

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2017 in Bedstone and Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT

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

Shropshire Cllr N Hartin

7 members of the public

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk)

1 OPEN DISCUSSION

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Davies back to the Parish Council having recovered from her serious road accident.

Ms Stone said that the Parish Council's decision online re: planning application west of the Tyndings was unclear and queried whether the three-line comment was adequate. Chairman said he considered that the Parish Council's comments were accurate and succinct. The Council's decision would be clarified with Shropshire Council to ensure it was recorded as an OBJECTION, rather than "Neutral".

Action: Clerk

Ms Stone also said that the Agenda was published too late to go on the website, and also that Graham Jackson wanted to relinquish updating the website. Chairman said that the Agenda was sent to Mr Jackson at the same time as it was sent to Parish Councillors. The Chair was aware that Mr Jackson was relinquishing control of websites.

Ms Stone asked why Ray Davies did not salt the Causeway and also said that Mr Davies did not have written instructions. Chairman confirmed that Mr Davies was provided annually with a letter setting out the main duties expected of him as the Council's contractor. This was supplemented as necessary when particular works were required to be undertaken. Responsibility of the Causeway pathway would be clarified with Shropshire Council, though Cllr Owen believed it was Shropshire's responsibility. Chair confirmed that the closed St Mary's churchyard paths were the Council's responsibility. Action:

Chairman

Mr Willson queried whether parishioners were aware of what the Parish Council does and the decisions it makes. The Minutes were put on the website and Facebook page, but no longer in the Post Office for those not IT savvy. Hard copies of the Minutes could be put on the new notice board at Chapel Lawn Road. Cllr Jones said a report could be put in the Newsletter, Ms Stone said this would cost the Parish Council £25 per page.

Mr Sherring reported that the gritter stopped at the forestry road and there were several houses beyond that along Chapel Lawn Road. Clerk to contact Highways and ask whether the gritter could be taken to the edge of the village. Action: Clerk

Mr Cummings said that the hedges had been cut but the trimmings not collected, the consequence was

that his car had suffered two punctures. Chairman said this work was generally contracted out to local farmers. Clerk to contact Highways to ask whether contractors could be instructed to sweep hedge cuttings off the road. Alternatively, the Chair suggested tht the Roadsweeper should be deployed to follow the hedgecutting.

Action: Clerk

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr W Davies

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As and when required.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2017

Cllr Cullimore asked whether Action Points could be added, it was agreed this would be included in the December Minutes. The Minutes were then agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

Action: Clerk

5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS:

(a) Shropshire Councillor N Hartin. The SAMDev Plan which had been adopted in December 2016 was undergoing a review at present.

The pearl mussel situation was quite complicated with Severn Trent's nutrient management plan needing to be monitored for phosphate levels over the next 2 or 3 years before developmenmts of over 10 properties could be considered. It was also not known whether a new sewage treatment plant would be installed, or the present one upgraded.

Chairman asked about youth group funding as it was unfair that Shropshire Council intended to focus on the towns at the expense of rural areas. Cllr Hartin said a decision would be made in the new year.

There was no decision yet on the consultation re: proposal to merge the Fire & Rescue Service and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

(b) South West Shropshire LJC and Shropshire Town & Parish Council Forum. Chairman reported that the LJC meeting had been postponed. The STPCF meeting had been announced with a full Agenda, but the Chairman was unable to attend.

(c) Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group: (i) quotes for work to complete changing rooms. Cllr Edwards was still waiting for the third quote to come in. 'LEADER' funding: Cllr Edwards and the Chair had worked to submit an Expression of Interest form, which had been accepted and a full application now needed to be made. **(ii) repairs etc to play area fences/gate.** The fence repairs had been carried out but the soft closer instructions for the gate were unclear. Chair urged this action to be expedited. Cllr Edwards to speak to Nick Coull. One of the benches needed to be repaired. A "No Horses" sign was required as they were cutting up the turf.

Actions: Cllr Edwards

6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:

(a) Roads: (i) drainage at Willow Cottage, Bedstone. Cllr C Davies reported that both the drain at Willow Cottage and the soakaway above were blocked. To be reported to Highways. **(ii) new recycling sign opposite the Baron.** Since the Chair had not received any form of positive response from Shropshire or Veolia, Cllr Edwards offered to check online for anything suitable.

Action: Cllr Edwards

(iii) White lines on A4113 at the Turnpike. Clerk had reported this to Herefordshire Council, copy to Glyn Shaw, Highways.

(b) Street lighting: (i) light on Old Post Office - unmetered usage refund. Clerk waiting information from npower.

Action: Clerk

(ii) SOX lamps phase out. Clerk to contact Jason Hughes at Shropshire Council to establish whether the new Contractor, Kier, would take on parish lights. A planned and costed phase-in was needed, with Precept implications.

Action: Clerk

(c) Other pathway issues: (i) grass triangle by the ford at Seabridge Meadow. This area was being damaged by car parking/turning. Chair had contacted Ian Martin (Highways) on the basis that this was the responsibility of Shropshire Council.

(d) Other open space issues: (i) common land at Chapel Lawn Road: (1) replacement notice board. Specification had been agreed, quotes were needed.

Action: Cllr C Davies

(2) "No parking" notices were in place. (ii) lime tree on common land by Old School House. No information from Cllr W Davies.

Action: Cllr W Davies

(iii) River management: (1) gravel banks above and below the bridge. Clerk reported that the Bridges & Structures Team had said such clearance would be down to an inch above normal water level, but this work could not be carried out during October to April. The bridge was due for its next General Inspection early next year.

Action: Cllr Hartin

(2) Horses in the river at The Causeway. It was thought these were from a local riding school. Cllr Edwards to contact them.

Action: Cllr Edwards

(iv) The Causeway. (i) proposed Bert Green memorial seat. Cllr Edwards declared an interest. Cllr Owen tabled details of a suitable teak bench that all councillors thought would be suitable. Cllr Savery to check online for like-for-like specifications/prices.

Action: Cllr Savery

(ii) Damaged bollards. Two had been knocked down and were being replaced. Ray Davies to check.

7 ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD

(a) Flagpole. Cllr Cullimore said that the old flagpole had been removed. The local charity (Bucknell Funding) had offered to contribute to its replacement. It was considered they should be formally thanked for this. Cllr Cullimore tabled quotations for new flagpole, wood was prohibitively expensive, other options were aluminium or fibreglass. Cllr Savery suggested checking with owners of local flagpoles where they got theirs.

Actions: Cllr Cullimore

8 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Cllr Jones distributed copies of the A5 leaflet. They would also be sent out with the Newsletter.

There were also some spare leaflets for future use as and when.

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Jones for project leading this to such a successful conclusion.

9 PLANNING:

(a) There were no applications for consideration.

(b) Application No. 17/04441/FUL - kitchen extension at The Fold had been granted.

(c) Shropshire Local Plan Review; and Bishops Castle Place Plan Review. After discussion it was unanimously agreed there should be no change to Bucknell's status in the Local Plan. Bucknell was classified as a Community Hub based on the facilities in the village. Cllr Edwards said that grant applications were aided by the amenities already available in the parish. Separately, Bucknell's entries in the Bishops Castle Place Plan needed some amendments. The Chair's offer that Cllr Cullimore and he should meet with Mathew Mead to make the necessary updated was accepted. Action: Chair & Cllr Cullimore

(d) Planning committee. Cllr Jones said that the appointment of a separate planning committee had been mentioned on a seminar which she attended. Clerk said there was not a sufficient number of planning applications to warrant a separate committee, but would make training material available for Cllr Jones, and possibly Cllrs C Davies and Edwards as well.

Action: Clerk

(e) Public participation. Cllr Cullimore asked whether parishioners only attend Parish Council meetings when planning applications were discussed. Clerk to investigate. To be discussed next time.

Action: Clerk

10 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT

(a) Team building session. Cllr Jones suggested either Friday 8th December or Monday 18th December, both events at the Baron at 7.30pm. After discussion it was decided it should take place on 18th.

All to note

(b) Parish Council Election costs. Nothing to report at present: Action: Chairman

(c) Management of village website. Graham Jackson wanted to stand down from managing the website after many years of building/maintaining this valuable resource. Although Mr Jackson gave his time freely with just a small contribution requested from the Parish Council towards the cost of software, it was considered that website management would probably have to be paid for in the future and quotes should be sought. Cllr Cullimore to put an advert on the Facebook page.

Action: Cllr Edwards

In the interim Cllr Jones to liaise with Mr Jackson for technical issues. Action: Cllr Jones

11 COUNCIL FINANCE:

(a) Account balances were reported as:

Community (current) account		£9,874.89
Business Saver Account		£10,961.75
of which:		
	Parish Plan account	£78.14
	Transparency Grant Fund	£815.03
	Youth Group	£1,062.92
	Parish Council account	£9,005.66.

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

SALC (2 seminars: Clerk and Chairman)	£103.90
Stacie Jones (refund for cost of printing emergency leaflets)	£37.00
Shropshire Youth Asscn (training for youth leaders)	£135.00
N Adams (salary: November)	£260.55

HMRC (PAYE: November)	£65.00
Belmont garage (fuel etc for mower/strimmer)	£114.14 (includes £19.02 VAT)
Ray Davies (grounds maintenance etc)	£336.81
N Adams (expenses July-December)	£212.21.

(c) Forward budget plan.

Cllr Savery said that the budget generally in accord with bank statements. Clerk to email the latest statements to Cllr Savery. Action: Clerk

(d) Proposed AED at Bedstone.

Cllr Savery said that although there was an AED at Bedstone school this was not generally available to the village. It was hoped this would be in place by next June. Funding options were being pursued. Cllr Owen said that in the past the Parish Council had donated £250 towards the provision of an AED.

(e) 2018/19 Precept 'early warning'

Precept discussion document to be available for January meeting. Action: Clerk

Possible expenses to include:

Parish Council Election costs

Possible new street light. Clerk to circulate list of proposed new lights. Action: Clerk

Cllr Cullimore said that residents should be consulted before any new street lights are installed.

Grant for Bedstone AED

(f) Further Transparency Grant.

Clerk had been informed by SALC that a second application could be made and would have figures ready at the next meeting. Action: Clerk

12 CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk and Chairman had received communications (email/telephone/letter) from a Mrs Palmer regarding access to a house in the village. Cllr Edwards declared an interest. Chairman explained what had transpired and said that the Clerk had written advising Mrs Palmer to contact an independent Solicitor. The Council agreed there was nothing for it to be involved in.

Spotlight leaflets for December - distributed to those present.

HOWLTA newsletter. To Cllr Owen.

Email from Cllr C Davies asking if anyone had taken on board the "Dementia Friendly Village" concept now that Mrs Hay-Campbell had moved away. Also could something be arranged for anyone alone at Christmas. Chairman said it was rather late to arrange anything for this Christmas, but these issues could be raised at the May village meeting.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Email from SPArC committee requesting a donation. Clerk to email details before the next Parish Council meeting. Action: Clerk

Cllr Jones had a report from the Youth Group and would email it round. Action: Cllr Jones

Cllr Hartin asked when a school report was required. Chairman said that a report at the start of each term would be sufficient.

Action: Cllr Hartin

14 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th January 2018 in Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.26pm.

JK/NEA
11.12.17