

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 18 September 2013

Present: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair

Cllrs S Barratt, R G Elliott, Mrs J Flynn, C Ogilvie and Mrs A Read

Cllr J Seed [Wiltshire Council] Pc Emily Thomas

Apologies from: Cllr Mrs C Crawford, who has to be away on business

3 Members of the public, and Joanne Ecclestone of Melksham Area Good Neighbour Service

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting opened at 7.35 with the **OPEN FORUM**,

and the Chairman invited Ms Ecclestone to speak first:

Ms Ecclestone said that the Good Neighbour Service is funded by Wiltshire Council and run through Community First; it is intended to help older people stay independent and in their own homes. She is responsible for all Melksham Area Board villages, and her first task is to find who needs help. The rôle is very varied, involving many visits to find out what is needed in each case, and the Service will do such things as Benefit checks and put people in touch with organisations like Age Concern. She can help with getting money from a Trust to which people donate un-needed Winter Fuel Grant; put people in touch with agencies that provide exchanges of furniture, curtains and so on; arrange for the Fire Service to fit smoke alarms; help with getting about by arranging Bus Passes and putting people in touch with local Link schemes; provide information about Mobile Library services, etc etc. The service is *free* and *confidential*, and she promised to send leaflets for distribution in Bulkington.

- Pc Thomas reported that 2 burglars have been caught in Semington, and there has been a big fire;
- Meat has been found dumped in the lay-by just before the Seend-Worton road – please report to the Police if it happens again

- Cllr Seed first reported on the RAF Keevil TLZ runway proposal – everything has now gone quiet, and the drop-in session did not prove helpful. Wiltshire Council has asked about construction traffic, and requested a full impact statement. No Planning Application has gone in yet, and these questions must be answered first.
- Wind Farm – no news as yet, probably awaiting Core Strategy
- Solar Panel Farm – likely to get permission if the Wind Farm is rejected. Cllr Seed stressed that, unlike wind turbines, solar panels can be removed and the land returned to use. Also, it is possible to get adjustments to eg the height of panels and the position of the transformer.
- Wiltshire Council is to put more money into roads, with Area Boards becoming more influential as the money will come down to them. For example, an Area Board can be asked to remove unwanted road signs – the Chairman said the 'High Street' and 'Wickleaze Lane' signs in Bulkington do not reflect any historic names and she will ask for their removal.

- Cllr Barratt asked about a grant for repairs to the War Memorial – Cllr Seed said the Area Board could consider an application for £500 or £600.

No questions from the public.

1. Apologies:

Received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Crawford who has been called away on business.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Mrs Read for the Village Hall, Cllrs Ogilvie and Mrs Oliphant for the Playing Field.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 17 July:

Accepted as a true record after corrections, mainly of emphasis, in item **4. Keevil Airfield**, and signed by the Chairman.

4. War Memorial:

Cllr Barratt inspected the Memorial on 10 August, with a Wiltshire Council Conservation Officer who said there was no need to apply for Planning/Listed Building consent but advised using proper lime mortar for repointing work.

Quotations received from Chris Rendell - £1,230, and Inspire Conservation - £2,900+VAT.

Cllr Barratt recommends accepting the Rendell quotation, work to start as soon as possible.

Cllr Mrs Flynn added that simple power-washing could be done by one or more people in the village who have the right equipment, enquiries continue about re-doing the list of names.

Cllrs agreed that **Cllrs Barratt and Ogilvie** should carry on with the project.

Meanwhile the **Clerk** will try to clarify the new arrangements for the Parish Steward scheme; until recently he used to cut the grass round the Memorial, with an extra cut in early November.

5. Reports:

Cllr Mrs Read asked about “Round-up” for clearing roadside weeds – the supply is used up. Cllr Elliott will get some of the full-strength chemical available to farmers and bill the PC.

6. Correspondence: relevant emails already forwarded to Cllr[s] concerned.

- i Wiltshire Council: Road Closure – C244, Townsend Poulshot, Wednesday 30 October for 1 day; investigation for major work on Lutsey Bridge, which should take 8-10 weeks in 2014, actual dates to be announced later.
- ii Keevil PC Minutes for 9 September
 - Questions about TLZ from residents – particular to Wick Lane - and Cllr Seed's response
 - Report on meeting in Chippenham about 1914-18 Commemoration, saying this is to cover the *whole period*.
 - Concern about legality of advertising boards in the village – not clear if this refers to those put up by estate agents or builders
- iii WALC September newsletter
 - Last Core Skills Training for Cllrs, – 6.30-8.30 pm in Westbury **none able to attend**
 - Hard copies of Good Councillor's Guide - £2+VAT+p&p – eread@communityfirst.org.uk
 - Village Greens – mostly not applicable as all Bulkington commons etc registered long ago
 - “Taste of Wiltshire” trade show hosted by Community First and Business in the Community at Cleeve House, Seend on Thursday 26 September
 - Appeal for a Parish representative on WALC Executive Committee from Melksham Community Area – no Cllr volunteered. Anyone can suggest an Agenda item for Mtg on 23 September as long as it involves local Councils generally – contact eread@communityfirst.org.uk
 - WALC AGM – 6.30 for 7pm, 17 October, Devizes **no delegate from Bulkington**
- iv Advertisement from GlobalNet21 - “webinars” on community involvement – **Chairman** to look at
- v Audit Satisfaction Survey from Grant Thornton – **Clerk** to reply asap

7. Planning: no new Application,

but Tudor Cottage Application W/13/00712 has gone to Appeal – Wiltshire Council **refused** permission but has no further power, nor has the Parish Council.

Cllr Seed explained that once an Appellant puts in an Appeal an Inspector looks at the whole matter but no-one else can intervene. He himself had noted discrepancies between the ground levels used for measurements in the first and revised Applications.

7. **Planning contd**

Cllr Barratt asked whether the Applicant could just go on adding bits to the building - Cllr Seed - “Yes – but he can simply be told to take it back down to the original.”

8. **William Breach Centenary Playing Field:**

The Clerk asked whether the Application for a further Grant was still going forward – Cllrs Ogilvie and Mrs Oliphant confirmed that the Cttee had decided it was going nowhere, so the HSBC Account kept open solely for it should be closed by the **Clerk, see 10. Finance**

The Chairman then reported:

- The Bank Balance (main account, with Lloyds) is £800+
- Preparations for the Fireworks Display are in hand
- Tidy-up Session followed by Games on 22 September – a marquee will be put up in case of rain - Mrs Oliphant to present the prizes in the Sunflower Competition, Cllr Mrs Flynn will brief her
- Materials for the Bonfire can be put in the Field after Sunday – **nb no glass or metal**, which must be removed from such things as doors/window-frames/kitchen cabinets.
- Proposed to replace the Sensory Garden fountain – children keep getting wet – with “magnapost”
- Play equipment for small children needs replacing, funds will have to be raised
- Fireworks – volunteers needed for marshalling and serving food and drinks
- Cttee to discuss – should money for the Fireworks Display be raised by a “door-knock” as before, or, especially as many come from outside the village, by sale of tickets?

9. **Section 137 LGA 1972:**

The usual grant of £50 towards Spotlight production costs was

Proposed: Cllr Elliott

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Oliphant

Agreed Unanimously

The Clerk will draw up a cheque for signature

see 10. Finance

10. **Finance:**

The Clerk presented her Report on **Progress against Budget** to September, which showed little change from the situation at the last Meeting as there were no Payments in August.

After Payments at this Meeting the PC should still be some £2,250 “in the black”; uncertainty over PF Grasscutting costs remains, but PC should come in under Budget.

Insurance costs remain steady as PC is on a 3-year deal, PF reimbursed part of the extra cost for new Play Equipment last year – further reimbursement this year? **Clerk to check figures**

War Memorial work – partly covered by donation – can be covered by Reserves.

Cllrs had no queries, but after the Clerk relayed the latest Local Council Clerks pay-scales, agreed to raise her roughly 2 points, rounded up to £1,400 pa (extra £100 to be paid in March).

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Read

Seconded: Chairman Cllr Mrs Oliphant

All in Favour

Received since last Meeting:

date	from	amount £
May-Sept	Interest on Lloyds A/c 27214460 estimated	1.65
18 Sept	Village Hall reimbursement ex-VAT cost of guttering	1,540.00

Paid at last Meeting:

17 July	SLCC Enterprises Ltd (<u>Local Council Administration</u> inc p&p)	63.00
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10. Finance contd

Authorised at this meeting:

18 Sept	Mrs FA Price – Clerk's ½ year salary	650.00
	– ½ year expenses	168.17
	New Windows Ltd – VH guttering [inc £308 VAT]	1,848.00

Bank Balances [est, after payments above]

Lloyds/Lloyds TSB - Treasurer's [Current] a/c	713.96
BUS Instant Access [Deposit] a/c [after VH reimbursement above]	7,663.40
HSBC - to be closed asap	11.97

11. Any Other Business:

- ◆ Cllr Mrs Read recorded the VH Cttee's thanks to the volunteers who repainted the inside walls – she will send a list of names to the Clerk.
- ◆ Cllr Mrs Read reported that the old photographs are now on disc, the damaged ones enhanced, and she will produce an Archive with as much text as possible over the next few months.
- ◆ The Chairman said that the trees on the Common need attention – Cllr Mrs Flynn promised to organise the work.
- ◆ The Chairman reported that the road surface by Manor Farm is very muddy and slippery – the Parish Council will monitor the situation.
- ◆ Cllr Ogilvie said the Emergency Planning Group is to meet on 1st October – the members are himself, Cllr Barratt, John Scott (Neighbourhood Watch), Liam Quinn and Dave Crawford.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Next Meeting 20 November