DRAFT

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

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

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025**

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

**PRESENT**

Cllr C Davies (Chairman), Cllr S Walmsley (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Hulstrom, Cllr N Hartin, Cllr C Savery.

Mr C Cummings, Mrs A Cummings.

5 members of the public.

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk).

**1 OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Churchyard wall.** Mr Bates said that the renovations to the churchyard wall were considered to be very impressive.

**Post Office.** Mr Bates queried the future of the post office. The current consultations ended in October. Should the post office close, there were other options to maintain the service.

**Flooding situation.** Cllr Hulstrom said that John Bellis at Shropshire Council had agreed to carry out a one-off clean out of the river but there was a 30 week delay. There were problems with individuals dredging the river – restrictive regulations and expensive permits were required. Cllr Walmsley said he would speak to our MP.

**Nature Recovery Scheme.** Mr Hughes asked whether the Parish Council was aware of this. A consultation re: this would end on 15th October.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**3 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**

Mr and Mrs Cummings had been interviewed by members of the Parish Council on 30th July. The Chairman proposed that they both be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Walmsley and agreed unanimously on a show of hands.

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As and when required.

**5 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2.7.25**

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

**6 REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE CLLR S WALMSLEY**

The new administration had three priorities: Fixing more potholes and this had resulted in a 55% reduction in the number of potholes outstanding; improving customer service and being more responsive; and better and closer working with town and parish councils.

Shrewsbury Town Council would be taking on all their Street Scene.

**7 ROADS/STREETSCENE:**

1. **Street light report.** Light at the end of Dog Kennel Lane had been repaired but a shield was required on one side.
2. **Radar speed signs.** One battery was beginning to run out and would need replacing soon.
3. **Speed limit signs/”No footpath” sign by woodyard.** Cllr Walmsley had spoken to Nick Newton at Shropshire Council but there was no date for this work. Nothing to report re: “No footpath” signs as yet.

Action: Clerk

1. **Trees report.** Cllr Walmsley had established that Martin Sutton was now the tree expert at Shropshire Council. The dangerous tree by the Old School House had been felled. The stump of the Coronation tree was sprouting, it was not clear whether this would regrow into a viable tree of some sort.
2. **Salt bins.** Clerk was getting prices for comparison. Salt bins to be delivered to the Vice Chairman’s house.

Action: Clerk

1. **White lines at railway crossing/end of Causeway.** Scheduled for next week. Chairman asked that the white lines at the end of the Causeway be repainted as she was getting blocked in by parked cars. Vice Chairman suggested that home-made signs be put at the end of the Causeway stating “Access required at all times”.
2. **Overgrown hedges: Chapel Lane Road.** Cllr Hartin to speak to the house holders concerned, although overgrown hedges did slow down the traffic. Action: Cllr Hartin

**8 ONGOING PARISH MATTERS:**

1. **Written report re: Bucknell Memorial Hall re: CIO meeting.** The Chairman had represented the Parish Council temporarily, Minutes of said meeting attached. A permanent representative of the Parish Council was needed.
2. **Written report regarding new village hall.** Report attached. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hulstrom to transfer the Leases, seconded by Cllr Walmsley and agreed on a show of hands: 5 in favour and two abstentions. The transfer was being handled by PCB Solicitors in Knighton, and the fees would be paid by the Parish Council.
3. **Funding request from village hall committee.** It was essential that the financial position of the Memorial Hall should be secure in order to take forward the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status. The funding requested was approximately £1,000.00 per year going forward. Cllr Hulstrom asked what grant funding had been researched. After discussion Cllr Walmsley proposed that the requested funding be granted for the next two years and a review be carried out at that point. Cllr Hartin seconded the proposal, which was carried on a show of hands: 4 in favour, 3 against.
4. **School garden play area: bench/seats/plaque for Ray Davies & Renovation of picnic tables/benches/notice boards.** Quote had been received from Colin Carter. It was agreed to make efforts to get more quotations.
5. **Churchyard wall.** The renovated wall sections were looking lovely. There was one more section to be done in due course.

**9 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:**

1. **Parish Councillors’ responsibilities.** Clerk to circulate current list as Peter Burke’s departure had left gaps which would hopefully be filled. Action: Clerk
2. **Management of website.** Required someone to keep village information up to date.
3. **Personnel Committee.** One more Parish Councillor required.

**10 COUNCIL FINANCE:**

1. **Account balance was reported as:** £64,135.46.
2. **Paid between meetings:**

Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd (benches/planters) £1,656.80.

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

N Adams (salary: June/July/August) £1,461.75

HMRC (PAYE: June/July/August) £365.40

Post Office (Shrops Council energy charge) £492.92

(included £82.15 recoverable VAT)

S Walmsley (refund for website fee) £14.35

N Adams (expenses May 2022-Sept 2025 part of) £447.47

Adrian Lewis (Grasscutting) £420.00

Bucknell Nurseries (hedge cutting, etc) £290.00

(included £48.33 recoverable VAT)

Mark Disley (churchyard wall repairs) £22,810.00 \*

(incorporated a saving of £1,800.00 from estimates)

\*There was a need to check whether VAT should be added. Cheque was held back pending this.  
 Action: Chairman

**(d) Forward budget plan.** Cllr Savery said with the churchyard wall expenses, this was on track.

**(e) Online management of bank account.** Still giving problems. Action: Cllr Walmsley

**11 PLANNING:**

**Application No. 25/02493/TCA.** Tree works at Brambles, Bedstone. No comment.

**Application No. 25/02887/FUL.** Replacement dwelling at Rock House, Bucknell. Supported.

There were no decisions to be reported by planning authority.

**12 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Emails re: Pearce Cycles events** scheduled for 13th/14th September and 4th/5th October in Bucknell Hill Wood (known as Redwood Park).

**Civility and Respect Pledge.** To be circulated for consideration. Action: Clerk

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Early morning shooting in the parish.** It was not known where this was taking place.

**14 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 1st October 2025 in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. It was understood a representative of Connexus would attend this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

CAD/NEA

12.9.25