

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council,
held at Wickleaze Farm because Village Hall not available,
7.30pm 9 July 2014

Present: Cllr Mrs Oliphant in the Chair

Cllrs S Barratt, Mrs C Crawford, RG Elliott, Mrs J Flynn, and Mrs A Read

no member of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

Open Forum

- Clerk relayed PC Thomas's e-mailed Report – no recent crime in Bulkington, but
 - spate of thefts of catalytic converters from Citroën Xsara and Peugeot cars in Melksham and Semington. She advised -
 - park in a (lockable) garage wherever possible, and/or fit security devices to protect catalytic converter – thieves are after the platinum the device contains.
 - Where a caravan is normally parked in a driveway, when the owner is away on holiday he should ask neighbours to park a car in its place, and take other measures to make the house look lived in. Preferably a caravan should be stored on a secure site, rather than parked in a drive.
1. **Apologies for Absence:** received and accepted from Cllr C Ogilvie, Pc Thomas
 2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Mrs Oliphant - Playing Field, Cllr Mrs Read – Village Hall
 3. **Minutes of 21 March Meetings :**
 - [a] Annual Parish Meeting: accepted as true record with 1 correction – Cllr Mrs Crawford not present
 - [b] Annual meeting of the Parish Council: accepted as true record,
[note – the Chairman did not sign the Acceptance of Office until 24 June]
both sets of Minutes signed by Chairman
 4. **Reports:**
 - No Progress on TLZ/new runway at Keevil expected before Planning applied for in October – Chairman circulated the contractors' latest communication
 - Tiles on Bus Shelter roof – Cllr Mrs Crawford reported a temporary repair, and Cllr Elliott will discuss possible major work with his son.
Clerk to try to find out who were the original builders, in 2000.
 - Balfour Beatty appear to be cutting Pond and Cross areas, as part of their Wiltshire Council contract for road verges etc.
 - PC's new Contractor is cutting the Playing Field and has promised an extra cut round the Memorial just before Remembrance Sunday.
 - Problem for “buggy” users reported – roadside footpath from about no 41 to the Church impassable – overgrown hedges/bushes/trees.
Clerk to draft letter to homeowners asking them to cut back growth to clear footpath.
 5. a **Annual Review** of Risk Assessment and Internal Audit;
b **Confirmation** of Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

The Clerk outlined all these, especially noting the changes to Code of Conduct and Standing Orders after Parish Council adopted Wiltshire Council model and Standards Board for England abolished. The Chairman emphasised the PC's adherence to the Wiltshire Council Complaints Procedure. Cllrs unanimously declared themselves satisfied.

6. Correspondence: relevant emails circulated to Cllrs concerned

- i Rural Services Network : Questionnaire on Rural Housing Policy Review.
The Chairman suggested possibly doing a Housing Needs Survey, then asked Cllr Mrs Crawford to speak as this is her professional field.
Cllr Mrs Crawford pointed out that any survey should cover people with family or other connections with the village who might want to move back to the village and into new houses.
However, Bulkington does not have good enough infrastructure – in particular sewers – or transport links to cater for increased population, and the PC owns no land which can be built on.
Wiltshire Council does have some land in the area and is quite keen to develop it.
She suggested any Survey of Need should cover all villages served by the School, and added that she could possibly get a speaker to talk about Community Land Trust.
The Chairman said she would contact Steeple Ashton PC.
Best course is to contact Cllr Seed suggesting survey should cover his whole Summerham and Seend constituency - generally **agreed**.
- ii Local Works – Empowering Parish Councils to sell Electricity: Bulkington PC has no scheme for generating electricity.
Cllr Elliott said his Solar Panels application was not successful- scheme too small – but he could confirm that underground cable connecting panels to the south with the National Grid in Bulkington has now got landowners' agreement and will go ahead.
- iii Cllr Mrs Crawford might be able to attend the Meeting with contractors re Keevil Airfield.
- iv WALC July newsletter:
 - new Community First website – <http://www.communityfirst.org.uk>
 - any photographs of local projects etc for proposed new WALC website to go to Katie Fielding on kfielding@communityfirst.org.uk .
- v NALC -Policy Consultation on Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014: available for Cllrs to consult, chiefly concerns admission of Public and Press to meetings.

7. Planning: No Applications or Wiltshire Council Decisions to report.

8. William Breach Centenary Playing Field:

Cllr Mrs Oliphant reported

- Playing Field has £1K in the Bank
- Marquee repaired and available to hire
- New gazebo acquired
- Magpost installed
- Maintenance events planned for 19 July; 21 September – with Fun Day
- Bonfire – 1 November
- Funds need to be raised either to buy new Play Equipment (esp for younger children) or, perhaps preferably, improve that already in place.
- Goalposts have been repaired by Mr Whiteley, but thanks to an unfortunate misunderstanding of the invoicing and payment system he paid for the materials out of his own pocket.
The PF Cttee will arrange to reimburse him in full – the VAT cannot now be reclaimed.

9. Section 137 LGA 1972: No Application received

10: Finance:

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return for 2013-14 was approved, without comment or query, by the Auditors Grant Thomton on 19 June – no fee.
Notice of Conclusion of Audit and copies of the Return were posted on the Notice Board on 24 June and were available until 9 July – the day of the PC Meeting.
She remarked on the greatly improved speed of the Audit process.

10: Finance contd

Report for this Meeting::

| Received since last Meeting | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------|
| Date | From | £ |
| 6 Jun 14 | HMRC – 2013-14 VAT reclaimed | 576.56 |
| 9 Jun 14 | Interest on Deposit Account | 0.34 |
| 8 Jul 14 | VH – fire extinguisher check ex-VAT reimbursed | 124.26 |

| Paid since last Meeting | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|
| date | Payee | £ | [inc VAT] | Chq 0000 |
| 10 Jun 14 | Caledonia Play – Magpost for PF | 156.00 | 26.00 | 98 |

| Authorised at this Meeting | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------|-----------|----------|
| date | Payee | £ | [inc VAT] | Chq 0000 |
| 9 Jul 14 | Protect Fire Equipment Ltd – VH extinguisher check and service | 149.11 | 24.85 | 99 |

When billed – new outside Notice Board : £288.16 inc VAT

The Clerk did not give a detailed Report on Progress against Budget but said that the general situation is satisfactory – with the exception of the BBLP grasscutting bill for June 2013 to May 2014, which distorts both the 2013/14 and 2014/15 Accounts. However, the PC's Reserves will easily prevent any actual deficit.

11: Any Other Business:

- Cllr Mrs Flynn said dogwalkers and others report continuing problems with a stile on Footpath 8. The Chairman will ask Cllr Seed to approach the landowner.
- Cllr Mrs Oliphant has obtained a quotation for a replacement outside Notice Board - solid oak frame, size A2, toughened glass, which Cllrs agreed was reasonable - see **10. Finance**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Next Meeting 10 September