**Parish Meeting – Draft Minutes**

**PENDING OFFICAL APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING**

**Held Wednesday the 21st of September 2022 at 7.30pm in the Bulkington Village Hall.**

Councillors: Amy Powell (Chair), Carla Haslam (dialled in), Andrew Grabham, Alex Breach, Julie Anderson-Hill, Tamara Reay (Our Conservative Representative serving the Devizes Rural West Division)

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| **AGENDA ITEM** | **ACTION AGREED** |
| 1. **Apologies for absence:** Alison Howard-Evans, PCSO Janet, Simon Downey |  |
| 1. **To Record**:   No changes to the Register of Interests received  No declaration of Interest in agenda items received |  |
| 1. **To Receive a report** from PCSO Janet and Tamara Reay   PCSO Janet: No report received  Councillor Tamara Reay:   * The last Area Board’s focus was around safety and security, addressing antisocial behaviour in and around Devizes. * Wiltshire Council committed another 2 million pounds to White Lining (making streets safer by updating the white lines on the streets) and Flood Prevention, including gulley clearing. * Councillors asked if the White Lining funding may be used to improve pathways in Bulkington at either end of the village where there is no footpath. It was agreed to put in a request via the new CATG system now called LHFIG (New standing for Local Highways footpaths infrastructure group). All concurred that it would be beneficial to encourage safe walking within the village and that it could also help slow cars as the road markings would make it narrower without a physical barrier that would be problematic for deliveries and the farming community. * Funding Opportunities: Tamara made some suggestions for possible funding opportunities for the Rec Ground Group to pursue: Area Board (up to £5k available to committees rather than Parish Councils following recent change) National Lottery, Wiltshire Community Foundation, Nationwide and Hills recycling | Clerk to ask Andrew Jack about the new process for LHFIG requests in time for the next LHFIG meeting on Tuesday 4th October.  Carla and Amy to pursue |
| 1. **Open Forum:**  * The Erlestoke festival was held on the 1-4th of September: some villagers raised concern over possible noise – Erlestoke Parish Council worked with the Licensing committee and noise monitoring took place each night. As a result, villagers reported that the noise created was not a problem. * Dog Fouling: Villager complaint received following a rise in dog Fouling in the village, Councillors agreed that signage could be looked into and posts on social media will raise attention to the matter. * Styles and paths: Complaints have been received regarding some of the styles and footpaths in the village, these have been reported to the relevant field owners. For villagers wishing to report styles, footpaths or any other issues directly, there is a website called MyWiltshire Online Reporting where anyone can report anything directly to the council. The Council then notify the relevant people to fix the issue and give updates directly the individual who reported it.  Defibrillator access: There was an incident reported to the Parish Council where villagers were not able to access the village Defibrillator during an emergency. In the Parish Council meeting on the 21st of July 2021 it was agreed to leave the Defibrillator unlocked to make it as accessible as possible. This was communicated via Spotlight, and the Meeting Minutes (item 105/21). Councillors agreed that additional signage and reminding the village could help prevent this incident from being repeated in the future. | Clerk to post re dog fouling on website & Facebook.  Julie to check if she has any more signs  Clerk to ask steward re metal sign for fouling  Clerk to ask Council re obtaining notices.  Clerk to publish on website and Facebook re MyWiltshire and suggest as topic for Spotlight Magazine  Simon to ensure there is a small notice on the Defibrillator communicating that it is unlocked.  Clerk to re-publish on Website and Facebook  Clerk to create signage to be put up in bus shelter and the village hall |
| **Local Planning Updates:** None known |  |
| **Minute Approval:** Approval of the last Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting in June (There were no meetings held in July or August) |  |
| 1. **Finance:**   Clerk September £221.60  Grass Cutting 2nd August Breaches £84  Grass cutting Mark Goddard August £144  Grass cutting Mark Goddard September £144  Bin emptying contract Ideverde 18/08/2022 – 18.09.2022 £64  Bin emptying contract Ideverde 18/09/2022 – 18.10.2022 £64  Print of Bonfire Leaflets £28.92  Two zip line beams replacement and zip wire to be tightened £1600  **Bin contract – Ideverde**  It was agreed to sign a new contract for refuse collection for the 6 public bins in Bulkington. The last contract came to an end when the Grass Management company was changed. The collection will be every two weeks, replacing bin bags with new bags and disposing of waste. Sum: £636.87+VAT per annum. Please continue to inform out Clerk Hannah when collections have not gone to plan so she can chase. **Reminder:** **Precept time is coming up and will be on next month’s Agenda. Please email our clerk before the meeting or attend our next meeting if you would like to share your views.** | Clerk to find out length of contract and how long we can fix it for.  Clerk to send Julie information on the council’s contract with Ideverde  Clerk to add Precept to agenda for next month |
| 1. **Recreational Ground:**  * Playground updates: * Goal post to be installed imminently, cost to rec fund of £270 plus vat. * There is currently a lot of out of action equipment due to the age of the wood: The zip wire, play house and bridge all need replacing or mending. Past fundraising was for new equipment and accessibility, this year, any funds raised from the bonfire will go towards the maintenance of the Rec ground. The zip wire will be fixed in the new year due to long lead times by the supplier. It was agreed to ensure that any new wooden posts installed are on spikes with plastic caps to help protect from rain and strimming. * Picnic tables will arrive shortly, the Rec Ground Committee have selected tables made of recycled materials that come with a guarantee for 25 years. The tables will not be fixed into location so that they can be moved when there are events * The ROSPA (health and safety of equipment check) is due back next week * It was agreed to sign a new Grass Cutting agreement with Mark Goddard & Sons Landscaping for the maintenance of the grass on the Rec Ground, the bus shelter and the war memorial. The contract is to start March 2023. The contract includes 12-14 cuts over the summer cutting season. £228 per month to cut all the playing field grass, the bus shelter and the war memorial area. * For the interim, Mark believes only 2 cuts to be necessary, these will be charged as and when at a lower rate with the large open spaces cut by the Breach family as before and Mark hand cutting the edges for us. This saves us a large monthly sum over winter when the grass doesn’t grow as fast. * Lastly, the Rec Ground Committee consists of volunteers and is a separate entity to the Parish Council. If you have the time or skill set to assist with the playground maintenance, grant applications, planting or similar, please do get in touch with our Clerk. | Andrew to chase  Andrew to take the door off the play house with Alex and sand down edges  Clerk to post Facebook notification that all funds raised will be to repair equipment  Carla to place table order asap |
| 1. **Parish Steward:** Outstanding jobs to be sent to The Clerk prior to next visit. It was agreed to keep the clearing of gullies and cutting of grass on the footpath by rec ground on the Stewards list.   **Road verges –** The clerk received the following communication from Stuart Renfrew from Wiltshire Council:  “We are currently recruiting for a replacement technician for the Devizes Area Board, though I am familiar with Bulkington village. Item 3 below is an unusual request and I would venture that many of the adjacent residents would view any move that brings traffic closer to their property hedges and walls with concern. Additionally, removing these soil verges would likely increase traffic speeds through the village which would be unwelcome. Lastly, the Steward’s only machine capable of scoring the soil banks would be the ‘Mosquito’ and this is a fairly brutal and indiscriminate tool that would leave a less than desirable finish.  Looking at Streetview and your site photographs, the majority of the highlighted length is natural highway verges with the only evidence of true soil creep being alongside the thatched cottage. That sole specific site might benefit from siding back but, again, I feel the gains would be outweighed by the negatives. With the above in mind, I hope you can ask the Councillors to take a fresh look at this proposal to ensure that they are clear on the pros and cons involved and that their intentions are supported by the High Street residents?”  Councillors pushed for the steward to clear the area manually with shovel and bucket or use the Councils “Mosquito” tool and clear the area afterwards. It was agreed that the short stretch of road opposite the pub would benefit from this clearing particularly as cars park alongside the footpath frequently making the road left for vehicles to pass very narrow. | The clerk will request steward to do it manually with shovel and bucket or use tool above and steward make good. It is only a short and councillors feel like it is in the interest of safety. |
| 1. **Bonfire Night:** Bulkington’s Bonfire Night will be on the 5th of November: As usual, the running of the event will rely on volunteers for the setup, marshalling, food stalls, ticketing, clear down afterwards etc. If you can volunteer for any of these roles, please do contact our Clerk Hannah. Councillors Julia, Amy, Andrew, Alex and Carla all volunteered to help at the event but many more will be needed to ensure the event can take place.  * Stalls: It was discussed that more than one food and drinks stall would help queues, with both stalls selling both food and drink so families don’t need to queue twice. * Other stalls were also discussed, such as sweeties, pocket money glow in the dark toys etc. The delivery on the Glow in the Dark toys is 5-7 days * Attendees will be asked to bring cash as a card device takes a large percentage of the proceeds. * Advertising: Posters have been distributed at Keevil and Seend school, in the bush shelter and the village hall notice board. Book Bag leaflets have been delivered to both schools. The leaflet will also be featured in Spotlight magazine. * Door drop: Leaflets have been ordered and will arrive Wednesday 28th, volunteers needed to deliver around the village | Clerk to advertise the event on Facebook, the website, via posters and school book bags. Advertising to mention cash only and pocket money gifts.  Simon to update the team with next instructions and plans |
| 1. **AOB Parish Council meet up** – It was agreed to invite Keevil and Steeple Ashton Parish Councils to a cheese and wine evening at Bulkington village hall to encourage sharing learning, resources and experiences. Date proposed: Wednesday 16th of November after the Bulkington Parish Meeting. | Clerk to arrange |
| **NEXT MEETING: 19th of October, the Parish Council team meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm** |  |