

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2016
in Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT

Cllr J Kemp (Chairman), Cllr D Cullimore, Cllr C Savery, Cllr B Sharpe, Cllr F Hughes, Cllr A Faulkner.

3 members of the public.

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk)

1 OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr G Lambert was concerned that the 740 bus route to Ludlow was under threat of closure by Shropshire Council as part of the costcutting exercise and asked that people write in support as individuals and also the Parish Council. Mr Willson said the 740 route was currently operated by Arriva, based in Shrewsbury, and queried whether a more local bus operator might be able to offer a more cost-effective service. Chairman to write to Shropshire Council.

Mr Lambert also said that with A&E departments presently at both Shrewsbury and Telford, ambulances were currently having to queue for up to an hour to hand over patients, and the proposed reduction to one A&E at Shrewsbury would exacerbate the situation meaning there would be a shortage of ambulances and paramedics. Chairman replied that the proposed reorganisation, with greater specialisation at the two sites, was hoped to improve the staffing situation - though ambulances were part of a different Trust. Chair to write expressing concern.

Mr Willson mentioned the planning application on land east of Redlake Meadow which appeared to be the same as the application that was refused last year. Mr Willson had objected in a personal capacity but asked whether the Parish Council's objections would still stand. Chairman said this would be discussed in the closed section of the meeting.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr I Owen (Vice Chairman)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As and when required.

4 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 1.11.16

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

5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

(a) **Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.** No report available.

(b) **South West Shropshire LJC.** Chairman reported that no meeting had been held recently, but there had been a Town & Parish Councils' meeting - no Minutes yet available.

(c) **Parish Plan Revision Group.** Cllr Cullimore said the group was working towards the final draft, which it was hoped would be available within the next two months. One aspect of the revised plan was that volunteers would tackle projects within the parish. Chairman asked that Councillors receive copies of the final draft before the January Parish Council meeting. MEETING AFTERNOTE: It has now been confirmed that the final **draft** Plan will not be available until February.

(d) **Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group.** No report available from Miss Edwards. Chairman said that work needed to be done on some of the posts around the play area, and that he would organise the planting of the walnut tree in liaison with Miss Edwards.

6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:

(a) **Road conditions: (i) Speeding through the village:** Bedstone Road, Weston Road, and past the church, etc in Chapel Lawn Road. Chairman said there were measures which could be taken, some of which were costly and would need to be budgeted for. This issue will be further considered within the Parish Plan project. (ii) House numbers sign in Redlake Meadow. Clerk said that Highways could supply this, but the cost of £150 would have to be paid by the parish. After discussion, Clerk to contact Miss Edwards to ask residents to monitor the situation. (iii) Drainage on The Mynd. Clerk to ask Mr I Martin of Highways whether this was in the future road maintenance programme.

(b) **Street lighting.** Clerk had received information about street light maintenance, etc costings from E.on, and Highline at Oswestry, some of which was confusing. Clerk to draw up comparisons and inform Parish Councillors so that this matter can be resolved out of committee. The eventual contractor to be tasked with replacing the Old Post Office light asap. A changeover from SOX to LED lights looked to be prohibitively expensive and would not be pursued at this stage.

(c) **Pathway issues.** None.

(d) Other public open space issues: (i) Railway hedge by school garden play area. This had been trimmed back by Network Rail, but the requirement was to reduce it in height down to a normal hedge. Some of the trees were several inches in diameter. Clerk to contact Network Rail again.

7 ST MARY'S CLOSED CHURCHYARD:

(a) **Meeting with Hereford Diocesan Advisory Committee.** Chairman reported that the committee was scheduled to visit on 16th January to advise on the churchyard steps and also other items in the Quinquennial Report.

(b) **Churchyard steps quotation.** Not required until after the visit of the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

8 PLANNING;

Application No. 16/05350/FUL: Single storey rear extension and window in first floor bedroom at Redlake Reach, Bridgend Lane. No objection.

Application No. 16/04933/OUT: Outline planning application for residential development (all matters reserved)(re-submission) on land east of Redlake Meadow, Bucknell. After discussion the Parish Council unanimously agreed to object for the same reasons as the original application, namely:

- (i) This could detract from the development of the brownfield site at the timber yard/station yard.
 - (ii) Bucknell has an inadequate sewerage system.
 - (iii) Extra cars (possibly 2 per dwelling) exiting onto Bedstone Road and through the village.
 - (iv) Goes against the Parish Plan.
 - (v) Hardly anyone in the village wants this development as evidenced in a public meeting held to gauge local opinion on all proposed development sites (SAMDev).
- Clerk to check the above with the Chairman before replying to the planning authority.

There were no decisions to be reported by planning authority.

9 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:

(a) Implementing the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. (i) Council's Financial Regulations, having been circulated to Parish Councillors, were unanimously approved. (ii) Internal Financial Audit arrangements. Cllr Savery had completed the Audit for the three months to September 2016. The next Audit would be required for the December quarter. (iii) Application for a grant for office equipment to support implementation of the Transparency Code. Clerk explained what was being applied for, and this was unanimously approved by the Parish Council. (iv) Chairman said that a separate list of expenditures of £100 was required for the website. Clerk to action.

10 COUNCIL FINANCE:

(a) Bank balances were reported as:

Community (current) account	£8,913.86
Business Premium account	£10,960.38
of which: Parish Plan account	£1,006.34
Parish Council account	£9,954.04.

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

Ms N Adams (salary November))	£251.54
HMRC (PAYE November))	£27.20
Ms N Adams (Expenses July-December)		£226.70
BR & SC Green (petrol for mower)		£126.20
Bucknell Memorial Hall (hire for Parish Council meetings)		£70.00
Bucknell Memorial Hall (hire for Parish Plan meeting)		£10.00
St Mary's Church PCC (hire for Parish Plan meetings)		£75.00
A Rolfe (refund for Parish Plan expenses)		£41.60.

(c) Ray Davies' wages - annual review

Presently £9 per hour. After discussion it was agreed to increase this to £9.50 per hour from 1st

November 2016 (Chairman to write to Ray Davies confirming this), and pay the following:

Mr R Davies (grasscutting etc November)	£285.00
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(d) npower bills and fixed contract proposal

Clerk explained the history of problems with npower's miscalculations of VAT, and their subsequent credits and recalculations, complicated by the Parish Council's contract having ended and the monthly standing charge being increased. npower had offered a payment plan of £196.56 payable December, January, and February. Clerk proposed this be accepted and advised that a new three-year contract be taken out. Agreed unanimously, and also that the following be paid:

npower (first monthly payment)	£196.56.
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(e) Forward budget plan against expenditure to date

Cllr Savery was continuing to monitor this.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

Spotlight leaflets for December. Distributed to those Councillors present.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Cullimore said that door-to-door sellers from Middlesborough had been calling at houses in the village with increasing frequency and were becoming a nuisance. Chairman said their identification should be established, and the police informed.

13 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 in Bedstone & Hopton Castle village hall at 7.30pm.

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

JK/NEA
7.12.16