

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
16 September 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

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting started at 7.30 with

OPEN FORUM

- ☒ Cllr Seed spoke
- Fracking – central Government, broadly in favour of exploratory drilling, has asked Wiltshire Council to investigate impact. However, only remotely suitable shales are in the south near Wilton.
Cllr Mrs Crawford asked how the investigation is carried out – Cllr Seed replied Geological survey, which suggests no possibility in the west and north of the County.
Cllr Mrs Crawford pointed out that Parish Councils are asked to report on impact on such things as
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Archaeological sites, Rare and/or Endangered Species.
Cllr Seed added that the Government is pulling back on subsidies for Solar Energy – there are already too many solar panels around Melksham, causing various problems.
The Chairman asked if any other villages had responded - Cllr Seed said “no”, adding that Trowbridge seemed to be working on completely different lines.
 - The Chairman asked about Village Maintenance – verges, ditches etc and Cllr Seed said that the current system is ending and the new one will not start until April. No details are available yet,
but clearly villages will be asked to do more for themselves, and he fears problems will arise.
Cllr Mrs Oliphant suggested flood prevention work would be hard to organise, and Cllr Ogilvie said Cllrs would have to devote hours a week to preparing reports and so on - Cllr Seed promised to raise these points in Cabinet.
 - Cllr Mrs Oliphant asked about request for Traffic Calming measures on the C20.
Cllr Seed replied that this seems to have gone quiet, though Worton is still asking for action - such matters are always difficult to resolve.

(Cllr Seed then left to go on to another meeting.)

Both the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Crawford expressed concern about possibly intrusive exploratory drilling, and are keen to establish the presence of any rare species such as newts, or bats in nearby buildings – these are likely to come up in Planning Applications in any case.

The Chairman went on to the Agenda:

- 1. 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 :** Cllrs Mrs Oliphant for Playing Field; Mrs Crawford for Housing.
3. **Minutes of 15 July Meeting:** Accepted as a true record, with 1 correction – the Playing Field has approximately £1K in the bank, not £3K – and signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports, Correspondence:

- ◆ Police Report: No problems in Bulkington, 2 incidents in area - 15th July in Steeple Ashton cars damaged and money stolen.

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4. Reports, Correspondence: contd

- ◆ Defibrillator : enquiry from Cllr Mrs Read, who was told there had been no change since the PC rejected the idea. Cllr Mrs Oliphant has looked into the matter again and found the equipment is only useful in highly populated areas, besides being very costly both for installation and training..
- ◆ C20: Worton has made no further contact; Chairman suggested Cllr Mrs Crawford should represent Bulkington at any future Meeting.
- ◆ Walking with dogs: Cllr Mrs Crawford is going to take photographs to illustrate another Walk, and will investigate the best way to save pictures.

Cllrs Elliott and Coles will look into doing other Walks and, from the floor, Mrs Elliott said she has had a number of complaints about the lack of bins – she has taken photographs of poo just dumped by the path. She suggested moving some bins into better locations, eg by the brook and kissing gate

The Chairman said any bins must be accessible for Wiltshire Council's bin-emptiers – and she will enquire about providing more bins and emptying them.

- ◆ Passenger Transport: Chairman and Cllr Ogilvie went to Consultation Meeting to be told that Wiltshire Council is worried about unavoidable cuts. Clearly the Unitary Council is keen to push responsibility out to villages, eg through Link schemes (supported by Community First) and informal car-sharing arrangements. Bulkington is likely to lose its bus service.

Cllr Mrs Oliphant said some informal arrangements already exist, and Worton's experience suggests that a Link scheme can draw a community together.

Cllr Ogilvie said Bulkington is too small for a Link on its own but could perhaps join with other villages – he suggested contacting Seend.

The Chairman will contact Seend, and put a notice on the Board as Cllr Mrs Crawford suggests.

- ◆ Complaint from Mr Stables of Chestnut House that the ditch behind his house has not been cleared by neighbours (including Mr and Mrs Gray and owners of 20A).

The PC did get work done some time ago, but responsibility lies with riparian landowners.

Cllr Ogilvie said the problem is difficult to deal with, but he will contact neighbours – he added

when Cllr Mrs Crawford asked about legal action, that only the Environment Agency can sue.

- ◆ The Chairman suggested publishing a version of the Minutes in Spotlight – space is limited and publication dates don't fit well, but she could do a summary of main points discussed.

Cllr Ogilvie suggested sending this summary out by email to those on a distribution list.

All agreed to try out these ideas for reaching more people in the village.

5. S.137 Local Government Act 1972:

The PC regularly gives a Donation of £50 towards Spotlight production costs -

That £50 be paid to Seend PCC as a contribution towards Spotlight production costs

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Oliphant

Seconded: Cllr Ogilvie

All in favour see 6.

Finance

That £50 be paid in November to Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day wreath + donation

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Crawford

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Oliphant

All in Favour

6. Finance:

The Clerk presented her half-year summary of Progress against Budget, including payments at this Meeting, but excluding VAT (reclaim in March 2016) and the one-off cost of the new Notice Board, largely covered by the £500 “easement” for fibre-optic cable.

In general, the PC's situation is healthy and it should remain within Budget despite some rising costs; saving of £126 on Insurance is particularly welcome.

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

Cllr Ogilvie offered to help with any problems.

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6. Finance: contd

Cllr Mrs Crawford hopes to get a Fireworks display organised – the PC to buy the fireworks as usual

and the PF to reimburse the ex-VAT cost.

The Clerk reminded her to inform Community First for Insurance purposes.

Clerk's Report for this Meeting:

Received since last Meeting:		
Date	From	£
9 Jul 15	Lloyds Bank – Interest on Deposit A/c	0.33
10 Aug 15	Lloyds Bank – Interest on Deposit A/c	0.36

No payments since last Meeting

Authorised at this Meeting				
Date	Payee	Amount £	[inc VAT]	cheque
16 Sep 15	Village Hall - 2014-15 hire for meetings, replaces missing cheque 000116 dated 11 March	60.00	-	131

	Mrs F A Price – Clerk's ½ year salary	700.00	-	132
	Clerk's ½ year expenses	104.63		133
	PCC of Seend – <u>Spotlight</u> production costs	50.00		134

When billed: Grasscutting contract - £840; PF Safety Inspection (RoSPA) - £100 +

[Estimated] Bank Balances after these payments:

Treasurer's [Current]	2721 3368	£385.96
Bus Bank Instant [Deposit]	2721 4460	£8,963.50

7. William Breach Centenary Playing Field:

- Cllr Mrs Oliphant reported that Keep Britain Tidy have announced a new campaign which could mean the Playing Field organising a celebration for the Queen's 90th birthday in 2016.
- Cllr Mrs Crawford reported problems with getting rid of the willows – they grow back as soon as cut or uprooted – Cllr Coles suggested a suitable poison.
- Bonfire – Cllr Mrs Crawford said materials for the bonfire are already arriving – nb must be checked for dangerous things such as glass and metal.

1. 8. Planning: 1 new Application:

15/05282/FUL

Stationing of a mobile home until farmhouse has been completed

Seend Bridge Piggeries

(farmhouse actually on land north of Summerham Brook)

Mr R Bourne Queenfield Farm Melksham SN12 7RA

Assigned Officer Mr

David Cox

Having noted the long history of Applications on this site, the Parish Council welcomed this sign of progress towards completion and voted unanimously to

Support

Clerk to report PC's decision – and point out incorrect postcode on the forms - email and hard copy.

Cllr Crawford has been approached by a villager complaining about the history of certain Planning Applications and the PC's treatment of them.

The Chairman suggested circulating a resumé of the Parish Council's responsibilities and (very limited) powers – nb the PC merely reports to the Planning Authority.

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9. Any Other Business:

- ◆ Cllr Mrs Read has told the Clerk of problems with opening/closing the new Notice Board door – Chairman will get it looked at.
- ◆ From the floor, Mrs Elliott said some traffic is coming into the village from the Seend-Worton road very fast – Chairman said at the last Speed Check the Police found no evidence of excessive speed, but she will take the matter up with PcsO Wilson. She will also chase the suppliers of speed-limit stickers for waste bins – ordered but not yet delivered.

- ◆ Cllr Coles said he could get posters online, but it is easy to make them.
- ◆ Cllr Mrs Crawford said the Playing Field is booked for a party on the coming Saturday (19th)

There being no other business requiring discussion,
the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.10pm

Next Meeting 18 November