Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

[www.bedstoneandbucknell.org](http://www.bedstoneandbucknell.org)

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th July 2018**

**In Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT**

Cllr J Kemp (Chairman), Cllr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Jones, Cllr C Davies, Cllr N Edwards, Cllr W Davies,

Cllr D Cullimore, Cllr C Savery.

Shropshire Cllr N Hartin.

Mr J Metcalfe, Network Rail Level Crossings Manager.

12 members of the public.

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk).

**1 OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Planning applications.** Mr Sherring asked why planning applications were no longer displayed at Parish Council meetings. The Clerk said that Shropshire Council no longer sent hard copies and were available on the website. Mrs Meredith said they could be downloaded and printed off. Clerk to investigate.

**Dead badger.** Mr Bates had reported this to Shropshire Council a few weeks ago but it had not been removed and the smell was now very bad.

**Community Hub.** Mr Sherring was concerned that the designation of Bucknell as a Community Hub may have a detrimental effect in terms of compromising the green belt around the village. Cllr Owen said the Parish Council’s view was unchanged from several years ago, namely that the brown field site at the timber yard should be built on first. Cllr Hartin explained that being a Community Hub would enable both open market and affordable housing to be built in the village otherwise it would only be affordable houses. Shropshire Council had plans to meet its target for new houses.

The Chairman said that following the recent presentation by Mr Liam Cowden, input had been requested from the Parish Council at working meetings, dates to be arranged.

**Parson’s (school) crossing.** Mr S Davies asked whether the prescriptive footpath was likely to be closed. Mr Metcalfe replied that it had never been prescriptive, and was a permissive path specifically for the Vicar to get to the church. Following national policy, Network Rail was under instruction to close all possible railway crossings, and the main road crossing by the station was nearby. Several parishioners pointed out that the main crossing was unsatisfactory in several ways, Mr Metcalfe said that Shropshire Council would have to upgrade this before Parson’s crossing was closed. Mr Metcalfe acknowledged that there had never been an incident recorded on Parson’s crossing. The Parish Council was at liberty to apply for a Modification Order to have this declared an official Right of Way, although Network Rail would object. Mr Metcalfe said that disclaimer notices had been sited at each end of the crossing, and Network Rail was presently still investigating.

**Wheatley (Hall Farm No. 3) crossing.** Mr Brian Davies said he had permission from the landowner to access the fields to exercise his dogs. Mr Metcalfe said that the only people who could legally use the crossing were the owners of Wheatley Cottage and their visitors, and the owner of the farmland and that such owners were entitled to leave the gates open on occasion.

**Crossing at Coxall Farm.** This was on the border between Shropshire and Herefordshire and was on an official Right of Way. The crossing had been upgraded to the legally required standard.

**Cameras at crossings.** Mr Metcalfe said that cameras were positioned at all crossings not just to provide evidence of incidents, but also to record the number of people crossing the track, for instance 50-60 people used Parson’s crossing every day. Members of the public should report incidents and complaints using the Network Rail Helpline.

The Chairman thanked Mr Metcalfe and closed the Open Meeting. Cllr Edwards had to leave the meeting at this point.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As and when required.

**4 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 12.6.18**

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

**5 TO RECEIVE REPORTS:**

**(a) Shropshire Councillor N Hartin.** At a recent by-election the Conservatives had retained the seat.

The Chairman asked Cllr Hartin to officially invite Mr P Nutting and Mr N Law to the September Parish Council meeting. Action: Cllr Hartin

**(b) South West Shropshire LJC and Shropshire Town & Parish Council Forum.** Cllr Cullimore to attend the LJC meeting on Thursday 12th July at which a Senior Manager from Future Fit would give a major presentation.

At the last STPCF meeting there had been a discussion on the Local Plan Review. Arrangements for CIL were also to be firmed up. Clerks and Chairmen were to be invited to a meeting, yet to be arranged.

**(c) Daffodil Lane Development.** No report available.

**6 ROADS:**

**(a) Road conditions. (i) pot holes.** Most had been marked with paint but repairs were slow.

**(b) Signage.** White lines to be repainted: (i) end of the Causeway - yet to be done; (ii) junction at railway crossing – temporarily reinstated but would be permanently repainted jointly by Shropshire Council and Network Rail. (iii) Three “Slow” signs needed to be repainted in Bedstone village. Action: Clerk

**(c) Usage.** Speed of heavy vehicles along Bedstone Road – overgrowing hedges at high level was still the ongoing problem. Highways had the power to have the hedges cut back and reclaim the cost from the landowner. Clerk to write to Highways. Action: Clerk

**7 STREETSCENE:**

**(a) Pathways:** (i) Parson’s crossing.After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council apply for a Modification Order to have this confirmed as a Right of Way. Action: Chairman

**(b) Open spaces:** (i) Common land at Chapel Lawn Road: (1) new notice board – there were now three keys and the holders were Cllr C Davies, Chairman and Clerk. Cllr C Davies handed a Hornsey Steels Ltd cheque to the Clerk in the sum of £350.00, being a donation towards the new notice board. Clerk to send a letter of thanks.

Action: Clerk

(2) land for Youth Club’s wildflower meadow. Cllr Owen reiterated that the surrounding home owners should be informed, particularly as a domestic water pipe goes under that area. Cllr Jones to liaise with the Youth Club and arrange for a photo to go n the newsletter. Action: Cllr Jones

(3) **Moles.** Chris Sansom had eradicated the moles from the common land. Letter of thanks to be sent.

Action: Clerk

(4) **Recycling sign.** No information at present. Action: Cllr Edwards

(ii) The Causeway: (1) Bert Green Memorial seat. Ray Davies has treated this with preservative. Remove from Agenda. Action: Clerk

**(c) Street lights.** (i) Failed Shropshire Council light at Ladywell had been repaired. (ii) light on Old Post Office. Cllr C Davies reported that after prolonged correspondence Speed Welshpool had agreed to reimburse the Parish Council with the cost of the replacement light. Clerk to inform Parish Councillors when money has been received.

Action: Clerk

**(d) Tree stumps (Causeway and Chapel Lawn Road).** Cllr W Davies to assess action required and contact Bucknell Nurseries/Ray Davies. Action: Cllr W Davies

**8 POLICING:**

**(a) Neighbourhood Watch.** Deferred until October meeting. Action: Cllr C Davies

**9 PLANNING:**

**(a)** There were no applications for consideration.

**(b) Application No. 18/01410/FUL.** Agricultural building at Greenbank, Dog Kennel Lane, Bucknell, had been withdrawn.

**Planning application for 75 houses on the timber yard.** Cllr W Davies declared an interest. Mr Metcalfe asked what was the present situation. Chairman replied that a decision was awaited from the Environment Agency with regard to the fresh water pearl mussels downstream. Cllr Hartin said that the village sewerage system had been upgraded by Severn Trent as required.

**10 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:**

**(a) General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).** Cllr Jones confirmed that the necessary documentation can be uploaded to the website. Remove from Agenda. Action: Clerk

**(b) Website.** Cllr Jones reported that at last night’s committee meeting the proposed new website was critiqued and few more tweaks were necessary. There would be a final review probably next week and then it would go live. The website would be continually updated. Action: Cllr Jones

**11 COUNCIL FINANCE:**

**(a) Account balances were reported as:**

Community (current) account £17,185.53

Business Premium account £10,947.61

Of which: Parish Plan account £78.14

Transparency Grant fund £1,352.53

Parish Council account £9,516.94.

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

N Adams (salary and backdated pay rise) ) £541.60

HMRC (PAYE) ) £151.20

R Davies (grounds maintenance) £369.60

Shropshire Council (election expenses) £2,033.47

Bucknell Nurseries (mowing, etc) £228.00

(includes £38.00 recoverable VAT).

**(c) Forward budget plan.** Cllr Savery had circulated this and answered questions from Councillors.

**(d) Mandate change form.** Cllr Cullimore provided the necessary information to the Clerk, who would then get the Mandate changed. Action: Clerk

**12 CORRESPONDENCE:**

Spotlight leaflets for July. Distributed to those present.

Pearce Cycles email re: their mountain bike race in Bucknell Wood on 4th and 5th August.

Shropshire Council enquiry re: available burial capacity. Chairman had passed this on to the Vicar and PCC.

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINES**

None.

**14 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

**(a)** It was decided a meeting in August was unnecessary. Urgent cheques will be signed between meetings.

**(b)** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th September 2018 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07pm .

JK/NEA

13.7.18