

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Village Hall immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting
on Wednesday 18 May 2016

Present: Cllr Mrs S Ogilvie, in the Chair until **1. Election of Chairman**

Cllrs S Barratt, O Coles, Mrs C Crawford, G Elliott, and Mrs A Read

Cllr J Seed [Wiltshire Council, Summerham and Seend]

No member of the Public

Clerk Mrs FA Price in attendance

Apologies: see Annual Parish meeting

No **Open Forum** because of the Annual Parish Meeting just concluded

1. 1. Election of Chairman for 2016-17:

Cllr Mrs Oliphant said she would like to step down if anyone else would take the Chair:
Cllr Barratt said that Mrs Oliphant does a good job as Chairman, and has good contacts,
Cllr Mrs Crawford agreed, and added that she for one could not possibly take on the rôle:

That Cllr Mrs Oliphant be elected Chairman for 2016-17:

Proposed: Cllr Barratt Seconded: Cllr Mrs Crawford Elected Unanimously

Cllr Seed spoke at this point, before the PC continued with regular business:

- Wiltshire Council's finances are encountering problems after measures announced in

the Queen's Speech – particularly the matter of Business Rates.

Wiltshire Council is managing to balance its Budget, but keeping roads in good repair, caring for the vulnerable, keeping libraries open - all are hard.

He added that he is always available in his area, and will stand for re-election in 2017.

- No further information on the new runway at Keevil
- Wind turbines are very unlikely to be installed any where in Wiltshire
- Fracking – discussion has gone very quiet, but 1 Exploration Licence will possibly get

the OK. Cllr Seed added that in the end Councils are powerless in this area.

Cllr Mrs Oliphant told Cllr Mrs Crawford that actually nothing can be done, but it is not likely that any well nearby would be viable.

- Cllr Barratt asked about plans for new houses in Melksham – Cllr Seed replied that probably fewer than 1,600 are being talked about, but Melksham is going ahead with general expansion and this is reviving businesses, shops etc. Development is probable along with the Canal link-up – he added that housing in the right place *enables* all sorts of development, eg by keeping schools open.

1. Meeting Dates for 2016-17:

Cllrs agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months, as follows:

2016: 13 July; 14 September; 9 November

2017: 11 January – Precept Setting; **8 March** – Preliminary Accounts and
? May – this will be the first Meeting of the newly-elected Council, and
therefore depends on date of Elections

The May Meeting follows the Annual Parish Meeting and includes
Election of Chairman for 2017-18 and Final Accounts if available

All Meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, except for the Annual Parish Meeting, at
7pm .

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1. Reports:

- ◆ Footpaths: the Chairman asked Robert Breach to reinstate across his land – he said he had already been approached by Wiltshire Council officers on the matter. She fears the rise of general resentment among farmers, and suggested all should keep an eye out and regularly check the WC website for reports.

Cllr Elliott undertook to check all footpaths and stiles on his land during the summer; Cllr Coles will do the same, and contact neighbouring landowners such as John Breach.

- ◆ Fracking: Chairman reported getting no response from villages she contacted about this. Cllr Barratt said that exploratory drilling has been stopped after objections in Lancashire and the South Downs, and the Chairman said she will have to get some suitable information on the village website.

- ◆ Emergency Plan: Cllr Barratt reported that the final version has not yet been tested.

- ◆ Centenary Fields Appeal: The PC does not actually own the Playing Field, which is the sort of space the British Legion and Fields in Trust have in mind, so
[a] Cllr Barratt suggested work on the triangle of land round the War Memorial: remove the diseased tree stump at the southern point and replace by a stone commemorating the end of the conflict in 1918, possibly listing the main battles. He will circulate design suggestions.

[b] For the Pond area Cllr Mrs Read suggested a Garden of Remembrance. She added that Cloth Road Artists could probably suggest a suitable carver for engraving a stone; the Clerk added that she could make enquiries of an artist based in Frome. **July**

Agenda

4. Section 137 LGA 1972:

Application for the annual grant towards the costs of Churchyard maintenance from the PCC:
in view of ever-increasing costs the PCC requests an increase to £150.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Crawford Seconded: Cllr Elliott **Agreed Unanimously**

5. Finance:

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return is with the Internal Auditor, no problems anticipated : she proposed a Special Finance Meeting on Wednesday 25th May to agree and sign the final Governance Statement and Accounting Statement before sending, with Bank Reconciliation and Explanation of Variances plus Internal Audit Report,

to the External Auditors Grant Thornton. **All Agreed** [Cllr Mrs Read will be away]

A copy of the Annual Return will be posted on the Website and Notice Board, and an announcement of Voters' Rights to question the Auditor – between 5 June and 15 July.

The Chairman reported on progress with getting new Signatories (Cllrs Barratt and Elliott) on the PC's Bank Mandate:

Lloyds Devizes were very unhelpful, and she could not get the forms online, so she went to a Complaints line – which promised to send her the forms.

Finally she complained over the telephone; her complaint was upheld and she accepted compensation of £279, including £150 for personal stress, to be paid into the BPC Account.

Clerk's Report on Transactions since last Meeting:

Received since last Meeting		
Date	From	£
9 Apr 16	Interest on Deposit Account	0.24
14 Apr 16	Precept (£4,650) + Grant (£14.65)	4,664.65
21 Apr 16	HMRC VAT Repayment	474.54
3 May 16	Lloyds Bank – in apology for signatory delays	279.00
9 May 16	Interest on Deposit Account	0.33

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5. Finance contd

Paid since last Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq no
30 Mar 16	Mrs FA Price – Clerk's ½ year Salary	700.00		143
	- Expenses inc full year broadband	238.24		144
	RW & HC Breach - hedgecutting	84.00	[14]	146
	Bulkington Village Hall – hire for 6 Mtgs	54.00		147

Authorised at this Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq no
26 May 16	Wiltshire Framing – Emergency fliers	12.00		149
	Cure Double Glazing Repairs – VH Door	86.00	[14.33]	150
	Stocksigns – PF Notices	124.19	[20.70]	151
	Community First Trading – Insurance, inc Admin Fee £92.10, IPT £52.50.	605.11		152
	NALC – Local Council Review	17.00		153

	S Barratt – reimbursement, backing for PF notices	27.30		154
	WALC – WALC & NALC subs 2016	104.06	[17.34]	155
	PCC Christ Church Bulkington – grant towards Churchyard Maintenance	150.00	S.137	156

All to be signed and paid as soon as appropriate signatories available, along with the long-outstanding payment of £90 to Mrs Oliphant for Speed Limit stickers – cheque no 000145

6. William breach Centenary Playing Field:

Cllr Mrs Oliphant reported Debbie Richardson's request to borrow the marquee for her party – Cllr Mrs Crawford said there had been some damage after the Fireworks but it is usable.

Cllr Mrs Oliphant then said various maintenance jobs need to be organised:

Cllr Barratt said the signs are now in place, but a lot of tidying, weeding etc needs doing - Cllr Coles volunteered to spray the path which has become overgrown with weeds, Cllr Elliott will clear up the remains of the old bonfire, and Cllr Mrs Crawford will organise volunteers for a maintenance day.

Cllr Mrs Crawford went on to announce the “Party in the Park” scheduled for 2nd July - to include a band, a hogroast and games etc – a meeting in the pub on Thursday the 26th will get further suggestions.

7. Any Other Business:

- A complaint about deep ruts in the track from Mill Lane to join the path to Worton – as a Byway in general use it is not the PC's responsibility, but the Chairman will write to the complainant and report the problem to Wiltshire Council. Cllrs Coles and Elliott will use their own machinery to level the surface as far as possible.
- The verges are very overgrown with weeds – could Cllrs Coles and Elliott spray weedkiller?

Cllr Mrs Read added that people are leaving strimmed grass lying - it then washes into drains and blocks them. Cllr Mrs Crawford said dealing with these problems would reflect well on the PC, and Cllr Elliott volunteered to cut the verges on the approach to the village.

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7. **Any Other Business:** contd

- Cllrs Elliott and Barratt have discussed planting another beech tree on the approach
- Cllr Mrs Oliphant said that the new saplings on Gaston Green are interfering with keeping the grass down; a definite area round them must be cleared – and a bigger tree, eg a beech, could be planted.
- Cllrs Barratt and Elliott will crown raise these trees and generally tidy up in the Autumn.
- Gutters to be cleared when weeds have been sprayed, Chairman to email the date.
- War Memorial triangle – Highways have repaired the damage done by a BOC truck, but not yet

- that done by the School Bus.
- Bins for dog-poo – many full bags are being left on paths, perhaps Notices pointing to the nearest bin should be put up ? The Chairman will check whether they are needed. Cllr Mrs Read pointed out that bags are dangerous to grazing animals if swallowed. The Chairman suggested a bin at the top of a track, and small notices on stiles etc – she will get more if needed.
 - Cllr Mrs Crawford suggested “NO PARKING” signs by the triangle to keep the narrow road clear for farm and other traffic. This was agreed, Cllr Mrs Crawford promised to get some.
 - Cllr Elliott reported that repairs to potholes are sinking – he will report to Highways.

There being no other business requiring discussion
the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.

Next Meeting 13 July
to include Review of Governance procedures