

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
25 November 2015

Present: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair

Cllrs S Barratt, O Coles, Mrs C Crawford, G Elliott and C Ogilvie

Cllr J Seed (Wiltshire Council)

1 member of the public – Mr Bennett

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting started at 7.30 with

OPEN FORUM

Cllr Seed spoke

- Fracking Wiltshire Council's response to consultation on its way to central Government, which now has power to grant or refuse licences.

The Chairman said Wiltshire Council website would not accept her objection – Cllr Seed to check. She went on to say that if a Licence is granted, the local Council must give

Planning Permission: to stop access to the drilling site the PC must get local people to band together, and she will try to arrange a Parish Meeting to get the village interested.

Cllr Mrs Crawford felt that should not be too difficult, but Cllr Ogilvie stressed the need to get organised as soon as possible.

- Area Board grants Melksham gives more than most – put request in while funds still available

The Chairman has consulted Keevil PC about sharing costs of a “Metro Count” to check speeding - Wiltshire Council will no longer operate “speed indicators” in villages.

- Highways replying to Cllr Ogilvie, Cllr Seed said the Council is doing more than recently, but would be glad if Towns/Parishes could take on some local tasks.

[7.45 - Cllr Seed left to go on to another meeting.]

The Chairman distributed copies of Mr Bennett's letter to the Clerk, dated 19th November;

she warned Cllrs of their duty to be objective, especially in regard to his accusations of the PC's failure to follow due process.

Cllr Barratt asked Mr Bennett if such feelings were shared in the village –

Mr Bennett replied that some feel that certain individuals are favoured, but the Chairman pointed out that no-one comes to Parish Council Meetings to voice concerns or ask questions.

She then quickly went through the Clerk's reply to Mr Bennett's letter – he acknowledged the Clerk's apology for any confusion over the change of date –

and went on to address his points about walkers,

footpaths, stiles etc

There followed a long discussion of blocking of footpaths, especially by standing crops when a path

does not follow the edge of a field – Cllrs Coles and Elliott remarked that when a path is well-used walkers follow its line immediately after cultivation, so preventing seedlings growing up to block it.

Finally, the PC decided on the best way to negotiate with landowners: **Chairman** to write

to individual farmers on the details.

Mr Bennett then raised the question of the correct design of stiles – the Chairman gave Cllr Elliott some information on access regulations including stiles, “kissing gates” etc.

On the problem of paths getting churned and rutted in wet weather the Chairman noted that

Mr and Mrs Gray refused to allow the PC to put scalplings on the footpath from the Pumping Station where it crosses their land, but said she would make further enquiries of the Parish Steward.

Mr Bennett said he wants the matter to be referred to Wiltshire Council if the Chairman's letters to farmers do not produce the desired effect.

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OPEN FORUM continued

Finally, Mr Bennett clarified his complaint about the PC's failures in integrity and clarity: he feels that the PC is not objective because it does not always insist that non-financial interests be declared.

He wants land ownership in relation to footpaths clearly stated; he will inform the Chairman of the exact details.

The Chairman went on to the Agenda:

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Read who is unwell; and Police – Chairman has report. **See 4 .**

Reports

- 2. Declarations of Interest :** Cllr Mrs Oliphant for Playing Field; Cllr Mrs Crawford for Housing; Cllrs Elliott and Coles for Footpaths and related matters.

- 3. Minutes of 16 September Meeting:** Accepted as a true record, with 1 correction – the Date of the November Meeting was later changed to 25th because the Chairman and Cllr Ogilvie were unable to attend on the 18th.

4. Reports, Correspondence:

- ◆ Police Report: No problems in Bulkington, but general watchfulness advised especially in the run-up to Christmas.
- ◆ Speeding : The Chairman has applied to Melksham Area Board for money for Metrocamp speed-check apparatus. Keevil PC are investigating a speed indicator device to share with Bulkington, Steeple Ashton and Bratton – costs would be roughly £200 each for training and replacement batteries.

Speed limit stickers for domestic refuse bins have arrived and will need to be distributed to individual houses - Cllrs Mrs Oliphant for Wickleaze Lane, Coles for Mill Lane, Ogilvie and Barratt for High Street volunteered to do this.

- ◆ C20: Worton has made no further contact; however, the hedges which block sightlines at junctions are now being cut back.
- ◆ Lack of refuse bins near footpaths etc : Stuart Renfrew warns that there is no money for more bins and if one is damaged it will not be replaced. (Cllr Coles volunteered to deal with the bin near the Playing Field). If the PC were to buy a bin eg for the beginning of Path 5A there would still be the problem of emptying it and

disposing of the waste. The Chairman suggested asking the pub owners to take the waste in their contract skip, and Cllr Coles volunteered his skip for Mill Lane.

Cllr Mrs Crawford asked if the PC could wait until summer to see if the situation improves.

- ◆ Spotlight: is happy to give Bulkington a page for at least a summary of Minutes etc.
- ◆ Link Scheme : Seend covers Bulkington – David Raby-Cox is a driver – but has had no requests. Cllr Ogilvie will put details including the coordinator's telephone number on the website.
- ◆ Fracking: Chairman and Cllrs Mrs Crawford, Ogilvie and Barratt will get all available information before calling a Parish Meeting.
- ◆ Highways changes – Newsletter expected in December, Cllr Ogilvie will put information and the “App” for reporting problems on the website.

5. **S.137 Local Government Act 1972:** No new Application received.

6. **Finance:**

The Clerk reported no problems with Progress against Budget, and went on to state that for the 2016-17 Precept – to be considered in January - Wiltshire Council's “top-up grant”, in its final year, is only £14.65 and to be ignored.

Bulkington's Taxbase, the equivalent number of Band D properties, is 120.96, *up 3.95*, which means that the Parish share of the Band D rate will *fall* by £1.26 to £37.20 if the Precept is unchanged.

Each £100 rise in Precept would add about 87p and a £150 rise would bring the Band D rate almost exactly to the 2015-16 figure. She circulated a summary set of figures to make this clear.

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1. Finance: contd

1.

Clerk's Report for this Meeting:

Received since last Meeting:		
Date	From	£
9 Oct 15	Lloyds Bank – Interest on Deposit A/c	0.30
23 Oct 15	Village Hall – ex-VAT fire extinguisher service	98.41
9 Nov 15	Lloyds Bank – Interest on Deposit A/c	0.31

Paid since last Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	
23 Oct 15	Playsafety Ltd – Playing Field safety check	117.60	[19.60]	135
	Bulkington in Bloom – spirals & canes for saplings from Woodlands Trust	35.00	-	136

	Protect Fire Equipment Ltd – Village Hall fire extinguisher service	118.09	[19.68]	138
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Note – cheque no 137 cancelled

Authorised at this Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	cheque
25 Nov 15	Bulkington Playing Field – Fireworks bought from Roses, ex-VAT to be reimbursed	500.00	[83.35]	139
	Royal British Legion - Wreath + donation	50.00	S.137	140
	SLCC – Clerk's 2016 subscription	65.00		141

When billed: Grasscutting contract - £840

When new Cheque signatories finalised: Speed stickers for domestic bins - £87.90,
(reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Oliphant)

[Estimated] Bank Balances after these payments:

Treasurer's [Current]	2721 3368	£99.68
Bus Bank Instant [Deposit]	2721 4460	£8,463.82

Cheque signatories: the Chairman is working on downloading the Bank's forms for changes -

Cllrs O Coles and G Elliott to replace retired Cllrs - Cllr Ogilvie offered to help with any problems.

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

- Cllr Mrs Oliphant reported that the PF Cttee is reduced to 2 members – herself and Mr Crawford – not enough to deal with the matters raised in RoSPA's report.
- Volunteers are needed to fix problems, the alternative being simply to rope off any equipment reported as unsafe. Steeple Ashton Parish Council employ a handiman/contractor for repairs.

Cllr Mrs Crawford said that any such cost should be paid out of Playing Field funds, which currently amount to about £1,500. If the Parish Council were to take over the PF Cttee would never be ready or willing to take responsibility. She suggested a real effort to revive the Cttee in the spring.

Cllr Mrs Oliphant agreed, pointing out that the Field is less used during the winter, and none of the problems is really dangerous.

Cllr Barratt volunteered to do minor jobs himself, and to ask around for someone for bigger repairs – Cllr Mrs Crawford said that any repair needing a professional could be paid for out of PF funds.

Cllr Ogilvie wondered if the Area Board would give grants for improvements.

- Cllr Mrs Crawford reported a successful Fireworks evening – 392 attended, and there was a profit of about £570, with some money put aside for a summer event. There was no shortage of volunteers for the event, which is promising for the future.

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1. 8. Planning: No Application or Wiltshire Council decision received.

1. 9. Any Other Business:

- Cllr Mrs Crawford reported complaints about low-flying helicopters on the previous Tuesday.
- Cllr Ogilvie will attend a Melksham Emergency Planning Workshop on 3rd December, 5.30-7.30pm.

There being no other business requiring discussion
the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.25pm

Next Meeting, to include 2016-17 Precept Setting,
scheduled for 13th January 2016