

## **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 on Wednesday 9 November 2016

Present: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair  
Cllrs S Barratt, O Coles, G Elliott, Mrs A Read

Cllr J Seed – Wiltshire Council

2 members of the public ( Mr Bennett and Mr Kerslake) and  
Mr P Bevan – expecting to be Co-opted to fill vacancy caused by Mr C Ogilvie's resignation.

Clerk: Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting started at 7.30 with

### **OPEN FORUM**

- Problems with Footpath/Bridleway Erlestoke 1 – Chairman to send details to Cllr Seed, who will contact Cllr Whitehead and/or Richard Broadhead and Paul Millard of Highways.
- Stile on Bulkington 5 - too high, not securely fixed, some obstruction beside stile
- Temporary fence blocking Bulkington 8 - Cllr Elliott explained the grazing is rented and the fence is to keep young stock in the field, - he promised to deal with the matter, adding that the animals will soon be brought indoors, ending any problem.
- Mud on road by Manor Farm (John Breach) – complained of at last Meeting – is now dangerous, especially in wet weather. Also, cattle are walked across without any warning lights or signs etc. Cllr Mrs Oliphant will write to the farmer.

Cllr Seed then spoke -

- He drew attention to next week's Melksham Area Board Meeting – to be at 2pm for the convenience of older people, since matters of concern to them are to be discussed.
- He urged the Parish Council to get any Grant Application in quickly, just before or just after Christmas. Some PC s, eg Keevil, are asking for help with buying their own grasscutting equipment – this to be discussed under **9. Playing Field**.
- The PC should appoint a replacement for Mr Ogilvie to be in charge of flood precautions.
- Cllr Seed will take up Mrs Oliphant's report that the Parish Steward did not make his scheduled visit on 13 October and there has been no response to her complaint to Mr Cadwallader. The next Parish Steward visit is due on 10 November with ditch and drain clearance the top priority.

Cllr Seed left at 7.45, and the Parish Council proceeded to the Agenda:

- 1.
2. **Co-option of new Councillor:**

The process leading to Mr Bevan's co-option was challenged from the floor: the Clerk had posted the proper Notice of Vacancy but had received no response; she was later informed by the Chairman that Mr Bevan was willing to be co-opted, but no further details reached her.

Cllr Mrs Oliphant then described her actions, and after some argument concluded that she had not followed correct procedure and therefore resigned, both as Chairman and as a Councillor.

Cllr Barratt suggested she agree to remain as a Councillor at least until the May

Elections, but Mrs Oliphant refused, gathered up her papers and left the room at 8pm.

All present agreed that proper procedure had not been followed, and Mr Bevan withdrew, followed by the 2 members of the public.

The remaining Cllrs agreed that in future all such announcements should appear on the Website as well as the Notice Board, and Cllr Barratt will look into the possibility of printing flyers and distributing them house-to-house.

**See 11. AOB**

The Clerk will advertise 2 Casual Vacancies as soon as possible.

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Cllr Mrs Read agreed to take the Chair for the rest of the current Meeting and the January and March Meetings unless the Parish Council wishes to elect another Chairman to serve until May.

All agreed, without a vote being taken.

The Parish Council proceeded to the regular Agenda

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs Crawford – called away on business [received late]

**3. Declarations of Interest/ Dispensations:**

Cllr Mrs Read for the Village Hall, Cllr Elliott for Footpaths and related matters;

**1. 4. Minutes of Meeting on 14 September:** Accepted as a true record, with 2 minor corrections:

under **7. Playing Field** *add* – “a professional fitter will be needed for loose bolts on swings etc, Cllr Coles can contact a worker on the Bowood estate” and

under **9. AOB** *for* “remind” *read* “suggest” ... the farmer put up warning signs

The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

**1. 5. Reports:**

[a] Emergency Plan : Cllr Barratt reported that the Plan is now on the Website with information and

suggested courses of action – in particular, do *not* plunge into a flood but contact 999.

Other emergencies such as a power cut, heavy snow or an epidemic need to be considered.

The plan is not absolutely complete, but Mr Ogilvie wishes to step down and a Cllr should in any

case read it in detail before approval –

Cllrs Coles and Elliott will do so and report to the January PC Meeting.

If the Village Hall is to be the assembly point a list of keyholders will be needed – Cllr Mrs Read

named herself, and the neighbours Roger and Liz Futter, and Mr and Mrs Boulton.

Cllr Elliott suggested that The Well is much more centrally placed.

[b] C20 – Cllr Elliott to contact the farmer about trimming the hedge at the Poulshot T-junction.

The results of recent Limiter checks are not yet known.

[c] Parish Steward – Mrs Oliphant to contact if possible.

[d] WWI centenary – Cllr Barratt has a quotation of £550 + VAT for grinding out the stump, and suggested applying for an Area Grant for “refurbishment of War Memorial site in preparation

for 2018”, this to be Phase 1 of the project.

For Phase 2 Cllr Barratt wants a polished stone plaque with a simple inscription, laid flat –

intended to last another 100 years. For this he has a quotation of some £400 including VAT from James Long, and Cllr Coles will enquire about alternative masons.  
Cllr Mrs Read is to attend the next Area Board and will try to consult Cllr Seed

**6. S.137 LGA 1972 – No Requests received**

**7. Finance:**

The Clerk reported that Wiltshire Council has set Bulkington's taxbase for 2017-18 at 118.62:

this is the equivalent number of Band D properties.

To calculate the Band D tax, the total Precept should be divided by this figure.

Figures to assist Councillors in deciding on the Precept to be requested at the January meeting:

Precept *unchanged* at £4,650 gives Band D tax of £39.20, a rise of under £1 from recent years;

Precept *down* to £4,500 (as in 2014-15 and 2015-16) gives £37.93 – a fall of about 50 pence.

To keep Band D tax at about £38.50, the Precept would have to be £4,567, £83 less than 2016-17.

She advised that in view of increasing costs a small *rise* in the Precept, to £4,700, be requested -

this would take Band D tax *up* to £39.62, just over £1 more than in recent years.

**7. Finance contd**

Report on activity since last Meeting:

:

<b>Received since last Meeting</b>		
Date	From	£
10 Oct 16	Lloyds Bank – interest on Deposit A/c	0.44
7 Nov 16	Lloyds Bank – interest on Deposit A/c - <i>est</i>	0.4

<b>Paid since last Meeting</b>				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq no
19 Oct 16	Playsafety Ltd – RoSPA Playing Field safety check	126.00	[21.00]	165

<b>Authorised at this Meeting</b>				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	Chq no

09/11/16	Bulkington Playing Field – for November 5 Fireworks to be purchased from Rose	Up to 500.00		166
	Royal British Legion – wreath and donation	50.00		167

When billed – Clerk's SLCC subscription.

**8. Correspondence:**

- Highways Newsletter for October – listing Area Managers and Engineers, and new Portfolio Holder Wiltshire Cllr Mr Alan Macrae.
- Churchwarden Anne Saywell's reply to Clerk's questions about Burial Provision – for a Government Survey. In brief, the Churchyard is open for burials and will be so for some considerable time to come – Bulkington has no “Civil Cemetery”. Cllrs commented that there are more cremations than burials nowadays.

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

1. The November 5 Firework display was a great success, in spite of concerns about the possible effects of a Saturday date

A detailed report was not possible in the absence of both Mrs Crawford and Mrs Oliphant.

For RoSPA Inspection Report see AOB.

**10. Planning:**

Since last Meeting :

**(1) Application 16/08827/FUL –**

Two Replacement Poultry Buildings and Associated Facilities at Leaze Farm on 19 October PC decided to SUPPORT this latest Application

**(2) Application 16/08948/FUL -**

Granny Annex, Garage and Store  
Tynings Farm  
24 Bulkington Drove  
SN10 1SN

Mr and Mrs T Taylor  
The Well

Assigned Officer David Cox

on 19 October the PC decided to SUPPORT the Application

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**11. Any Other Business:**

◆ Cllr Barratt reported that RoSPA listed 30 items needing attention, but most are low-risk. Two are listed as high-risk : the zip-wire is too slack, and the cantilever swing should be dismantled – if retaining bolts shear when a child is within range the result could be fatal.

Cllrs Coles and Elliott will dismantle the swing as soon as possible, while waiting for professional check and repair.

The Zip wire probably needs adjustment before getting a safety certificate.

- ◆ All agreed that the PF Cttee urgently needs reviving.
- ◆ Cllr Barratt will look into organising a flyer announcing the 2 Casual Vacancies, this will supplement Notices on the Notice Board and Website.

There being no further business requiring discussion  
the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.23pm

**Next Meeting 11 January 2017**

**to include 2017-18 Precept**