested that it be reduced. This would need to be referred to the Tree Officer at Shropshire Council. **(iii) horse chestnut tree on the corner of Dog Kennel Lane.** Cllr W Davies recommended that this be referred urgently to the Tree Officer as he considered it was dangerous. Cllr Edwards asked whether a tree in a private garden could be removed or whether it required planning permission. Cllr Owen said it depended on the size of the tree, and Cllr Edwards was referred to Cllr W Davies. **(iv) school play area.** Some trees on the school's ground were overhanging. Cllr C Davies to contact the school. **(v) river management: (1) pollution.** Mrs S Fairclough, River Officer, had been informed that this had been reported to the Environment Agency, who stressed that all incidents must be reported. **(2) japanese balsam.** Mr and Mrs Fairclough had pulled out and disposed of most of the vegetation, but had asked the Environment Agency to deal with the rest, unfortunately the Agency had just cut the balsam and allowed it to float down the river. Mrs Fairclough had told the Environment Agency of this.

(3) gravel bank above the bridge. Cllr Owen said this needed to be removed as the second arch was getting blocked. Clerk to ask the Environment Agency to dredge the top side and bottom side of the bridge. **(vi) verge management meeting at Edgton.** Cllr Cullimore had attended on behalf of the Parish Council and reported that this was an initiative to encourage wild flowers, butterflies and other insects. However this was not suitable for this parish. **(vii) railway fences.** There had been a rumour that pedestrian and other crossings were to be fenced off by Network Rail. Clerk had established that no crossings were to be closed, but there was a programme to replace lineside fencing. This would be like-for-like, generally "country fencing" which would be 4' high, 5-strand tension wire. They do use metal palisade fencing, but this is expensive so only used when high security is needed.

7 ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD

- (a) Steps to Chapel Lawn Road.** Completed satisfactorily.
- (b) Proposed war memorial.** Dealt with during the Open Meeting.
- (c) PCC M&G Charibond Charity.** The sum of £3,134.25 had been passed to the Parish Council.

8 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Cllr Cullimore tabled an information sheet with suggestions for the contents of an Emergency Box, Evacuation checklist, and useful contact details. Councillors were asked to pass him any further comments. Cllr Jones undertook to format/design the information into a handy-sized retainable publication and come up with some costed options for consideration at the next meeting.

9 PLANNING:

Application No. 17/03579/FUL. Reinstatement of existing mid terrace bungalow following extensive fire damage. Supported.

Various applications for tree works at Bedstone. Shropshire Council had no objection to these, and most of the tree works had been completed.

10 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:

(a) Training seminars. Cllr Cullimore to Attend "Be a Better Councillor" on 7.9.17. Chairman to attend "Councils as Employers" on 6.11.17. Clerk to attend "The Clerk's Year" on 20.10.17.

(b) Personnel committee meeting. Cllr Cullimore said that the Committee had accepted the Terms of Reference for the Clerk and had drawn up a list of objectives for the post. A short meeting would be held following this meeting to formulate objectives for the Clerk.

(c) Team building session. Cllr Jones to come up with some ideas.

(d) Lead responsibilities. Chairman distributed a revised list of Councillors' Topic Leads. To be discussed next time.

11 COUNCIL FINANCE:

(a) Bank balances were reported as:

Community (current) account £13,858.73
(includes £3,134.25 from PCC)

Business Base Rate Tracker account £10,961.75
of which: Parish Plan £78.14
Transparency Grant fund £1,065.00
Youth Group £1,166.00
Parish Council account £8,652.61.

(b) The following had been approved and paid between meetings:

npower (energy charge) £321.12 (£305.83 + £15.29 VAT)
SALC (training fees) £75.00
Mark Disley (churchyard steps) £4,161.24
RoSPA (play area inspections) £159.60 (£133.00 + £26.60 VAT)
Highline Electrical (cemetery light repair) £124.20 (£103.50 + £20.70 VAT)
Ray Davies (grasscutting + strimmer line) £345.99
Teme Valley Tractors (new mower) £411.60 (£343.00 + £68.60 VAT)
Ms N Adams (salary July) £260.55
HMRC (PAYE) £65.20
Western Power Distribution (new light) £1,489.01 (£1,240.84 + £248.17 VAT).

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

Highline Electrical (light at The Tavern) £134.10 (£111.75 + £22.35 VAT)
Bucknell Nurseries (mowing etc) £359.50 (£299.58 + £59.92 VAT)
Ray Davies (grasscutting, paint, etc) £306.88
Ms N Adams (salary August) £260.75
HMRC (PAYE August) £65.00
Mrs R Mullard-Davies (payroll services) £60.00.

(d) Forward budget plan/internal financial audit

Cllr Savery to circulate latest budget plan.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Spotlight leaflets - distributed to those present
HOWLTA newsletter - to Cllr Cullimore.

(b) Chairman detailed those emails which had been circulated. Email from Shropshire Council re: free trees - to Cllr Savery, possible replacement for Bedstone tree.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Items for next Agenda:

Plinth on The Causeway. Cllr Owen suggested a seat with a memorial plaque to Bert Green who had mown the Causeway for many years as a service to the parish.

Flower bed in the churchyard. The PCC would like to put in a seat at this location.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

JK/NEA

8.9.17