

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 January 2017
(postponed from 11 January because of Clerk's illness)

Present: Cllr Mrs Read in the Chair
Cllrs S Barratt, P Bennett, P Bowen, O Coles, G Elliott

Cllr J Seed – Wiltshire Council

No member of the public present, but ex-Cllr Mrs Oliphant looked in briefly to hand over Playing Field files.

The Meeting started at 7.30, as there was no Open Forum the Chairman asked Cllr Seed to speak:

- Wiltshire Council will produce a balanced Budget for adoption on 21st February
- Wiltshire Council's Chair Lady Scott has been lobbying central Government to allow Parish Councils to raise their Precept
- Bulkington's application for an Area Board grant (towards WWI centenary stone) is likely to succeed – the Meeting to decide it will be on February 6 or 7. Cllr Barratt will attend.

Cllr Seed left for another meeting at 7.35 and the Chairman went on to the Agenda.

1. 1. **Welcome to new Councillors** Mr Bennett and Mr Bowen.
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3. 2. **Apologies for Absence:** none received
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Mrs Read for the Village Hall
4. **Minutes of Meeting on 9 November:** Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Reports:**
 - [a] Cllr Barratt has submitted the Application for a grant of £550 towards groundwork for the WWI Centenary memorial stone, and will attend the Area Board Meeting in February.
 - [b] Emergency Plan – the latest version is on the website, but is still not complete.
Cllr Barratt suggested that it might be best to leave the final version to be agreed after the Elections -
the Chairman pointed out that the basics are now in place.
 - [c] Parish Stewards – Cllr Mrs Read encountered a man working in the village, but was unable to speak to him
to confirm details. She will email Mr Cadwallader for contact information.
6. **Section 137 LGA 1972:** No Application received.
7. **Finance:**

The Clerk presented Draft Estimates to assist the PC in considering the 2017-18 Precept - which had been briefly discussed at the November Meeting - and answered questions. She explained the impossibility of accurately predicting S.137 payments, pointed out that the May Elections would produce an unknown number of new Cllrs who would need Training and copies of the Councillor's Guide produced by WALC, and responded to Cllr Bennett's query about the absence of a Contingency figure by saying that the PC had dropped this some years earlier as it was not considered really helpful.

Councillors accepted the Estimates and went on to consider the Precept request: after discussion the PC decided to request a Precept of £4,750, which would be an overall rise of £100 or just over 2%.

This would take the Parish Council share of the Band D Tax rate up to £40.

Agreed

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The Chairman and Clerk signed the Precept form, to be delivered by hand to County Hall the next day - the deadline for submission is Friday 20 January.

Clerk to deliver

form

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7. Finance contd

The Clerk summarised Receipts and Payments since November:

| Received | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|------|
| Date | From | | £ |
| 9 Nov 16 | Lloyds Bank – Interest on Deposit Account | | 0.40 |
| 9 Dec 16 | Lloyds Bank – Interest on Deposit Account | | 0.39 |
| 9 Jan 17 | Lloyds Bank – Interest on Deposit Account | | 0.4 |

| Paid since last Meeting | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|-----------|---------|
| Date | Payee | Amount £ | [inc VAT] | Chq 000 |
| 2 Dec 16 | Society of Local Council Clerks - 2017 subscription | 55.00 | | 168 |
| | Association of Local Council Clerks – 2017 subscription | 10.00 | | 169 |

The PC then authorised the following payments – the first cheque had been awaiting Cllr Elliott's signature.

| Authorised at this Meeting | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------|-----------|---------|
| Date | Payee | Amount £ | [inc VAT] | Chq 000 |
| [14 Dec 16] | RW & HC Breach – hedgecutting, Playing Field and Fullwood Lane | 168.00 | [28.00] | 170 |
| 18 Jan 17 | AW Services - Playing Field and Pond grasscutting 2016 season | 840.00 | | 17 |

Cllr Elliott then signed the form to add Cllr Mrs Read to the list of signatories on the PC's Bank Mandate.
Clerk to deliver to Bank asap

Finally, the Clerk announced a change in External Auditor for 2017-18 onwards - PKF Littlejohn LLP.

The new firm will contact Wiltshire Councils in March about arrangements.

The current Auditors (Grant Thornton) will handle the 2016-17 Accounts.

1. 8. William Breach Centenary Playing Field.

In the absence of a Committee no formal Report was possible, so Cllrs discussed recruiting new members -

parents of young children are obvious candidates, who could perhaps be contacted while waiting for the morning School Bus.

On repairs and maintenance of play equipment, Cllr Coles suggested a regular check; he agreed to draw up a fortnightly rota and draft a report sheet.

Cllr Coles also undertook to contact RoSPA about checking the recent repairs - called for in 2016 Report.

It was decided to continue with AW Services for grasscutting – there had been some complaints but as both Cllr Coles and Cllr Elliott pointed out this work is completely dependent on good dry weather.

Keevil PC have changed to doing their own grasscutting, but this is not really possible in Bulkington - the

equipment is expensive and if volunteers could be found to operate it they would need costly insurance.

There followed a general discussion of such things as weed control – where not provided by Parish Stewards – and preventing fly-tipping on roadsides.

1. 9. Planning: No Application received.

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10. Any Other Business:

- Cllr Barratt asked whether he should go ahead with preparatory work for the Memorial Stone if the Grant Application is successful – all agreed
- Cllr Bennett asked who runs the Village Website – Calum Ogilvie, and in his absence Sue Barratt.
- Cllr Bennett asked whether Mrs Oliphant has carried out her promise to contact John Breach about mud on the road by his farm, and problems with a stile on one of his fields – not known.
- Cllr Bennett added that Mrs Oliphant had also undertaken to act on the muddy Byway, and a stile.
- After considerable discussion of these points, the Chairman agreed to contact Mrs Oliphant, and also perhaps get in touch with Wiltshire Councillor Whitehead, whose portfolio includes such matters.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9pm

**Next Meeting 15 March – please note changed date
to include Preliminary Accounts**