

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 January 2014

Present: Cllr R G Elliott, in the Chair in place of Cllr Mrs S Oliphant
Cllrs S Barratt, Mrs C Crawford, Mrs J Flynn and Mrs A Read

Apologies from: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant, Cllr C Ogilvie, Cllr J Seed [Wiltshire Council]
Pc E Thomas

Ms Sue Noad – for the PCC - no other members of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting opened at 7.35 with the **OPEN FORUM**, and Cllr Elliott asked Ms Noad to speak first:

Ms Noad introduced herself and described the PCC's ideas for marking the Centenary of World War I: at a meeting on Thursday 9th it was agreed that the first event in the Commemoration – *not* Celebration – of the Centenary of World War I should be an open-air Service conducted by the Rev Maureen Allchin. This will be in the garden of Millcroft, kindly offered by Mr and Mrs Boulton, on Sunday 3rd August, or, if it is declared a Public Holiday, Monday 4th August - the actual anniversary of the outbreak of War. The service will perhaps be followed by a traditional meal and songs, and there will be a display in the Village Hall of photographs of the period plus any letters etc from villagers who served.

The object is not to celebrate war but to mark the bravery of all involved and the effect on everyone – for example the deaths of all the Gaisford family heirs led to the village being sold, and many must have memories passed down by grandparents and others.

There should be a combined effort by all village groups – could the PC appoint a representative?

Cllr Mrs Crawford asked if the service was the sole event planned – Ms Noad said it was only the first.

Cllr Mrs Read is taking charge of organising the old photographs etc, and hopes to be able to make a disc bringing them all together.

Cllr Barratt suggested it might be possible to compile a booklet – and as an example of stories in the village, Cllr Elliott said he had been told that a neighbouring farmer's horses were “called up” and of the few that came back half were in such a terrible condition they had to be put down.

In general, everyone should draw on his or her connections, eg the Ladies Group, Bulkington in Bloom.

Cllr Mrs Flynn to ask what Keevil is planning, Clerk to ask Mrs Oliphant when she returns to contact Steeple Ashton, while Cllr Mrs Read will draft an item for Spotlight.

The PC thanked Ms Noad and promised to keep in touch - the matter will be on the March Agenda.

- Pc Thomas emailed a report that the main crime warning is of thefts of iFor Williams trailers in Seend, Bowerhill and Sandridge Common – these are large heavy-duty trailers worth as much as £35K and farmers need to be vigilant.

Cllr Elliott then moved on to the main Agenda:

1. Apologies:

Received and accepted from the Chairman Mrs Oliphant – abroad on business, and Cllr C Ogilvie – hospital appointment; Cllr Seed and Pc Thomas – clash of dates.

- ### **2. Declarations of Interest:**
- Cllr Mrs Crawford for the Playing Field, Cllr Mrs Read for the Village Hall, and the Clerk announced a general Dispensation for all Cllrs - to allow them to discuss the Precept although they have an Interest as Council Tax payers.

3. Minutes of 20 November Meeting:

Accepted as a true record and signed by Cllr Elliott

- ### **4. Reports on Matters in the Minutes :**
- None on this occasion.

- 5. **Correspondence:** relevant emails already forwarded to Cllr[s] concerned
 - i Wiltshire Council: Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy [charge on development especially non-residential in town centres] – representations before 24 February, nb site by site, on line, by email or by post. <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>
 - ii Police Commissioner: Meet the Commissioner dates: most convenient for Bulkington are Thursday 27 February, 5.30 pm Chippenham, venue to be announced – Cllr Elliott to go if possible, *or* Wednesday 4 June, 5.30pm Trowbridge, venue to be announced – Cllr Elliott to go if possible
 - iii WALC : Nominations for ballot for invitations to Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 3 June - 2 Chairman + spouse invitations to be drawn from those applying – by 9am 4 February. Clerk to contact Chairman to ask if she wishes to be nominated.
 - iv Citizens Advice Bureau: request for £50 donation – BPC policy is strictly local donations
 - v Victim Support: request for donation of unspecified amount - BPC policy is strictly local donations

6. **Planning:** No new Application or Wiltshire Council decision.

7. **William Breach Centenary Playing Field – Report.**

Cllr Mrs Crawford has now left the Cttee, but gave a brief report: cheques for the ex-VAT cost of November Fireworks (£374.98) and the PF contribution to increased Insurance costs (£60.00), have both now reached the Clerk Nothing else to report – the new Committee will elect a new Chairman as soon as possible.

8. **Section 137 LGA 1972:** No Application received.

9. **Finance:**

Clerk first gave a brief Report on the PC's finances:

Received since last Meeting:		£			
9 Nov '13	Interest on Lloyds A/c 27214460		0.28		
9 Dec '13	Interest on Lloyds A/c 27214460 [est]		0.22		
6 Jan '14	PF Cttee – ex-VAT cost of Fireworks	374.98	}	not yet paid into	Bank
	PF Cttee - share of extra Insurance	60.00			
Paid at last Meeting:		£	[VAT]	£	chq
20 Nov '13	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	50.00	[S.137]	50.00	81
	Society of Local Council Clerks	64.00	-	64.00	82
Paid since last Meeting:		£	+ VAT £	£	chq
6 Jan '14	Bulkington in Bloom [Trees]	150.00	30.00	180.00	83

Authorised at this Meeting:

Cllr Ogilvie – reimbursement for purchase of domain name bulkington.org.uk - £96.82
When billed: Balfour Beatty - PF and Pond grasscutting £750 or possibly more -
 Clerk enquired about billing arrangements but has had no response as yet from Wiltshire Council

Bank Balances *estimated after payments and receipts above*

Lloyds Treasurer's (Current) A/c 27213368	£1,316.92
Lloyds BUS Instant Access (Deposit) A/c 27214460	£6,663.91

The Parish Council had no questions and went on to discuss the Precept request, in light of the reduced Wiltshire Council “top-up grant” - down £60.03 to £111.49, and lower Tax Base – down 1.19 to 117.01, to give a Band D rate of £38.46, *up* 39 pence, if the Precept remains *unchanged* at £4,500.

The Chairman had expressed her wish not to raise the rate if at all possible, and after some discussion the Cllrs voted to request an unchanged Precept of £4,500 (£4,611.49 inc grant)

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Crawford

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Flynn
All in Favour

9: Finance contd

Cllrs discussed the possibility of buying the PC's own grasscutting equipment to avoid large bills for Playing Field and Pond, but decided against, largely because of the difficulty of finding and employing a regular operator – there would also be Insurance implications.

Cllr Mrs Crawford reminded the PC about reimbursing Cllr Ogilvie for his purchase of the domain name - the Clerk will organise a cheque as soon as possible.

Clerk

10: Any other Business:

- Cllr Elliott has heard the latest news on the new runway at Keevil - the one proposed would probably be unsuitable for larger jets, so it may well be built elsewhere and the implications for Keevil, such as complete close-down of the base and sale of the land, are unknown.
- Cllr Mrs Crawford asked about “Solar Farms” - Cllr Elliott said that Seend seems to be opposed to any proposals to build such things in the valley below; cabling carrying power from the site near Edington is likely to pass near Bulkington.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Next Meeting, to include Preliminary Accounts, 19 March