

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
14 January 2015

Present: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair
Cllrs S Barratt, Mrs C Crawford, R G Elliott, C Ogilvie, Mrs A Read

No member of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting started at 7.30 with

Open Forum

- The Clerk read out Pc Thomas's email which warned of burglaries from sheds and garages in the area with much equipment such as lawn mowers and power tools taken – all should be alert, fit alarms, and report any suspicious activity.
- The Chairman reminded Cllrs that Parish Council Elections are not due until 2017 – any Cllr who wishes to step down should inform the PC in good time so that a replacement candidate can be found. Cllr Mrs Flynn has confirmed that she is willing to continue.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** received and accepted from
Cllr Mrs Flynn– detained on business elsewhere and Cllr Seed - Area Planning Meeting
Police – both officers on rest days.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Mrs Oliphant and C Ogilvie – Playing Field
Cllr Mrs Read – Village Hall
Cllr Mrs Crawford – Development Plan/Affordable Housing
3. **Minutes of 12 November Meeting:** Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman
4. **Reports:**
 - ◆ The Chairman asked for Cllrs' comments on Worton PC's discussion paper on traffic on the C20 Worton-Seend road, which she had circulated in advance:
Cllr Ogilvie remarked on a recent accident at the Poulshot T- junction, which is generally felt to be the chief danger-point on the C20, and
Cllr Mrs Read added that drivers at the junction are not necessarily aware of vehicles coming onto the C20 from the byway opposite the Poulshot road.
Cllr Mrs Crawford said that at the Bulkington junction, drivers turning left – towards Seend – have problems with vehicles overtaking other traffic going towards Worton. She suggested central *double white lines* to prevent overtaking on this stretch.
All felt that speed is only part of the problems on the road - measures to improve the sight-lines at junctions are also important.
Cllr Mrs Crawford agreed to represent Bulkington PC at the meeting called by Worton PC.
 - ◆ The Chairman has ordered copies of the Countryside Code and posters about dog-owners' responsibilities – to pick up after their dogs and stick to footpaths. A revised article for Spotlight has been prepared, and she will compose a circular, with footpath map, to be distributed as soon as it is ready (Cllr Mrs Crawford will arrange to scan and reduce the map).
All landowners need to be consulted, and it is important not to antagonise dog-owners – she asked all Cllrs to work to make sure the message gets across.that they are not being persecuted.
She will contact Wiltshire Council about improved footpath signs and providing and *emptying* bins – these do not have to be specialised dog-waste ones.
Cllr Mrs Crawford suggested holding a fairly light-hearted Dog Show.

4. **Reports contd**

- ◆ Affordable Housing – the Chairman has seen a document suggesting Wiltshire Council Farms will put forward their land near the top of Mill Lane as a possible site for retirement homes, to count towards the total of 50 scheduled for the County.
She stressed that the Parish Council has *not* been informed.
If the PC decides to do a survey of housing needs a questionnaire needs to go out to all the houses in the village, plus posters and information on the website.
Cllr Mrs Crawford, who had declared her interest as a professional in the housing field, then said that an assessment of housing needs should be done, stressing that it should not be limited to Bulkington but should include the other villages in the Summerham & Seend division.
Needs must be assessed broadly and care taken to make sure that only the most sustainable sites are brought forward, considering the available infrastructure, transport links etc, remembering that any survey would be likely to be used by developers making a case for new homes.
It might be good to think about a Community Land Trust or similar arrangement if the survey shows a need and desire for affordable homes
Finally, she said that Wiltshire Council is to discuss the adoption of its Core Strategy in January; and once that is agreed there will be a call for sites to meet the Plan.
All agreed that the PC should go ahead with a survey, and the Chairman will contact Seend, Keevil and Poulshot PCs.
- ◆ Melksham Area Board is expected to consider the PC's application for a grant towards the cost of a new Notice Board in February.

5. **Finance:**

The Clerk gave Cllrs a summary Report on Progress against Budget, which predicts an overspend in 2014-15, largely caused by the very late bill from Balfour Beatty for grasscutting on the PF and Pond - June 2013 to May 2014 - plus the bill from AW Services for June to the end of the 2014 cutting season. This meant 2 payments in one year.

The overspend will be easily covered by the PC's substantial reserves.

Cllr Mrs Crawford had questions about individual payments and the revenue to cover them, and Cllr Mrs Read needed clarification of the system for paying rent for Meetings in the Village Hall - also paid in the 2014-15 Financial Year for the previous year.

The Clerk then presented her Estimate of 2015-16 Expenditure : a total of £4,530 excluding VAT – reclaimed from HMRC, normally at year-end, and November Fireworks – ex-VAT cost reimbursed immediately by PF Cttee.

She suggested a Precept request for £4,500 which with the “top-up grant” of £81.38 should cover any slight rise in costs.

The PC share of Band D Council Tax charge would fall very slightly excluding the “top-up”, including “top-up” it would rise by just over £1.

Cllrs agreed to request a Precept of £4,500.00 plus £81.38 top up = £4,581.38,

and the form was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. **Clerk to return form by post**

There was some discussion of Insurance costs – the 3-year agreement with Community First is about to end, but the payment from the PF towards the “All Risks” cover for new equipment has another 2 years to run. The Chairman will clarify this and any other payments with the PF Cttee

The PC went on to the Clerk's Report for this Meeting:

Received since last Meeting		
Date	From	£
12 Nov 14	HMRC – April-Nov VAT reclaimed	233.90
10 Nov 14	Interest on Deposit Account	0.31
9 Dec 14	Interest on Deposit Account	0.28
4 Dec 14	PF Reimbursement – Tea Urn ex-VAT	59.6

5. Finance continued

Paid since last Meeting				
date	Payee	£	[inc VAT]	Chq 0000
12 Nov 14	Royal Brish Legion Poppy Appeal	25.00		105
	Mrs L Peters – Remembrance wreath	25.00		106
	Mrs S Oliphant – Reimbursement, tea urn	71.55	11.93	107
	PF – VAT on goalpost repair	31.46		108
28 Nov 14	PF – Printing cost of Calendars	267.54	44.59	110
1 Dec 14	SLCC – Clerk's 2015 sub	103		111

Note – cheque no 0000109 made out to wrong payee and *cancelled*

Authorised at this Meeting				
date	Payee	£	[inc VAT]	Chq 0000
14 Jan 15	A.W Services – grasscutting from June 2014	600.00		112

The PC accepted AW Services' tender for the full 2015 grasscutting season - £840 ex-VAT; the Chairman signed a letter agreeing this and indicating that VAT will be paid if and when the firm is registered and shows its VAT number on bills.

6. Section 137 LGA 1972: No application received.

The Clerk reported that cheque no 102, dated 10 September - £50 towards Spotlight production costs - has still not been presented – she will try to chase it.

7. Correspondence: relevant emails circulated to Cllrs concerned.

a WILTSHIRE COUNCIL :

- Public Meetings on 2015-16 Budget – Trowbridge 27th January 5pm in Atrium County Hall
Devizes 3rd February 5.30pm in Corn Exchange

- Western Area Planning Cttee – tonight, Cllr Seed's Apologies to BPC

b MELKSHAM AREA BOARD: Next Meeting 11th February in Assembly Hall

c WALC:

- Councillor Training Core Skills Tuesday 24th Feb, 6.30 for 7pm, new Community First building
no Cllr able to attend
- AGM 27th January 6 for 6.30pm in Devizes Town Hall
none able to attend

d COMMUNITY FIRST: Buckingham Palace Garden Party 28th May -

- nominations to go into ballot for invitation - by 2nd February
no nomination from BPC
- e-petition -

Central Govt to continue funding ACRE [Action with Communities in Rural England] Network.
Closing date 19th January, link <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/73418>

e CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU: Information on Energy Bills

f Advertisement – Daniel Potter, West Country Tree Services -

keep on file

g Oil Buying Club offer to address PC on home heating oil purchases -

no invitation

h Royal Bath & West Show – form to enter for Prince of Wales Award

no entry

i Requests for Donations from Wiltshire Citizens Advice, Victim Support -
Bulkington Parish Council only donates to strictly local organisations.

3 copies of CPRE booklet How to Respond to Planning Applications – distributed

Available to download from Department for Communities & Local Government website -
Plain English Guide to the Planning System – Clerk's copy circulated

Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities - BPC's Standing Orders comply with this Code.

8. William Breach Centenary Playing Field:

Cllr Mrs Oliphant reported

- the Committee has £2,000 in the Bank
- Urchfont calendar a success, will repeat for next year
- After RoSPA Report Cttee has removed some smaller pieces of equipment, eg the portable slide, as no longer viable, and much other equipment needs replacing.
- Before deciding on replacements it is important to establish the age profile of users, and Cllr Mrs Oliphant has engaged a company to do an assessment
- Willow Structure – impossible to maintain, to be removed at 7th February Maintenance Day

Events planned for 2015 include

- Metal Detectorists 14th March - Philip Coles to provide parking on his land, PF to provide Barbecue and soft drinks/tea/coffee.
- September Games - on 5th or 6th - to include a Dog Show
- Fireworks to be on 7th November

Payments due to Parish Council: £222.95 ex-VAT cost of printing Calendars and PF Contribution towards All Risks Insurance costs on new Equipment, normally £60 - Cllr Mrs Oliphant outlined the history of this payment, connected with Grant conditions which required All Risks cover for the first 5 years. **See 5. Finance**

9. Planning: 1 Application to be considered at this Meeting -

14/11786/FUL

Assigned Officer Mr David Cox

Proposed extension to existing farm buildings to create Machinery Store
Gaston Green Farm
Bulkington Drove
SN10 1SN
Mr Robert Breach

Cllrs examined the plans and elevations and agreed to

Support the Application

As the closing date for comments is *14th January*

Clerk will email BPC response tonight

10. Any Other Business:

- Cllr Ogilvie said the promised gel bags for flood defence have not yet been delivered
- Meetings and “exercises” for Community Volunteers are no longer required – the Chairman will respond to this announcement.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.03pm

**Next Meeting 11 March
to include
Preliminary Accounts for 2104-15**