**Monthly Parish Meeting – Draft Minutes**

**PENDING OFFICAL APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING**

**Held Wednesday the 22nd of February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Bulkington Village Hall.**

Councillors: Amy Powell (Chair), Alex Breach, Alison Howard-Evans, Julie Anderson-Hill and Alex Breach

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| **Ref** | **Agenda Item** | **Action** |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:** Andrew Grabham and Carla Haslam |  |
| 2 | **To Record:**  No changes to the Register of Interests received  No declaration of Interest in agenda items received |  |
| 3 | **To Receive a report from Tamara Reay:**  Wiltshire's Council's budget was formally approved at a meeting of Full Council last night – the balance budget includes Wiltshire Council Tax going up by 4.99% due to inflation. One of the results of the budget changes is that the election costs are being passed back to parishes, local parish council elections, whether contested or uncontested, will be funded by each parish. The next general election will be on the first Thursday in May 2025 and the payment window for the election costs will be two years. A further result of last nights budget meeting is that the cost of Green Bins will be going up.   * Julie praised dog warden Sebastian Williams work and presence in the Bulkington area and asked Tamara to pass this on within the council. * £200 alternative fuel money funding should have been received by all by now. * Tamara suggested a Spring time Litter Pick and volunteered to attend should Bulkington hold a litter picking event. * Councillors asked what the plans were for the traveler site by the sewerage site in Keevil – it has been noted that the development has gone from a small shed to a more substantial building with gate posts. | Hannah send round cost of future uncontested election  Tamara to pass on  Hannah to arrange and advertise  Hannah to ask Keevil Clerk |
| 4 | **Local Police Report**  Following a series of break ins, our local police team have updated us that a total of 25 offences since the beginning of December have been linked and span Devizes, Chippenham and Warminster CPT Areas. Leads are being followed and evidence including CCTV is being used to investigate the case. |  |
| 5 | **Open Forum:**   * The Parish Clerk has received messages from villager requesting a bike rack by the village bus stop. Councillors have agreed to proceed with the installation and purchase. Clerk to purchase 2 x Sheffield Bike Racks for £40-£50 (providing they have something at the base of the hoops to prevent theft and removal). Alex agreed to help cement the bike racks in, to keep costs to a minimum. After some discussion around the location for the bike racks, councillors agreed that next to the bush shelter, near the village noticeboard, would be best as it is visible for the safety of the bikes but out of the way of bus users and passers-by. * A request for the correction of rank of one of the officers mentioned on the war memorial has been received. Councillors discussed the matter at length and concluded that proof of the rank of the soldier will be needed and that funding will need to be obtained as the cost of the work is not covered in the Parish Council budget. | Clerk to purchase bike racks  Clerk to reach out to previous PC Team members |
| 6 | **Local Planning Updates:** None known | Clerk |
| 7 | **Minute Approval:** Approval of the last Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting in January | Chair |
| 8 | **Finance:**  The following costs were approved:  Clerk January £325  Clerk expenses – (Heater costs for Dec, Jan and Feb meetings) £20  **Current PC Funds balance: £ 9,633.35** |  |
| 9 | **Newsletter:** no update to report |  |
| 10 | **Recreational Ground:** Amy and Carla have been working hard on the Rec Committee – putting together a bid for some Area Board Funding Send similar funds to Wiltshire community fund? National lottery? Amy to talk to Jonathan quote approved to give go ahead of bridge repair, instruct oak bloke for putting in self bonded path, site for the pergola where the current trim trail is with seating in. Area Board funding being worked to create a path leading into the rec ground with the aim of getting it done for the coronation. |  |
| 11 | **Parish Steward:** Winter repairs have been the priority recently. Outstanding jobs to be sent to The Clerk prior to next visit. Our Clerk has some Dog fouling stickers from the Wiltshire Council Dog warden – if you know of anywhere that needs one, please do let Hannah know. |  |
| 12 | **LHFIG requests:** Hannah gave an update on the 3 Village requests for dropped curbs and white road markings up for discussion at the next LHFIG meeting on the 17 January 2023. The confirmation that the Parish Council would like to proceed has been sent to the LHFIG Group and is being chased by Hannah. | Clerk to follow up |
| 13 | **Ticketed Summer party:** The Coronation of HM King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May, with Monday 8th being declared a holiday. Councillors discussed initial planning of a village party around that time but are lacking volunteers to assist with the organisation. It was agreed to repeat the style of event from last summer for the Queens Jubilee on the Rec Field with bring your own picknicks and team games like tug of war, rounders, three legged race and so on, on the 13th of May. |  |
| 14 | **Best Kept Village Competition:** The next year of this competition is coming up,– All Councillors agreed that Bulkington should enter again, Hannah to fill in paperwork and submit before the entry deadline of 21st April. Judging for the first (District) round will take place from 15th May to 13th June. | Hannah to fill in paperwork |
| 15 | **Recruitment:** We are currently recruiting for one Councillor to join the team, if you would like to put yourself forward, please email our Clerk Hannah Ask Claire |  |
|  | **NEXT MEETING: 15th March 2023 at 7.30pm** |  |