**Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council**

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

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025**

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

**PRESENT**

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

4 members of the public

Ms N Adams (Parish Clerk)

**1 OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Colin Cummings** referred to the announcement of Cllr Burke’s resignation and wished to thank him for securing the Bridge End Lane sign to the upright poles. Colin also thanked the Clerk for ensuring that the litter pickers were covered by the Parish Council’s insurance. **The following matters were still outstanding: (i) path approaching the ford bridge from the Chapel Lawn Road side:** white paint had been sprayed around where the path was falling away; **(ii) yellow water hydrant post Daffodil Lane at the rear of the recreation ground:** still missing; **(iii) broken level crossing sign approaching from the Turnpike:** still lying in the grass.

**Tarmac in front of school.** Mr Bates said that a member of the public had fallen over on the rough surface and could the parish council get a repair made. There was some dispute regarding ownership, investigations in the past had proved inconclusive. Cllr Hulstrom suggested a shared cost, possibly with national companies who may have a community funding stream. Cllr Hartin to make enquiries with the school and other bodies.

Action: Cllr Hartin

**Closure of Bedstone School.** Cllr Savery said this was set to go ahead and would potentially leave the Grade II Listed building vacant. It was currently up for sale, asking price not known.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr C Davies (Chairman).

Notification had been received from Cllr Peter Burke, who for personal reasons had resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect, and would be moving from the village. This was disappointing, as Cllr Burke had proved to be a very able Parish Councillor.

There was no news regarding filling the current vacancies on the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As and when required.

**4 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 4.6.25**

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

**5 REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE CLLR S WALMSLEY**

The decision had been made to cancel the North West Relief Road and the project was being wound down. The £39m grant from the Government had been spent, and would not be clawed back.

Customer Services were being improved, particularly cutting down the length of time phone calls were on hold.

Pot holes. Some being repaired, others nearby left. It was hoped to make more sense of this.

**6 ROADS/STREETSCENE:**

1. **Street light report**. Clerk to clarify repairs to light at the end of Dog Kennel Lane.

Action: Clerk

1. **Radar speed sign report.** The speed sign had been installed next to Chapel Lawn Road, near the ford. Data on speed and number of vehicles would be downloaded to understand the scale of the problem, with speed and number of vehicles. There had been a request to move the speed sign to a location near the Sitwell. This would be done shortly.
2. **Speed limit/”No footpath” sign by woodyard.** Nothing to report at present.

Action: Clerk

1. **Trees report.** It was thought the contact at Shropshire Council had left. Vice Chairman to find out who the new contact was. Action: Cllr Walmsley
2. **White lines at railway crossing.** Cllr Walmsley said this was scheduled for September, when several similarjobs would be done together**.**
3. **School garden car park.** Dealt with under Open Discussion.
4. **Street furniture (benches, etc): Causeway, opposite Baron and school garden play area.** Chairman had put a notification on FaceBook for someone to repaint these, but without response so far.
5. **Railway signs opposite Sitwell:** “bend” and “level crossing” signs were overgrown and needed to be cleared.

**7 ONGOING PARISH MATTERS:**

1. **Written report from Bucknell Memorial Hall Committee.** Not available.
2. **Written report regarding new village hall.** The application to register the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was submitted to the Charity Commission on 1st May. When approved, the Memorial Hall Charity would be dissolved and the Parish Council would in due course be requested to agree the transfer of the leases on the two sites on Daffodil Lane to the CIO.
3. **Plaque for Ray Davies.** Chairman had this in hand.
4. **Churchyard wall.** Work now being done.

**8 PARISH COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:**

1. **Parish Councillors’ responsibilities.** Now complicated by Cllr Burke’s departure. Clerk to reissue for approval. Action: Clerk
2. **Layout of PC Minutes.** Chairman had circulated a suggested format, which was discussed and discounted. Clerk to include “Action: . . .” points. Action: Clerk

**9 COUNCIL FINANCE:**

1. **Bank balance.** Not available but post meeting was noted as £66,366.26.
2. **It was agreed to pay the following:**

Adrian Lewis (Grasscutting) £285.00

Playsafety (inspection of playgrounds) £192.00

(includes £32.00 recoverable VAT)

BiGiAM Management and Promotions (website hosting) £84.00.

1. **Forward budget plan.** Cllr Savery said there would be no change until bills for the churchyard wall started to come in.
2. **Online management of bank account.** Cllr Walmsley had this in hand.
3. **Accounts to year ended 31.3.25.** Clerk reported that these had been sent to the External Auditor. Mrs Marilyn Cordrey had kindly carried out the Internal Audit.

**10 PLANNING**

There were no applications to be considered, nor any decisions to be reported by planning authority.

**Cllr Walmsley reported on the following:**

**Parish Plan.** This was a very local document and was not worth updating at this time.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** This was a more powerful document, but it could be an expensive exercise to update it and it was all dependent on public participation.

**11 CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Shropshire Council: Call for Information: Town & Parish Councils.** It was decided to hold a separate meeting to formulate a response to this. Action: All

**Modification Order from Shropshire Council’s Rights of Way Team.** Addition of footpath from the end of FP5 (accessed via The Hales) in a generally easterly direction and across the railway to meet Herefordshire FPBC1A at the county border. Objections were to be made by 24th July 2025.

**12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Statutory Land Map to show what land the Parish Council owns.** Cllr Hulstrom had been in touch with Shropshire Archives re: this but it was unlikely he would receive any information in the near future. Cllr Hartin to investigate.

Action: Cllr Hartin

**13 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 3rd September in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

SW/NEA

3.7.25

C A Davies

3/9/25