**Monthly Parish Meeting – Draft Minutes**

**PENDING OFFICAL APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING**

Held Wednesday the 21st of June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Bulkington Village Hall

Councillors: Andrew Grabham (Chair), Alison Howard-Evans, Alex Breach and Carla Haslam,

Three members of the public were also present

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| **Ref** |  **Subject** | **Actions** |
| 1 |  **Apologies for absence:** Julie Anderson-Hill |  |
| 2 |  **To Record:*** Changes to the Register of Interests: Amy resigned as a councillor. The team are very sad to loose such a dedicated and valuable team member and express their gratitude for all that Amy has done during her years as a key member of Bulkington’s Parish Council.
* There were no declarations of Interest in Agenda Items
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| 3 |  **To Receive a report** from Tamara Reay * Potholes continue to be a focus for Wiltshire Council resources. If people see a pothole on Wiltshire's roads, they should report it using the **MyWilts** reporting system - either through the MyWilts smartphone app for Apple or Android devices or online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts)
* This week there was webinar on the strategy and policy used for fixing potholes by Wiltshire council – it can be found here: [Pothole webinar - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5NOhbFdKSU&feature=youtu.be).
* Police update: there has been an increase in antisocial behavior in Devizes recently – additional police are present to help manage this.
* The Non-emergency police number 101 is experiencing some call delays due to recruitment issues. The police request that reports are made online where possible. Devizes police station number is 0845 408 7000.
* Wiltshire Council now collects small rechargeable electricals. These items should be presented in a supermarket carrier bag by the side of your blue-lidded recycling bin, or blue recycling sack. Individual items should be no larger than a shoe box (so around 30cm x 20cm or 12" x 8").
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| 4 | **Local Police Report:** Not received yet, Clerk to circulate when it comes through |  |
| 5 | **Open Forum:**Councillors met with potential new Councillor Philip Oakey |  |
| 6 | **Local Planning Updates:**None Known  |  |
| 7 | **Minute Approval:** Meeting Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting in May were approved |  |
| 8 |  **Finance:** Clerk pay (May or June) £325Grass cutting £228Village Hall Hire Feb 22-June23 £150 Church grass cutting grant £125WALC subscription £111.22 **Current PC Bank Balance: £12,186.27** |  |
| 9 | **Newsletter:** Councillors discussed what villagers would like to see in their Newsletter. Ideas were collected:* Rec Ground updates and requests for help.
* Link to Wiltshire Councils questionnaire on buses and footpaths, potholes etc.
* Celebration of second place in Best Kept Village Competition
* Plea to pick up dog poo
 | Clerk to ask on Facebook if there are any new issues to cover in the next edition.  |
| 10 | **Recreational Ground:** * Carla attended the Devizes Area Board this week and successfully attained a grant for £3k for Rec Ground improvement works. Plans are to use this towards the replacement of some of the equipment being removed like the swing and trim trail.
* Work on the Rec Ground starts on the 26th of June 2023 – THE REC GROUND WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE DURATION OF THEW WORKS. This work will involve the removal of the swing and the trim trail. This equipment has not passed the safety tests for some time and needs to be removed for the children’s safety. The new path and pergola will significantly improve access to the Rec Ground for all.
* Councillors recognize that the swing is a big draw to the park – replacement options are being investigated.
* Once the Rec Area is more accessible for all residents, a new gate will be required – costs for this are around £500.
* A community tidy up event in the rec after the works are completed was discussed.

Councillors have previously discussed the name: The Bulkington William Breach Playing Field and agreed that the term Recreation Ground can unofficially used as it opens up the use of the field to all villagers, rather than just those with young children. The planned works for June will further more make this area accessible to all villagers, and an even more valuable asset to the village than it already was.  | Clerk to post reminder on FB about Rec Closure Carla to bring swing costing proposal to July PC meeting |
| 11 | **Parish Steward:** Outstanding jobs to be sent to The Clerk prior to next visit. The Clerk reported that she has not heard back from the Parish Steward regarding his next or last visit. A parishioner has reported that the bin at the bottom of Mill lane has not been emptied for quite some time. This has been chased and will be escalated due to lack of replies from Ide Verde.  | Clark to chase Matt Perrott.Clerk to chase Ide Verde |
| 12 | **War Memorial request:** The Parish Council team have been contacted by Mr Rob Gaisford about the Bulkington war memorial since December 2022. Despite the Gaisford family paying for the plaque and the engraved War Memorial in 1920; the names and the rank of R S GIASFORD has been incorrect since installation. Mr Rob Gaisford expects the current precept paying residents to correct the error made in 1920. The War Memorial obtained Grade II listing status is 1968 which prevents unplanned, unauthorised work to be carried out. It is Bulkington Parish Council’s duty to maintain the monument itself to the Grade II listing’s requirements but Bulkington Parish Council does not have a duty or responsibility for the correction of, or omission of, any names or ranks. Therefore the below proposal and any counter proposals will be democratically motioned.**Former Councillor Powell - Proposal:** Bulkington Parish Council shall, in the event of the War Memorial requiring such significant restoration work that the engraved plaque requires removing, obtain additional quotes for the costs to replace the existing plaque with a new one with the rank Captain R S Gaisford, rather than replacing the current Grade II listed one. This will be in addition to the mandatory costs to the precept paying residents. The War Memorial Trust have previously confirmed that they will not financially contribute to the change of rank and fundraising for someone who has never lived in Bulkington by local residents will be challenging, therefore it will need to be an additional cost to the precept paying residents in the year the work takes place.**Councillor Grabham - Counter Proposal:** Bulkington Parish Council will conduct a democratic vote in the year preceding any significant works to the War Memorial on the increase required in the precept to cover the costs of the correction to the rank of R S GAISFORD, if the democratic vote concludes that the precept will not be increased to cover the additional costs, the family insisting on the correction must fund the works or the original plaque will be reinstated.**Councillors voted all in favor of Councillor Grabham’s Counter Proposal – including 2 members of the public.**  |  |
| 13 | **Recruitment:** We are currently recruiting for two Councillors to join the team, if you would like to put yourself forward, please email our Clerk Hannah. |  |
| 14 | **Governance Documents:** Councillors approved a new Policy: Habitual or Vexatious Complainants.Councillors discussedupdates of the following existing policies: Standing OrdersCode of ConductFinancial RegulationsGood Councillors GuideCo-opting PolicyPrivacy NoticeRisk PolicyComplaints Procedure The Emergency Plan has been updated and refreshed.  | Clerk to update and re-upload to the website. Clerk to add to next agenda for approval.Clerk to save word doc.  |
| 15 | AOB: * Best Kept Village Competition: Thank you and well done to all who helped to make our lovely village even more beautiful for the Best Kept Village award, we came 2nd place in our category - congratulations Bulkington!
* The bunting around the War Memorial has been removed – this is a precept funded asset we plan to use again, please can this be returned to a member of the Parish Council.
* Bulkington PC will be joining Keevil PC for a wine and cheese night on Tuesday 25th July.

Topics up for discussion will include: ·       Public Rights of Way and countryside access·       The HMA and Local Plan – (The Wiltshire Council draft local plan will come out on 3rd of July for consultation. It will include policies in relation to planning and housing allocations.)·       Dog poo strategies·       Climate actionAlex, Julie, Alison and Hannah plan to attend.  | Clerk to RSVP |
|  | **Next meeting: 19th July 2023 at 7.30pm** |  |