DRAFT
Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

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

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd November 2022**

**In Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT**

Cllr I Owen (Chairman), Cllr C Davies (Vice Chairman), Cllr C Savery, Cllr V Dodd, Cllr N Edwards, Cllr S Walmsley.

Mr David Webb.

No members of the public.

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk)

**1 REPORT FROM BUCKNELL FLOOD ACTION GROUP**

Mr Webb said there had been a dry spell up until recently. A meeting had been arranged for next Wednesday 9th November at The Baron at Bucknell to find out more about the meaning of Riparian Ownership. This would be attended by representatives from Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency. Cllr Edwards to ensure the notice about this meeting is put on the FaceBook page and the website.

Chairman mentioned that the bridge by the garage had not been cleared out underneath. This would have been easy to do during the past three months when the river bed was dry.

**2 OPEN DISCUSSION**

None.

**3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr S Hornsey, Cllr W Davies, Shropshire Cllr N Hartin.

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As and when required.

**5 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5.10.22**

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

**6 REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE CLLR N HARTIN**

Cllr Hartin’s written report had been circulated, copy attached to these Minutes.

**7 ROADS/STREETSCENE:**

1. **Mynd Cottage, The Mynd.** Cllr C Davies said that Highways were responsible for the drain below the cottage and this had been cleaned out. The soakaway above the cottage was the responsibility of the Rights of Way Department. Clerk to write to David Hardwick and press him to prioritise this as the flood water was causing problems further down the lane. Action: Clerk
2. **Street light report.** All parish council lights were working. The Shropshire Council light in Redlake Meadow previously reported was still not working. Clerk to report this again to SC. Action: Clerk
3. **Radar speed signs.** Cllr Walmsley said the batteries had been replaced.
4. **Repairs to notice boards.** It was decided to have toughened glass for the notice boards, but repairs to the phone box should be in Perspex. Action: Cllr C Davies
5. **“No footpath” signs by timber yard.** Nothing to report at present. Action: Clerk
6. **Vegetation obscuring plaque on Lingen bridge.** Nothing to report at present. Action: Clerk
7. **Damaged 30mph repeater sign, Daffodil Lane.** Clerk had reported this again on “Fix my Street”.
8. **Trees in Redlake Meadow.** Footpaths were now dangerous with wet leaves and moss, and the surface was lifting because of tree roots. Shropshire Council had not maintained the grass. Householders were legally allowed to trim branches which overhung their property, providing the brash was returned to Shropshire Council land. Clerk to write to Dougald Purce at Shropshire Council detailing the problems these inappropriate trees caused. Action: Clerk
9. **Reinstatement of white lines** at the end of the Causeway. It was suggested that this be done at the same time as the work at the railway crossing.

**8 ONGOING PARISH MATTERS:**

1. **Report from Bucknell Flood Action Group.** Dealt with at the start of the meeting.
2. **Condition of trees in churchyard.** Bucknell Nurseries had been given the report and had said they could do the work. Action: Chairman
3. **Lamp post poppies.** These had been given to Derek Meredith, local branch of the Royal British Legion, who would put them up. The knitted poppies would be put up at the church tomorrow.

**9 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT**

1. **Banking arrangements.** The Clerk had investigated Unity Trust Bank, Metro Bank and Lloyds Bank. After discussion it was agreed unanimously to move the Parish Council’s accounts to Lloyds. Cheque signatories to be Cllrs Owen, C Davies and C Savery. Action: Clerk

**10 COUNCIL FINANCE:**

1. **Account balances were reported as:**

Community (current) account £10,648.58

Business Savings account £11,021.67

Of which: Parish Plan account £78.14

 Transparency Grant account £688.14

 Parish Council account £10,254.74.

1. **It was unanimously agreed to pay the following:**

Ms N Adams (refund for poppy wreath) £23.99

Bucknell Nurseries (tree works/mowing) £137.50

 (included £22.92 recoverable VAT)

Ray Davies (grounds maintenance) £112.50.

1. **Forward budget plan.** Cllr Savery said we were on course to carry forward approximately £15,000

to the next financial year.

1. **Preliminary discussion re: 2023/24 Precept.** Clerk had circulated a discussion document. Chairman asked Councillors to consider any anticipated expenses. To be Agenda’d next time.

**11 PLANNING:**

1. **Application No. 22/04682/TCA.** Tree works at Old Farm, Bucknell. No comment.

**Application No.** **22/04845/FUL.** Domestic garage and store building at The Meadowlands. Supported.

1. **There were no decisions** to be reported by planning authority.

**12 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **Email from Richard Whately re: SpArC Funding Appeal.** After discussion it was decided not to contribute to this as the present time.

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. **Notice re: Future Meeting Dates.** Clerk was informed that seven copies of the laminated notices were required for the notice boards. Action: Clerk
2. **Agenda for next meeting:** Further discussion re: Precept.

**14 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 7th December 2022 in Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

IMO/NEA

9.11.22

**REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE CLLR N HARTIN**

I will have to give apologies again for this months meeting tomorrow, unfortunately still slowly recovering from Covid, which is taking much longer than anticipated - I have not been able to attend any meetings this last month but have put together below what I can glean from colleagues has been happening at SC over the last month as a brief written report. I hope to be more or less back to normal by next months meeting.

**Housing stock:** Against a background of some Housing associations looking at selling off poor energy performing stock rather than retrofitting (This is because they face compulsory EPC rating on their housing stock) - this has led to an ongoing net loss of affordable homes in the County & we have seen this happening right across South Shropshire as Connexus sell off such stock to concentrate on affordable housing in more urban areas. I & my SC colleges locally have previously suggested that the Council purchase such properties to bring them up to standard and keep them in affordable/social housing stock through its in-house housing company Cornovii. We are now working with Green party colleagues to firm up a proposal for Council to push this forward - as even refurbishment and let at market rent would be better than the loss of rental properties all together, especially in our area where development is on hold due to the Clun river problem.

**Improvements to A488 & B4386:** SC consultants WSP are currently doing some feasibility work on items such as future speed limits, traffic management, safer routes for pedestrians and parking in Clun.

**Shrewsbury NWRR:** More uncertainty over whether this bypass will go ahead following the MP for Shrewsbury asking government for an additional £27.5M to deal with the increase in costs for construction etc - Even with this extra (which it's almost certain the Government won't agree to), it still would leave SC to find an additional unbudgeted £9.1M from somewhere to make it viable, (without the extra grant from government it's got to find the full £36.6M).

**Community Hospitals:** Concerns were raised at a Scrutiny meeting in Shirehall this week by my Colleagues Cllrs Heather Kidd & Tracey Kidd over the future of community hospitals in Shropshire - this follows the announcement earlier in the month that the former maternity unit in Ludlow has been sold. calls have now been made for urgent discussion with NHS Community Health Trust after staff at Ludlow hospital were faced with contractors measuring up the building for future disposal around them without the staff previously being told what was going on.

**Grants:** There are some useful grant opportunities in the October rural funding Digest - grants towards supporting young people, rewilding, tree planting and refugee support amongst others - some closing dates are imminent though - they can be found at <https://rsonline.org.uk/rural-funding-digest-october-2022>