

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Wednesday 21 March 2018

Present: Cllr Mrs A Read in the Chair

Cllrs S Kerslake, Mrs K Lock, and I Pendlebery

Cllr J Seed – Wiltshire Council

No member of the public so no **Open Forum**

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance: the Clerk confirmed that she intends to step down as soon as the Year End Accounts are complete and have been passed by the Auditors.

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.40, with

1. **Apologies for Absence** Received and accepted from the Police, Cllr Bennett
2. **Declarations of Interest, Dispensations:** Cllr Mrs Read for Village Hall; Cllrs Kerslake and Mrs Lock
for matters concerning the Playing Field – may speak, but not vote if there is any pecuniary interest.
3. **Minutes of 10th January 2018:** Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, with correction that there was no report of the repair to Stile 5 on Cllr Elliott's land.

1. Reports, Correspondence:

- ♦ New contact for RAF notice of flights/exercises – Cllr Pendlebery
- ♦ WALC briefing on General Data Protection Regulations – PC not able to send a representative, but is not sure in what sense it, its members or its Clerk could be considered to be “data controllers”. The situation seems likely to remain unclear for some considerable time.
- ♦ Neighbourhood Watch – the PC agreed on wishing to revive it, but felt that this might have implications for Data Control.
- ♦ Drain Cleaning: Bulkington needs gullies clearing, but Andy Cadwallader has stated that the system is under review. Cllr Kerslake stated his objection if this implies reduced service without any reduction in the rates charged – the Clerk advised writing to Cllr Seed, and/or attending the next Area Board.
- ♦ “Village Gateways” to reduce speeding through the village – Cllr Kerslake is in favour, but the cost of purchase and installation is not known – Chairman will make enquiries.
- ♦ Cllr Kerslake – Highways should put a “Dangerous Bend” sign by the bridge on the road to Keevil; this was generally supported and he will try to get Highways approval.
- ♦ Emergency Plan – the draft is on the Website, and Mr Ogilvie will report on progress. Cllr Pendlebery is looking into storage for sand-bags etc.
- ♦ Cllr Kerslake said that as the Playing Field also needs storage it seemed practical to purchase a shipping container to be shared between the two organisations; Cllr Pendlebery will contact Cllr Seed and/or Rhys Schell about possible Area Board help with the cost.
- ♦ It was also suggested that Cllr Elliott be contacted about the apparently unused “garage” building on Mill Lane (beyond Cllr Mrs Lock's property).
- ♦ HMRC sent the Clerk a notice about tax/payroll etc addressed to “all employers”: after a very long (and expensive) phonecall it was agreed that this was a mistake, probably

arising from her name appearing as sender of some report to HMRC in the past. Her name has now been removed from the list of employers, and it is to be hoped that her successor will not be troubled in the same way.

5. Section 137 LGA 1972: No new Application received.

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6. Finance:

Received since last Meeting		
Date	From	£
9 Feb 18	Interest on Deposit Account	0.36
9 Mar 18	Interest on Deposit Account [est]	0.34

Paid since last Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq 000
21 Feb 18	AW Services – 2017 Grasscutting	840.00	[-]	194

Authorised at this Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq 000
21 Mar 18	Mrs F A Price – Clerk's half-year salary	700.00	[-]	195
	Mrs F A Price – Clerk's expenses	71.54	[-]	197
	Bulkington Village Hall – hire for 9 Meetings	81.00	[-]	198
	Mrs F A Price – Clerk's expenses	100.00	[-]	199

The PC should have under £1,000 in its Current Account after these payments, and in general there is no problem with the 2017-18 Accounts except that AW Services may be slow in presenting their cheque.

The Clerk will start preparing the 2017-18 Accounts for the Auditors as soon as possible after the end of the Financial Year, and hopes to be able to submit them to the Parish Council for Approval at a special Finance Meeting before the end of April; however, the new External Auditors have not yet been in touch to specify the form and manner of submission.

They have suggested a fee of £200 for smaller Councils, and the possibility of exemption from this charge but no details as to how a Council could qualify.

The Clerk will try to get some clarification on all these matters.

7. William Breach Centenary Playing Field:

Cllr Kerslake reported that in the absence of a Playing Field Committee it is difficult to organise general upkeep and repairs – it was impossible to get volunteers for a recent clear-up “Action Day”.

He will convene a meeting of the “Events Committee” to discuss such works as

- replacing the hedge next to the gate with a wooden fence and sheep-proof barrier,
- clearing and re-seeding the scar left by the November Bonfire

but the Cttee may have to suggest handing back all responsibility to the Parish Council.
A new attempt to organise a big volunteer Clear-up Action Day is urgent, and another possibility is to

recruit a volunteer – possibly a retired person – to give a few hours a week on general maintenance.

A Village Fête is a possibility for raising funds – with a small entry charge, and fees to be paid by outsiders running stalls.

Cllr Mrs Lock added that both Bonfire Night and any Summer Event must charge an entry fee.

Cllr Kerslake will warn any Cttee Meeting that if nobody takes responsibility for keeping the Playing Field in usable condition as a village amenity it could be *closed* - after it is handed back to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council would like to see some initiative by the time of the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

There was general agreement by the Cllrs present that any PF Cttee should report regularly on all arrangements for events on the Field.

8. Planning: No new Application

Wiltshire Council decisions on 17/12/23 and 18/09/07 have not yet been reported to the PC, but work appears to have started, so Approval may be assumed.

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9. Any Other Business:

- Cllr Mrs Read reported difficulty with getting a condensed version of the Minutes into an appropriate edition of Spotlight – all were in favour of stopping.
 - Cllr Kerslake said that posting the DRAFT Minutes on the website is apt to lead to confusion – he suggested, and all agreed, waiting until the *signed, final* version is available after the next Meeting.
 - Cllr Mrs Lock said that model “ghost” soldiers can be got from the British Legion, to be placed in the Church for Centenary Remembrance services. It was agreed to discuss this in May, and Cllr Mrs Locke will consult the Rev Maureen Allchin meanwhile.
 - Cllr Kerslake wondered whether Playing Field volunteers could do something about drain/gutter blockage and general tidying on roads – he might try to get in touch with Highways.
 - Cllr Kerslake also suggested repairs to benches might be done with *plastic* instead of timber planks
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- the Clerk will look into what is on offer from various companies.

There being no other business for discussion
the Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Next Meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting

and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

7.30pm Wednesday 16 May

