

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 9 January 2013

Present: Cllr Mrs Oliphant in the Chair;

Cllrs R N Boulton, Mrs H C Breach, R G Elliott, C Ogilvie,

Mrs C Parkyn and Mrs A Read

Cllr J Seed – Wiltshire Council

1 member of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.35pm and as nothing was raised in the OPEN FORUM she went immediately to Pcs0 Baldock's emailed update:

- Pc Thomas set to return from Maternity Leave in March
- no problems reported in Bulkington *but*
- many local Churches broken into, in addition to thefts of lead from their roofs etc
- large quantity of oil stolen from an outside tank in Steeple Ashton – extra vigilance needed
- numerous sheds and other outbuildings broken into

Cllr Seed reported that Wiltshire Council is passing on Government Grant to help with shortfall in Parish Precepts caused by revised Tax Base for 2013-14, itself the result of changes in payment of Council Tax benefit. **See 11. Finance**

Cllr Seed asked if there had been any flooding in Bulkington – Cllr Ogilvie replied that there have been no recent problems, thanks to very efficient drain-cleaning, but some work remains to be done from the survey done some years ago.

Cllr Seed said the PC should persevere and Cllr Ogilvie should email him the details -
he will do what he can to help.

The Meeting then turned to the AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Declarations of Interest and/or Dispensations: Cllr Mrs Read for the Village Hall;

Cllr Mrs Oliphant for Playing Field – she is now on Cttee;

Cllr Mrs Breach and Cllr Elliott for Footpaths,

Cllr Mrs Breach for Hedging work, and for Playing Field.

All Cllrs except Mrs Oliphant (who does not pay Council Tax in Bulkington)

have requested and been granted Dispensation to speak and vote on Precept;

Cllr Ogilvie for Planning – dispensation given to speak but not vote.

3. War Memorial – progress report.

Cllr Boulton reported that

- Mr Stirling has done preliminary survey, Cllr Boulton will copy and distribute electronically.
- Historical evidence has been collected – including new information about those wounded

as well as the dead.

- It is established that the Memorial is Listed Grade 2 – which means permission must be given

before any work can be done.

- Earlier restoration of the base, which may be part of the original, possibly medieval, Cross,

was poorly done allowing water and frost damage.

- A proper survey costing £1.5K, which the Lottery Fund will not pay for, must be done before

any grant is given.

The Clerk to write thanking Mr Stirling Clerk

-2-

3. War Memorial contd

The PC considered how to get money towards the cost of the Survey – the Chairman suggested applying to the Melksham Area Board for a small grant, and perhaps the MOD.

Cllr Ogilvie is already in touch with the MOD about the proposed new runway at RAF Keevil and will try to get a name to contact about a possible grant. The Chairman suggested she and the Clerk should draft a letter to the MOD once they have a contact name.

Cllr Ogilvie will deal with the Area Board application – forms available on website –

once the MOD response is known.

Cllr Mrs Parkyn said the whole village ought to be involved – perhaps the PC could call a public meeting? The Chairman added that it might be possible to raise some money.

Finally, the Chairman said she would try to get the War Memorials Trust to confirm the *ownership* of the Memorial.

The Parish Council unanimously thanked Cllr Boulton for his efforts.

4. Emergency Planning: No progress to date.

5. Minutes of Meeting on 21 November 2013:

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Reports on Matters in the Minutes:

a Cheque signatories: there is no official limit on the number on the Bank Mandate – the only requirement being that any cheque must be signed by 2 Councillors - and the Clerk suggested that as a problem had never arisen before the November Meeting and everything would change after the Elections in May, when 2 of the current signatories are not standing,

the PC should continue with the current arrangement. **All Agreed**

b Mr Whitehead's complaint about Footpaths: the Clerk approached the 2 farmers involved - apologies were offered for any inconvenience suffered, but problems in cultivating a field crossed by a path were pointed out. The Chairman read out the letter drafted by the Clerk, which she will sign and send as soon as possible, with any addition in manuscript.

7. Correspondence: relevant emails already forwarded to Cllrs concerned

i Wiltshire Council: Preliminary Announcement - Road Closures for repairs.

After 11 February - exact dates will be announced on site.

C20 Seend to Worton - from A361 to junction with C228 Mill Road, and from far end of Worton to A360 at Black Dog Crossroads.

Closed to all traffic from 7pm to 6am for (estimated) 5 nights.

Details of this and other closures from Simon Price (Atkins) 01225 730360

ii Wiltshire Council: model Dispensation Request and Decision Forms, more elaborate than the form drafted by the Clerk, agreed by PC and used for this Mtg **PC decided no change**

iii Keevil Clerk : sketch map of proposed Desert Landing Strip, large scale map on request – George Goodwin 01380 730360

Cllr Ogilvie's contacts tell him 2 other airfields are being considered: if Keevil is chosen

the PC will have to consider requesting a full list of flights (as in the past) from MOD,

and making sure construction traffic does not go through Bulkington.

iv Wiltshire Involvement Network: Public Meeting on NHS reforms, national and in Wiltshire.

Devizes Corn Exchange 10.30am to 3pm Saturday 2nd February **No Cllr able to attend**

v Mrs Julian Peters – letters about British Legion wreath, in future to be supplied through Steeple Ashton branch, Bulkington organiser David Raby-Cox.

vi Wiltshire Council reminder to landowners - legal width of Footpaths and Bridleways:

across field 1 metre for Footpath, 2 metres for Bridleway,

field edge Bridleway must be 3 metres, no legal minimum for Footpath.

Farmers present agreed that 1 metre was too narrow and they always allowed more.

8. Planning: 1 new Application to consider:

W/12/02304/FUL

Erection of barn-style timber-framed garage

Nimrod Cottage 18 High Street

Bulkington SN10 1SJ

Mr Calum Ogilvie Case Officer: Mr Philip Baker

Cllr Ogilvie answered questions from the PC, chiefly

(a) about fire risks from a timber building close to a dwelling – he is in discussion with the Building Control officers and the builder, and may in the end consider using brick

(b) about access to paint/treat walls – no problem. Cllr Elliott reminded him that a timber wall *must* be 1 metre from any fence, but Cllr Ogilvie said there will be no fence between the new garage and the garage and proposed “studio” next door.

There has been a complaint from the householder across the road that the garage would be too big and too high, and if rotated through 45 ° would block light,

but the Planning Officer says this is “not a material concern”.

In fact the garage would be 9” lower than the proposed “studio”.

Cllr Ogilvie then left the room while the PC discussed the Application.

The PC decided to **Support** the Application, subject to the appropriate application of building regulations, and the Clerk will inform Mr Baker of this. **Clerk**

9. William Breach Centenary Playing Field: Report

Cllr Mrs Oliphant reported that at the AGM in December the Committee was restructured;

she has joined the Cttee and Ms Richardson is a new member, with Cllr Ogilvie as an honorary member.

Cttee members will meet Jane's Pond on Saturday the 12th to discuss maintenance.

There will be a meeting at the end of February to settle events for the year and decide on disposal of old play equipment.

There is £1,070.70 in the bank account.

The Cttee has applied for a Maintenance Grant.

10. Section 137 LGA 1972: No Application received.

11. Finance:

Received since last Meeting:

date from amount £

10 Dec Interest on Deposit Account 00.24

? Jan Interest on Deposit Account 00.24

No Payments since last Meeting

Authorised at this Meeting:

date payee amount £ [inc VAT] chq no

9 Jan Society of Local Council Clerks – 2013 sub. 100.00 - 58

Bank Balances [after payments above] £

Lloyds TSB – Treasurer's [Current] A/c 203.97

Lloyds TSB – BUS Instant Access [Deposit] A/c 6, 649.46

HSBC Current A/c 11.97

[remains open for PF Maintenance Grant]

Main expenditure to come is Clerk's half-year Salary and Expenses – approx £780 - to be paid in March.

Election costs – if any - will fall in next, 2013/14, Financial Year, and will be covered by money put into Reserves in past years.

-4-

11. Finance contd

The Cllrs then considered the Precept Request for 2013/14.

Cllrs had few questions or comments on the figures circulated by the Clerk, though

Cllr Mrs Breach pointed out an error in the estimated cost of Hedgecutting – it was agreed

to raise this from £60 to £100 at an earlier Meeting.

The unanimous decision was to keep the Precept at £4,500 although this will mean an increase of approximately £1.40 in the Band D tax because of a change to the taxbase;

with a one-off grant from Wiltshire Council intended to help with this change

the total requested will be £4,671.52.

The Precept Request form was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and will be sent

to Wiltshire Council before the end of the week.

In relation to the War Memorial Grant Application Cllr Boulton asked for the PCAccounts for last year – the Clerk promised him a copy of the main page of the Year End Statement sent to the External Auditors, and if the Heritage Lottery demands more information she will try to provide it.

12: Any Other Business:

- Cllr Mrs Breach said that the weather has caused such difficulty that it may not be possible to cut the hedges as usual this year.
- Cllr Mrs Breach asked about progress with repairing or replacing the Notice Board – the Chairman said she has looked at the problem and will ask Jonathan Difford whether he could do the necessary repairs, for about £100. Smallbone might also be asked to quote.
- Cllr Ogilvie said overhanging hedges along the footway to the Church are causing problems and he suggested a note in Spotlight to ask householders to trim hedges.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Next Meeting on Wednesday 20 March
to include Preliminary Accounts for 2012/13