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|  |  | **Annual Parish Meeting – Draft Minutes**  **PENDING OFFICAL APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING**  **Held Wednesday the 18th of May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Bulkington Village Hall.**  Councillors: Amy Powell (Chair), Alex Breach, Carla Haslam, Julie Anderson-Hill, Alison Howard-Evans  Public: Tamara Reay (Our Conservative Representative serving the Devizes Rural West Division) | |
| **AGENDA ITEM** | | | **AGREED ACTION** | |
| 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Simon Downey, Andrew Grabham | | |  | |
| 1. **Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 19th of May 2021:** approved | | |  | |
| 1. **Chairman’s report:** The Acting Chair Amy delivered her report | | |  | |
| 1. **Financial report:** The Acting Chair Amy presented the Financial Report | | |  | |
| 1. **Questions and Comments from Local Government Electors** - None received | | |  | |
| 1. **Vote for new Chair and Vice Chair: Vote for new Chair and Vice Chair:**   Unanimous vote for Amy Powell as Chair and Andrew Grabham as Vice Chair.  Amy was proposed by Julie and seconded by Alison.  Andrew was proposed by Alex and seconded by Julie.  Amy was happy to continue to continue as Chair for this year but would like it noted that next year she will be ready to pass the reigns on to someone else. | | |  | |
| 1. **Approval of updated Governance Documents:** None known to require updates – as the website was launched so recently and all was updated then. | | | Clerk to check dates of Governance documents on the website if NALC has made any updates | |

The Parish Council Meetings always fall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month:

June 15th

July 20th

No Meeting

September 21st

October 19th

November 16th

December 14th

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|  | Chairperson’s Report May 2021 – May 2022 |  |

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| We finally see the last of the pandemic restrictions lifted and life can start to return to a new normal. We’ve been able to meet in person and hold community events again. We held our annual community event in the village hall in March and it was lovely to see some local people there wanting to get involved and find out more about what the community has to offer. We look forward to holding a similar event next year keeping our community engaged and connected to those who matter to them. Thank you to those who took time out of their day to pop down and see us and find out what’s going on.  The Parish Council Team has had a stable year with its councillors which has been lovely to really form a good team bond and work out where skills and support lie in the team. We’ve been able to progress with lots of smaller things this year, probably some thing you’ll not even notice but if it wasn’t for the fantastic team we have looking after our village assets our village would slowly into disrepair and untidiness.  Your Parish Council team member are:  Hannah Becket – The Parish Clerk  Amy Powell, Andrew Grabham, Simon Downey, Alex Breach, Carla Haslam, Julie Anderson-Hill, Alison Howard-Evans  With that I’d personally like to thank the support I have received from ALL the current Councillors and the Parish Clerk, Hannah. With the support of the Councillors and Hannah we have managed to maintain the services, achieve some goals and set in motion a new way of working with the community, here are some of our highlights for this year.   * Finally, we were able to host our normal bonfire and fireworks event, thanks to the planning team led by Simon Downey and the councillors, as well a significant number of community volunteers who helped bring the event together: Debbie Brunning, the family Downey, Steve Kerslake, Darren Jones and Glenn Elliott. Thank you for all the hard work you do to bring this event together every year for the village, it really was lovely to get out and hold a community event again. * We took part in the Best Kept Village Competition which generated lots of great community activity in general village tidying up and created quite a flurry of team effort in preparing for the judging. * The Recreational Ground secured £9780.00 of lottery community funding for improvements to be made to the recreational ground making it more inclusive space for all our community to enjoy. * A resident of the village on behalf of all who benefit from increased accessibility has conduced a survey of the village and the parish council are taking forward suggestions for improvements to Wiltshire Council where relevant to do so and will pick up local issues where they can. We’re like to remind those who have boundaries adjacent to the pavements in the village to always keep access clear. Things like plant pots, rubbish bins, over parked cars, overgrown hedges all contribute to accessibility issues. Please consider others who rely on and use the pavements in our community. * Our grass maintenance contract is being brought in house and has created opportunities for locals to help be part of the maintenance team. Thank you, Andrew for working this through and being persistent with your ideas and ways to save our community money. * We’d like to thank Sue Barratt for all her hard work over the years in helping to keep the Bulkington website up to date with community and parish information. Sue has hung up her boots on this now and is looking for volunteers to take over managing the website content moving forward. Anyone interested in helping with website development should reach out to Hannah or Sue to find out how to get involved. * Yes, we’ve put the precept up this year, we consulted our community and the democratic results confirmed that putting the Precept up to better manage our assets was the right thing to do. This means the Recreation Ground Committee are now making plans to spend the community and grant funding money wisely. The work will be a Recreational Ground project and will be overseen by the Parish Council for the spending of the Precept donated money (£4000.00) the remaining money spent by the Recreational Ground Committee will be governed appropriately within the committee and the Parish Council will be there as a guiding body to ensure any new equipment or changes to the recreational ground are complaint with UK standards and the ability for the Parish Council to maintain ongoing costs and insurance. If you want to be part of the Recreational Ground transformation project, please reach out to Carla Haslam who is leading the committee in this work.   Financial  At the time of writing, the Parish Council’s accounts for 2021/2022 can be reported as attached.  Wiltshire Council  We have welcomed Tamara Reay as our Devizes Rural West Councillor and she is often in attendance to our monthly meetings; she always brings with her a wealth of updates from the Council as well as being proactive in taken on actions and escalations where we need support.  We look forward to improving our village assets over the coming 12 months and working closely with our community to make improvements where we can. We welcome you all to attend our meetings to come and find out more about what we get up to and how you can get involved.  Thanks  Amy |

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**Minutes of the Bulkington Parish Council Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday the 18th of May 2022 at 7.30pm at the Bulkington Village Hall**

Attendees: Amy Powell (Chair), Alex Breach, Alison Howard-Evans, Julie Anderson-Hill, Carla Haslam (via phone)

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| **AGENDA ITEM** | **AGREED ACTION** |
| 1. **Apologies for absence:** Andrew Grabham, 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: There were no Crime Reports between 14.04.22 – 15.05.22.  Councillor Tamara Reay spoke to the councillors about Wiltshire Council updates:   * Solar Together Wiltshire: Wiltshire Council are working with independent experts iChoosr and Swindon Borough Council to give homeowners the opportunity to invest in renewables through a group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. This is a group-buying scheme which will offer solar panels with optional battery storage and EV charge points, as well as offering battery storage for residents who have already invested in solar panels and are looking to get more from the renewable energy they generate, as well as increase their independence from the grid. Given the current cost of living, significantly impacted by the surge in energy prices, we feel this scheme will be worth consideration from eligible households and help provide longer term savings. It is free to register and there is no obligation for people to go ahead with an installation. The deadline for registering interest is the 14th of June. All residents living in the Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council areas who own their own house (or have permission from the landlord to install a solar PV system) can register for the Solar Together group-buying scheme. Small and medium-sized enterprises (nondomestic) and community buildings meeting this requirement can participate as well. * The next Devizes Area Board is the 20th of June * A Webinar was held on Monday night by Wilts Council giving updates on the support offered to families coming over from the Ukraine. This can still be accessed by any residents wishing for more information. | Clerk to post solar news on FB, website and send round councillors.  Clerk to find social media release from Wiltshire Council  Julie to look into registering the Village Hall for Solar Panels  Clerk to circulate Ukraine update around villagers via Website and FB. |
| **Open Forum**: None present |  |
| 1. **Local Planning Updates:** no new planning known |  |
| 1. **Minute Approval:** The Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting were approved as a true record |  |
| 1. **Finance - The below outgoings were approved:**   Clerk Pay March £221.60  Print of Jubilee leaflets £23.81  Bunting £139.90  Grass Cutting £168.00  WALC Annual Subscription 2022/2023 £110.46  Community First Insurance £280.43 | Clerk to update the VAT spreadsheet and begin Agar. Clerk to print out annual financial report in large for village noticeboard |
| 1. **Grant access:** Councillor Tamara Reay reported that the Devizes Area Board will no longer be receiving applications from Parish Councils – only through separate bodies. There is the opportunity for the Rec Ground to apply for funding to improve accessibility and to match the funding using some of the existing money in the account before it is spent on more maintenance.Tamara also talked about the ‘Bucket Health and Wellbeing Fund’ – there is the opportunity to argue that improved accessibility would enabling people to access green spaces and social interaction. | Clerk to reach out to Andrew Jack for more information in pursuing this funding |
| 1. **Recreational Ground:**   Football Goals: The new Goal posts have arrived and are ready for installation  New equipment from Seend: The Bulkington Parish Council team would like to thank Seend Parish Council for the donation and delivery of tunnel shaped playground item for the Bulkington Rec Ground. The equipment will be enjoyed and used.  Bridge pole maintenance: The poles for the bridge are ready for installation  Funding: Rec ground funds currently stand at £12,84 with an additional £4k that is being held in the Parish Council accounts until a proposition for spending is approved.  Grass cutting: The cut grass on the Rec Ground is currently too thick and blocking the light from the growing grass – Alex agreed to request that this is cleared and re-cut pre Jubilee  Alex offered to lend the village some rubber matting to temporarily make the Rec Ground accessible for the Jubilee event. In the long term, plans are in place to make this area accessible but they won’t be complete by the jubilee event.  Sensory Garden: The area near the phone box is looking sad and over grown – councillors discussed options for making this area look neat for the Jubilee event | Andrew and Julie to talk to Kevin about goal installation and location  Tunnel Equipment to be bolted down with 4 bolt points, which could be a length of railway sleeper or similar timber set into the ground  Andrew and Alex to erect Bridge Posts pre Jubilee  Secret garden area to be tidied up pre jubilee  Hannah to talk to Bulkington in Bloom  Andrew to draw out map of Rec Ground highlighting areas to be trimmed by hand  Alex to request grass collection and cut pre jubilee  Amy and Carla to meet separately to discuss Rec Ground plans |
| 1. **Parish Steward:**   The Parish Steward last visited on the 21st of April, our Clerk is still chasing for the May and future dates. Councillors requested that the Steward addresses the weeds on the general curbside along the Highstreet and the sprawling soil area opposite the pub | Clerk to chase and if necessary escalate to Adrian Hampton or Parvis Khansari, clerk to mention Best Kept Village entry and Jubilee.  Clerk to chase the clearing of Drains |
| 1. **Jubilee:** Bulkington will be holding a Big Jubilee Picnic on the 5th of June in the Bulkington Rec Ground from Noon -Councillors have door dropped leaflets inviting villagers**.** | Bunting to be put up  Clerk to organize ball games  Alex to organize bouncy castle  Amy to source wellies for wanging |
| 1. **Improving local Accessibility in Bulkington:** Councillors are working hard on plans for the improvement of accessibility in the village and finding further funds to support this |  |
| 1. **Best Kept Village Competition:**  * Judging for the first (District) round will take place from 14th May to 12th June. * Judging for the second (County) round and for the Laurence Kitching Award will take place in July * Some properties have flagged that they are struggling to clear the front of their house in time for the competition – volunteers agreed to help support those less able | Clerk to contact Bulkington in Bloom curbside clearing to be added to stewards list |
| 1. **Internet access in the village hall:** Councillors have investigated the installation of internet, dongles and MiFi – and concluded that due to poor Wi-Fi signal, this agenda item will be shelved for now until the introduction of 5G in the village hopefully later this year. It is hoped that 5G will mean that people’s mobiles will get enough signal without any further installations or investment in the village hall. |  |
| 1. **Newsletter:** The next Newsletter will be the Autumn newsletter, an update on the year is covered in the Chairperson’s report from the Parish Council Annual meeting. Councillors discussed the best way to get information and Newsletter contents to villagers other than via the website and Facebook and talked about the option of using MailChimp or similar for emails update on content for the next edition: | Julie speak to Phil about circulating newsletter etc.  Alison to explore avenues of getting more people informed about Parish Council meetings/ news etc. possibly including mail chimp |
| **NEXT MEETING: 15th of June** |  |
| The Parish Council team meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm |  |