

Bedstone and Bucknell Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th October 2015
in Bucknell Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr J Kemp (Chairman), Mrs B Sharpe, Mrs F Hughes, Mr C Savery, Miss B Stone,
Shropshire Councillor N Hartin,
2 members of the public.
Mr I Owen (Vice Chairman)(late arrival).

1 OPEN DISCUSSION

Revd Annie Ballard had been appointed as Vicar of the Middle Marches, and would take up the post in a few months' time.

Mr Bates reported that the blocked drains in Chapel Lawn Road had been cleared within a week of the last Parish Council meeting, which was much appreciated.

The Chairman then closed the Open Meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr I Graves, Mr W Davies, Mr A Faulkner.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As and when required.

4 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 1.9.15

Under "Tree Works: Felling of trees - Chapel Lawn Road." Penultimate sentence to read ". . . at the Causeway and English oak opposite . . .".

Subject to this correction the Minutes were then agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Forward budget plan. Mr Savery's Forward Budget Plan was discussed. He and Mr Graves would be attending a Budgets & Precept Setting training session on 12th October.

St Mary's closed churchyard: steps down to Chapel Lawn Road. Ian Martin from Highways had reported as follows: "The gateway was unsafe, no gate should open onto the highway and the footway is not wide enough to have a safety rail. Excavating further back to allow the gate to open inwards does seem the only option unless the church path could be extended to the Causeway and a new gateway made."

Councillors considered that a new gateway onto the Causeway was not practical. Nothing had been heard from Les Morgan. Clerk to try to get another two quotes.

School garden car park hedge. It was not yet established whether this did in fact need to be removed. Information awaited from the diocese. Bucknell Nurseries had trimmed back the hedge.

Transparency code. Miss Stone said that certain information should be in the public domain. Clerk replied that a lot of this was on the Annual Return, which had been delayed by the external auditor, but would scan and send a copy to Miss Stone, and Mr Jackson for the website.

Bucknell newsletter. Committee: Editor - John Warner, Treasurer - Beverley Stone. A couple of names were suggested of people who may be prepared to help. It was thought the newsletter would comprise 16 x A5 pages and the cost would be covered by the advertisers.

Miss Stone to organise the bank account and requested a cheque for £200 be paid at the next Parish Council meeting.

Common land on the Causeway. Mr Hartin had a copy of the original registration of this piece of land, which became final on 1st August 1972, and delineates the legal boundaries of the common land. These documents are now in Parish Council files.

BT payphones. These had now been painted by BT.

6 TO RECEIVE REPORTS

Parish Plan Revision Steering Group. Mr Graves had submitted a written report. A meeting was held on 22nd September at which Mathew Mead (Shrops Council) and Renee Wallace (SRCC) had been present and their input had been most useful. More work was needed before a draft questionnaire could be produced. It was anticipated that the questionnaire would be out next spring, with the Parish Plan ready for distribution in late summer/autumn. Next meeting was scheduled for 21st October.

Clun Valley AED/CFR schemes. There were problems with the box outside the Sitwell - the heater was not working, and the box may need to be changed.

Daffodil Lane Development Steering Group. Grant funding is being sought, also ideas for fundraising.

Reply awaited from the Solicitors for Natural England regarding relinquishing the Lease on Field 1 (the larger of the two fields). Annual expenses for Field 1 stand at: Grasscutting £450 + £450 Parish Council contribution, Hedgecutting £86.40, Insurance unknown as within Hall insurance.

The new bench had been delivered and sited on the playing field. Plaque awaited.

Quiz night being held on 24th October, and 100 Club tickets now up for renewal.

The changing rooms were not yet complete, and it was suggested that this field be taken back as well. The cost for the remaining work was estimated at £2,000, Mr Hartin suggested that a grant of up to £250 could be available from the LJC.

There were numerous molehills on the field. Miss Edwards to ask Chris Sansom if he could do something about it.

Bucknell Show report. Went very well and broke even, although final figures not yet available. It was decided to hold another Show next year.

South West Shropshire LJC. £100 donation was proposed by Mrs Sharpe, seconded by Mr Savery, and agreed unanimously on a show of hands. Payee to be established. The hope was that this "seed corn" donation would attract money from local businesses, etc.

Mr Hartin said the LJC was continuing to offer small grants.

Bucknell school report. Mr Hartin said the playschool now had a covered outside play area, with a false grass surface. This was situated behind the memorial hall, the wall of which was roughcast render with bricks sticking out and was therefore not child-friendly.

Shropshire Councillor's report. Mr Hartin said that Shropshire Council had agreed to take 10 refugees from the camps as per the Government's stated intentions. A database was being created of people who were willing to put up refugees in their own homes.

Planning permission for the poultry sheds at Hopton Heath had been refused on appeal.

Planning application on the woodyard - still awaiting report from Severn Trent, and it was anticipated the final reports would be finalised before the end of 2016.

SAMDev was very near full adoption now.

7 ROADS/STREETSCENE

Street light on the Old Post Office. It was not known whether this was working, Miss Stone to check.

Signs. Old Bedstone Road signs were in stock, the recycling sign would be ordered soon.

Salt bin by the Lych gate. Ian Martin had asked for details as to where it should be sited. This was confirmed.

Weston Road traffic monitoring. 85% was within the 30mph range, therefore the police would not support a 20mph limit.

Dog Kennel Lane. "Pedestrians in road" signs at Red Lane corner. Being investigated.

8 TREE WORKS

Redlake Meadow - trimming of trees. Not yet done, probably waiting for dormant season.

Replacement trees, etc. Bucknell Nurseries had quoted as follows:

Coppicing alder at the Causeway and removing debris £130.00

Trimming off and killing 4 stumps opposite the Baron of Beef £40.00

Supplying 5 replacement trees (columnar hornbeam/mountain ash) etc. £450.00.

Councillors approved the first two items, but wished to make further enquiries regarding other species of trees.

Clerk to confirm to Bucknell Nurseries.

Weston Road. Overhanging trees between the allotments and the railway bridge. Clerk to contact Mr Davies.

Five year plan for trees. Nothing to report at present.

9 PLANNING

Application No. 15/03257/LBC. Removal/realignment of part of boundary wall to allow formaton of new vehicular access at Weir House, Bucknell. Site meeting had been held and a reply sent to the planners that Councillors would support the application but asked that

Highways be asked to check that visibility was not compromised.

There were no applications for consideration.

There were no decisions to be reported by planning authority.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

"Spotlight" leaflets for October. Distributed to those present.

Shropshire Council letter re: Annual Canvass of Householders. Attached posters to be put on the notice boards.

11 FINANCE

Account balances were reported as:

Community (current) account		£6,793.45
Business Base Rate Tracker account		£10,954.90
of which:		
Parish Plan account	£1,014.49	
Parish Council account	£9,940.41.	

It was agreed to pay the following:

Mr Ray Davies (grasscutting etc)	£321.75
Chris Tranter (cutting Daffodil Lane playing field)	£300.00
Bucknell Nurseries (hedgcutting etc)	£93.00
Green's garage (petrol etc for grasscutting)	£112.65
Mrs N Adams (salary September)	£187.42
HMRC (PAYE)	£46.80
SALC (training fees - I Graves)	£20.00
St Mary's PCC (hire of church for Parish Plan meetings - funds ring fenced in Business Base Rate Tracker account)	£60.00.

Accounts to year ended 31.3.15:

Mazars, External Auditor, reported as follows:

"Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

"Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the council:

A. The Council relies on the work of Internal Audit to inform the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement at Section 2 of the Annual Return. For 2014/15 the date of the Internal Audit was after the date the Council approved Section 2. In future the Council should seek to receive the Internal Audit report before it approves the Annual Governance Statement.

B. We were required to return the Annual Return to enable the Council to correct an error in Section 1. An employment related allowance was initially classified as other payments (Box 6) rather than staff costs (Box 4). In future the Council should ensure that it accounts for employment related costs correctly."

Clerk explained that Item A would be difficult to comply with since approval of the Annual Return had to be within a tight timescale, and Parish Council meetings were only held once a month.

Item B was largely due to different offices of Mazars having different ways of doing things.

It was also agreed to pay the following:
Mazars (audit fee)

£150.00.

Repair of mower.

Nothing to report at present.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Miss Stone reported a broken manhole cover in the grass opposite the Baron of Beef. This was thought to be the responsibility of Severn Trent.

Mr Savery said the newly repaired churchyard wall in Bedstone was very pleasing, and the PCC appreciated the Parish Council's contribution.

13 DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 in Bedstone & Hopton Castle village hall. Mr Savery to book the hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

JK/NEA
26.10.15