

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs F A Price 1 The Croft Urchfont Devizes SN10 4RT

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 15 March 2017

Present : Cllr Mrs A Read in the Chair, Cllrs S Barratt, P Bennett, O Coles and G Elliott

Cllr J Seed – Wiltshire Council

No member of the public, no Police representative

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting started at 7.30 and as there was no Open Forum the Chairman asked Cllr Seed to speak:

- Wiltshire Council has agreed a balanced Budget
- No Libraries to be closed, partly thanks to work of volunteers
- £850K going out in small Village Grants.

The Parish Council had no queries or comments, and at 7.35 Cllr Seed left for another Meeting

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs C Crawford and P Bowen
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Mrs A Read for the Village Hall
- 3. Minutes of meeting on 18 January :** Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 4. Parish Council vote to Appoint a Cllr with responsibility for monitoring Footpaths, Stiles etc:**

Cllr Bennett stated his willingness to Accept the appointment which was then

Proposed: Cllr Coles

Seconded: Cllr Elliott

Agreed : Unanimously

5. Reports, Correspondence:

- ◆ May Elections: Clerk distributed Election Timetable etc and called attention to new Parking arrangements at County Hall in Trowbridge – one of the Council Offices where Nomination Papers *must be hand-delivered*. Cllr Bennett volunteered to deliver papers at the Devizes Office.
- ◆ Emergency Plan: Still a Work in Progress
- ◆ Highways and Parish Steward update: Village Contact not yet finalised, but work *is* being done – Chairman has seen verges being weeded, and Cllr Elliott saw gully working this morning.
- ◆ (forwarded copy) Appeal to Baroness Scott on behalf of Chewing Gum Action Group for Councils to participate in campaign to reduce littering gum on pavements etc. As Bulkington, as a rural P C, has little or no paved path/sidewalk Cllrs agreed that this was not relevant.
- ◆ 2018 Centenary stone:
 - Cllr Barratt reported that the old tree stump has been removed and the ground made good, all these works paid for by Melksham Area Grant.
 - Approval is now needed for the actual slab: the Chairman said that she thinks Cllr Barratt's proposed design is very good.
 - All agreed, before going on to discuss details of cost, storage before installation etc: Cllr Coles has other quotations, but stressed that anything but granite will not wear well -

(a) 8” thick would be about £503 (ex-VAT), 4” thick about £388 (ex-VAT).
 All were in favour of the thicker slab, which Cllrs Coles and Elliott could install,
 but there was some discussion of the slope at which the stone should be set before
 agreeing on
 a height of 8” at the back down to 6 or 7” at the front.
 The Chairman suggested Cllr Barratt put in the new Application to the Area Board – all
 agreed and he accepted the task.
 She then raised the question of storage before installation –
 Cllr Coles can collect, he and Cllr Elliott can organise temporary storage.
 Finally, Cllr Mrs Read said everyone should think about details of a ceremony to install
 the stone,
 preferably on 11 November 2018.

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6. Section 137 LGA 1972: No Application Received

1. Finance:

The Clerk presented a rough Preliminary Report, pointing out that the Financial Year has
 15 days to run, and so a further Finance Meeting will be needed once the Year End Report
 has been checked and signed by the Internal Auditor – probably in mid-April.

The Parish Council needs to Approve and sign the final Report for the External Auditors,
 and the Clerk will then post Notice of Audit on Notice Board and Website.

Summary, the Parish Council brought forward just over £6,000, and received about the
 same sum.- including Precept, VAT reclaimed from previous year, reimbursements (ex-VAT)
 from the Village Hall for repairs to the Hall door and Fire equipment checks and £259
 from Lloyds Bank in apology for delays in making changes to the list of Authorised
 Signatories.

Still to be settled is £416.65 from the Playing Field – reimbursement of ex-VAT cost of
 November Fireworks, which will take Receipts to approximately £6,500.

VAT paid in 2016-17 will be reclaimed in the following year as usual.

Altogether, the Parish Council should be able to carry forward about £6,000 as in the last
 few years.

Cllrs had no queries, so the Clerk went on to the Report for this Meeting.

Received since last Meeting		
Date	From	£
Jan & Feb 2017	Interest on Deposit Account	0.78
23 Feb 17	VH Reimbursement Fire Extinguisher check ex-VAT	47.82
28 Feb 17	Melksham Area Grant	550.00
8 Mar 17	Interest on Deposit Account (est)	0.38

Paid since last Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq no
6 Mar 17	Protect Fire Equipment Limited Check on VH extinguishers	57.38	[9.56]	172
	Conservation Contractors - tree stump removal	660.00	[110.00]	173

Authorised at this Meeting

Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq no
15 Mar 17	Mrs F A Price – Clerk's half-year salary	700.00		174
	Mrs F A Price - Clerk's half-year expenses inc share of Broadband	289.83		175
	Village Hall – Hire for 12 Mtgs @ £9	108.00		176
	Playsafety Limited (RoSPA) – second safety check on play equipment	270.00		177

8. William Breach Centenary Playing Field:

No Report possible - all were agreed on the urgency of getting a workable Committee in place.

9. Planning: No Application received

- 1. Any Other Business:** None requiring discussion, so the Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Next Meeting will be

First Meeting of the newly-elected Council in early May, date to be confirmed.