

BEDSTONE AND BUCKNELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5 June 2007

PRESENT

Mr T Hughes (Chairman), Mr I Owen (Vice Chairman), Mrs F Hughes, Mrs B Sharp, Mrs K Law, Mr W Davies, District & County Councillor N Hartin.
Mr Paul Sutton, South Shropshire Housing Association.
18 members of the public.

PRESENTATION RE: HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Chairman introduced Mr Sutton, and asked him to comment on the other housing survey. Mr Sutton said this related to Craven Arms itself and its rural hinterland, whereas South Shropshire Housing Association's survey was limited to Bucknell parish.

581 forms had been sent out and 22% returned, which was within normal parameters. There was a need for affordable housing for both young people and old people, and showed a preference for 10 x 2 bedroomed houses, 2 x 3 bedroomed houses, and 1 x 2 bedroomed bungalow.

Unfortunately none of the percentages added up, so the figures were of limited use.
Mr Sutt

on explained the difference between local housing for local people, which was SSHA's brief, and Council rented housing, which would go to people with the highest priority on the points system, and could come from anywhere in the country.

Mrs Edwards asked why properties were left empty – one flat in Chestnut Meadow had been empty for about a month. Mr Sutton replied that the target for new lets was 24 days, and requested further information.

Following further questions from the floor, the Chairman thanked Mr Sutton for his presentation, but pointed out that the confusion about the percentages was disappointing and that numbers would be much better. Mr Sutton confirmed that he would supply these to the Chairman.

Mr Sutton then left the meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr Hogg asked whether the provision of allotments had been considered by the Parish Council. The Chairman replied that this would be considered at this meeting.

Mr Graves asked whether the Parish Council would be interested in making the parish a carbon neutral zone. The Chairman invited Mr Graves to make a presentation on this subject at a future Parish Council meeting.

Mrs Parker reported that the drains in Bridge End Lane had finally been cleaned out, but that more dog signs were required, Mr Hartin to provide these.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr C Savery, Mr P Davies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8 MAY 2007

Under "Finances" the following cheque had also been written: Allianz Cornhill (insurance) £483.00. Subject to this correction the Minutes were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

Land at Chapel Lawn Road and The Causeway. Maintenance was now satisfactory.

Street Lighting. Nothing to report at present.

Litter Pickers Team. The Chairman had information from the District Council that should the Parish Council provide safety tabards, warning cones, etc, there would be Health and Safety implications and the need for risk analysis, and the whole thing would become more complicated. Documentation was awaited from SSDC.

Allotments. There was considerable disquiet in the village concerning the possibility of allotments at Daffodil Lane. Documentation re: the terms of the Lease to be tabled at the next meeting. Clerk had received information from SALC, and there were several ways land could be obtained for allotments.

Land opposite The Tyndings. Clerk had telephoned BT Wayleaves , but they were unable to pass on the name of the owner of the land because of the Data Protection Act, Neither were they prepared to pass on a letter from the Parish Council to the owner. Mr Hartin requested a copy of the information, and would speak to Mrs Caldebank at the District Council.

Dog Warden. Mrs Sharp asked whether a speaker could come to a future Parish Council meeting, possibly the July meeting.

PLANNING

Applications Nos. 1/07/19591/F & 1/07/19592/LB. Open-sided canopy, etc to create a smoking area at The Baron of Beef. Supported.

Applications Nos. 1/07/19547/F & 1/07/19548/LB. Extension, etc. at Weir Cottage. Supported.

Application No. 1/07/19484/F. Extensions and garage at The Rockeries, Weston Road. Supported.

The following applications had been granted conditionally:

No. 1/07/19287/F. Polytunnel and shed at Greenways, Chapel Lawn Road.

No. 1/07/19440/F. Renewal of temporary permission for siting of mobile home at Hales Barn.

No. 1/07/19340/F. Agricultural building to serve Bucknell Nurseries at land off Bedstone Road.

PARISH PLAN

Nothing to report at present.

DAFFODIL LANE DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Edwards reported that they were still waiting to hear from the Big Lottery Fund. The church had held a hog roast on the field at the weekend. A flaw had appeared in the children's slide on the play area at Daffodil Lane, and also the seats on the seesaw were damaged. These repairs should be covered by the manufacturer's guarantee.

The RoSPA inspection of this and the school garden play area should be carried out later this month. Mr Hartin said that the bench at the school garden was in a bad state of repair; Chairman asked Mr W Davies to remove it, also the seat at Chapel Lawn Road. The Chairman had applied to the Craven Arms Partnership for a grant towards a new bench, this would be considered at their meeting in July.

FINANCE

Cheque Signatories. Mr Owen had completed his Mandate Form and would take it to the Bank. Mr W Davies confirmed that he wished to remain as a signatory.

Account Balances.	Reported as:
Community (current) account	£2,812.73
Business Base Rate Tracker account	£5,819.44

It was unanimously agreed to pay the following:

Mr Ray Davies (grasscutting etc)	£160.50
Bucknell Memorial Hall (hire for 5 meetings)	£30.00

Review of Clerk's Salary. Information still not to hand. Accounts to Year Ended 31.3.07. Returned from the Internal Auditor without comment. Clerk to process.

CORRESPONDENCE

South Shropshire Housing Association letter enclosing local connection forms from applicants for the vacant property at Chestnut Meadow. Chairman had dealt with these prior to this meeting.

South Shropshire District Council letter + enclosures re: Landlords Forum 20.6.07. Posters to Notice Boards.

Shropshire County Council letter + poster advising that the parish had been included in the Parish Access Project which restores rights of way. Mr Hartin said that Mr Starr was the co-ordinator of the team of P3 volunteers who would maintain the stiles, etc once they were replaced.

SCC letter + enclosure re: Local Council involvement in Highway Maintenance.

CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

Vacancy on the Parish Council. Clerk explained that the letter from SALC advising against co-option was aimed at those Parish Councils seeking Quality Status, and that Mrs Caldebank, Monitoring Officer, was adamant that the correct course of action was co-option. Mr Hartin further explained the requirements for qualifying as a Quality Parish Council. Notice to be put on the boards inviting applicants for the vacancy, and Councillors would meet outwith this meeting if necessary.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Churchyard Wall. Mr Owen had received a quotation for the next tranche, and Mr P Davies was obtaining another quote. Speed of Traffic past Timber Yard. Mrs Sharp had received several complaints about the speed of vehicles leaving the village. Mr Hartin to contact Mr Glyn Shaw. Affordable Housing. Mr Hartin asked whether the Parish Council wished to take forward the housing needs survey, ie start to identify possible sites. The Chairman replied that he would await the requested information from Mr Sutton.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 July 2007 in Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Mr Savery to be asked to book the hall.

There would be no meeting in August, the following meeting would be held on 4 September.