

# Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

www.bedstoneandbucknell.org/

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2017 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

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

Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.

3 members of the public.

Ms N Adams (Clerk).

### **1 OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Pollution of the river.** An email had been received (and circulated to all Councillors) from Mrs Sue Fairclough in her role as River Watch Co-ordinator regarding garden refuse which had been thrown into the river, and enclosed photographs as evidence. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk forward the email to the Environment Agency, a short piece would be put in the Bucknell Newsletter and the Chairman would produce a more forthright notice to remind residents of their riparian responsibilities.  
Clerk to inform Mrs Fairclough of the actions taken.

No other issues being raised, the Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

### **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As and when required.

### **4 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 6.6.17**

Cllr Savery had not received a copy of the Minutes. Clerk to investigate.

Minutes were approved by those Councillors present and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

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

**(a) Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.** The new Council Leader was Mr Peter Nutting. The Council was considering selling off its remaining housing stock although there was none in the Council's area. The next LJC meeting was scheduled for 20.7.17, a pre-meeting had been held which Cllr Kemp had attended. Consultations were being held by the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority to consider the suggestion by the PCC that they should merge.

**(b) SW Shropshire LJC; and Shropshire Town & Parish Councils Forum (STPCF).** The Chairman had attended the STPCF meeting which Shropshire Council Leader P Nutting had also attended. He said his priorities for Shropshire were (1) economic development and (2) staffing in Shirehall. Planning Officers had reported that, as part of the review of Shropshire's Local Plan (covering housing and employment land requirements), a consultation period would start in October with implementation of the revised Plan due in 2019. Officers had confirmed that small developments of 6 or fewer were not required to

provide Affordable Housing as part of the development; bigger developments would deliver around 15% affordable dwellings.

Tenders had been received for a new contractor to replace Ringway; after 'due diligence' review, it was expected that details would be available by October with the contractor in place from April 2018.

The LJC meeting had reported that there was still money for youth funding. It had been agreed that better publicity of the availability of these grants and their effect was needed. Cllr Hartin reported re: education, whose funding was very concerning, with both primary and secondary schools potentially seriously affected. The federation between Bucknell, Clunbury and Newcastle schools had gone ahead; Clun had however taken a different route and joined a multi-academy grouping. Cllr C Davies said she would contact the Head Teacher to arrange a meeting.

**(c) Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group.** Cllr Edwards reported that 60 tractors had taken part in the recent Tractor Run which started on the playing fields. There were still repairs and refurbishments to be done to the Changing Rooms and the Play Area. Cllr Hartin suggested applying to the LJC for funding. The Chairman said that applications for grants from the LJC and/or the Parish Council should be prepared urgently to enable the changing rooms to be available for use and the play area made safe. Also possibly sponsorship might be considered? To be discussed next time, with quotes (three) to hand.

## **6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:**

**(a) Road conditions.** Satisfactory.

**(b) Street Lights: (i) Damaged street light on Old Post Office.** This matter had now been outstanding since early last year and after discussion the Chairman proposed that Western Power be asked to get the light working, and the Parish Council would then follow up the legal route regarding reclaiming the cost from the culprit. This was seconded by Cllr Savery and approved unanimously.

**(ii) Light in Chestnut Meadow opposite little car park.** Clerk reported that Shropshire Council had this matter in hand.

**(iii) Street light reporting procedure.** Cllr C Davies had recruited a team of Light-Watch Volunteers to inform her of failed lights, and get them fixed promptly. Cllr Davies had also provided notices with relevant information. Cllr Davies was thanked for taking this action.

**(c) Pathways issues: (i) Bollards along the Causeway.** Two bollards were down: one wood and one concrete + another loose one. Cllr C Davies to contact Bucknell Nurseries.

**(ii) Grasscutting by the ford.** Clerk reported that Mr Ian Martin from Highways had agreed to get this done.

**(d) Other Open Space issues: (i) Common land at Chapel Lawn Road.** Following research by Cllr Hartin with the Commons Registration officer in Shirehall, Chairman reported that at a hearing by the Commons Commissioner in 1979 ownership of the land had not been established. It therefore fell to the Parish Council to protect the land as if it were its own.

**(ii) Posts around the green.** The positioning of posts was an "Exempt works", specifically authorised as allowed to be carried out in protection of Common Land. It only required the completion of a simple form to be posted on site and copied to the Commons Registry in order for the works to go ahead.

Following discussion at earlier meetings and the receipt of letters from Mr Stuart Fairclough and Mr Jonathan Hopkins objecting to the idea, a site meeting had been held, attended by Cllrs Kemp, Owen and Cullimore; Shropshire Cllr Hartin and Mr Ian Martin (from Highways) in advisory roles; and Mr Fairclough was also present. Following the Site meeting, the legal position (as described above) and the Council's right to install 'bollards' had been clearly established and was specifically supported in statute.

Mr & Mrs Bates were invited to speak from the floor as they live opposite the green, and they were of the opinion that this was an unnecessary expense. The matter was further discussed by Councillors.

There was a strong feeling that the decision to install the posts should be withdrawn. Cllr Hartin reminded the Council that decisions should not be 'undone' within six months of having been made.

The Chair drew attention to Stranding Order 7(a), which stipulates that a special motion, requiring written notice by at least 2 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with Standing Order 9, was required if the decision was to be considered for withdrawal.

**(iii) Replacement notice board.** One sealed quotation had been received. Cllr C Davies was asked to get an additional one in time for the next meeting.

## **7 ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD:**

**(a) Steps to Chapel Lawn Road.** Chairman reported that this work was in progress. It had been hoped to reuse the existing stone slabs but this now seemed unlikely. The quotation allowed for replacements if required.

**(b) Proposed War Memorial.** Chairman said this was progressing, the required faculty had been granted by the Diocese.

**(c) PCC M&G Charibond Charity.** This money was being transferred to the Parish Council and would be ring fenced within its accounts.

## **8 EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Cllr Cullimore suggested that contact numbers be put on the website - all Parish Councillors and individuals or organisations who would be able to help with individual or household problems. This matter to be discussed further. Cllr Jones said the list of contact numbers could be put in the newsletter and the website.

## **9 PLANNING:**

There were no applications for discussion.

Application No. 17/01782/FUL. Replacement dwelling etc at Lower Lye had been granted.

## **10 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:**

**(a) Co-option of Bedstone Councillor.** No applications had been received. Clerk had contacted SALC who had advised that provided the Parish Council was quorate, it was

acceptable to be one Councillor light. No further action.

**(b) New Councillors: Training Seminars.** Cllrs Jones, N Edwards and C Davies said the seminars had been useful. Cllr Jones suggested a team building session of some sort. Cllr Cullimore to attend the 'Be a Better Councillor' seminar on 7.9.17 at the Shirehall.

**(c) Lead Responsibilities.** Cllr Jones offered to manage the Facebook page. Agreed. Chairman to issue the final version.

**(d) Replacement mower.** Three written quotations had been received, the lowest was from Teme Valley Tractors for £411.60, and Ray Davies had said this was his preferred option. Chairman proposed that this be accepted, seconded by Cllr Edwards and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Davies had produced dog fouling signs to be put round the village. It was noted that the school garden play area needed some attention.

## **11 COUNCIL FINANCES:**

### **(a) Bank balances were reported as:**

|                                    |           |            |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Community current account          |           | £19,646.29 |
| Business Base Rate Tracker account |           | £10,961.75 |
| of which: Parish Plan account      | £78.14    |            |
| Transparency Grant fund            | £1,065.00 |            |
| Youth Group                        | £1,166.00 |            |
| Parish Council account             | £8,652.61 |            |

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

|  |                            |         |
|--|----------------------------|---------|
| Ms N Adams (salary June )              |                            | £260.55 |
| HMRC (PAYE)                            |                            | £65.20  |
| Ray Davies (grasscutting etc June)     |                            | £380.00 |
| Teme Valley Tractors (mower repair)    |                            | £56.84  |
|  | (includes VAT of £9.47)    |         |
| Ms N Adams (expenses to date)          |                            | £209.39 |
| Bucknell Nurseries (tree works/mowing) |                            | £665.00 |
|  | (includes VAT of £110.83). |         |

**(c) Clerk's overtime.** The Clerk's Terms & Conditions allow for overtime to be paid. Clerk had asked for more paid hours on a temporary basis to cover current exceptional extra work. Chairman to draft Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee. Also Terms of Reference for Clerk's annual appraisal.

**(d) Forward Budget Plan.** Cllr Savery distributed financial pages and explained the figures, which were discussed and agreed.

## **12 CORRESPONDENCE:**

Spotlight leaflets - distributed to those present.  
There were no circulated emails for discussion.

## **13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Cllr C Davies brought the following to the Council's attention:**

**(a) Verge cutting by Willow Cottage, Bedstone.** This had not been carried out satisfactorily and did not provide a refuge for pedestrians when traffic passed. To be referred to Highways.

**(b) Overgrown vegetation on the Causeway.** Chairman declared an interest; he had spoken to Bucknell Nurseries, who had this in hand.

**(c) Lime tree on common land by the Old School House.** Concerns had been expressed about the soundness of this tree. Cllr W Davies to be asked to take a look at it.

**(d) SEAT car on school garden car park.** Chairman said this had been investigated before and was found to be subject to a SORN and parked legally. The Head Teacher could take this further if required.

**(d) Benches at the end of the Causeway.** Needed to be repainted. Chairman said that Ray Davies had this in hand.

#### **14 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th September 2017 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Any cheques needing to be signed before then to be approved via email.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

JK/NEA  
10.7.17