

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs F A Price 1 The Croft Urchfont Devizes SN10 4RT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9 January 2013

Present: Cllr Mrs Oliphant in the Chair;

Cllrs R N Boulton, Mrs H C Breach, R G Elliott, C Ogilvie,

Mrs C Parkyn and Mrs A Read

Cllr J Seed – Wiltshire Council

1 member of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.35pm and as nothing was raised in the OPEN FORUM she went immediately to Pcs0 Baldock's emailed update:

- Pc Thomas set to return from Maternity Leave in March
- no problems reported in Bulkington *but*
- many local Churches broken into, in addition to thefts of lead from their roofs etc
- large quantity of oil stolen from an outside tank in Steeple Ashton – extra vigilance needed
- numerous sheds and other outbuildings broken into

Cllr Seed reported that Wiltshire Council is passing on Government Grant to help with shortfall in Parish Precepts caused by revised Tax Base for 2013-14, itself the result of changes in payment of Council Tax benefit. **See 11. Finance**

Cllr Seed asked if there had been any flooding in Bulkington – Cllr Ogilvie replied that there have been no recent problems, thanks to very efficient drain-cleaning, but some work remains to be done from the survey done some years ago.

Cllr Seed said the PC should persevere and Cllr Ogilvie should email him the details -
he will do what he can to help.

The Meeting then turned to the AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Declarations of Interest and/or Dispensations: Cllr Mrs Read for the Village Hall;

Cllr Mrs Oliphant for Playing Field – she is now on Cttee;

Cllr Mrs Breach and Cllr Elliott for Footpaths,

Cllr Mrs Breach for Hedging work, and for Playing Field.

All Cllrs except Mrs Oliphant (who does not pay Council Tax in Bulkington)

have requested and been granted Dispensation to speak and vote on Precept;

Cllr Ogilvie for Planning – dispensation given to speak but not vote.

3. War Memorial – progress report.

Cllr Boulton reported that

- Mr Stirling has done preliminary survey, Cllr Boulton will copy and distribute electronically.
- Historical evidence has been collected – including new information about those wounded

as well as the dead.

- It is established that the Memorial is Listed Grade 2 – which means permission must be given before any work can be done.

- Earlier restoration of the base, which may be part of the original, possibly medieval, Cross, was poorly done allowing water and frost damage.

- A proper survey costing £1.5K, which the Lottery Fund will not pay for, must be done before

any grant is given.

The Clerk to write thanking Mr Stirling Clerk

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3. War Memorial contd

The PC considered how to get money towards the cost of the Survey – the Chairman suggested applying to the Melksham Area Board for a small grant, and perhaps the MOD.

Cllr Ogilvie is already in touch with the MOD about the proposed new runway at RAF Keevil and will try to get a name to contact about a possible grant. The Chairman suggested she and the Clerk should draft a letter to the MOD once they have a contact name.

Cllr Ogilvie will deal with the Area Board application – forms available on website –

once the MOD response is known.

Cllr Mrs Parkyn said the whole village ought to be involved – perhaps the PC could call a public meeting? The Chairman added that it might be possible to raise some money.

Finally, the Chairman said she would try to get the War Memorials Trust to confirm the *ownership* of the Memorial.

The Parish Council unanimously thanked Cllr Boulton for his efforts.

4. Emergency Planning: No progress to date.

5. Minutes of Meeting on 21 November 2013:

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Reports on Matters in the Minutes:

a Cheque signatories: there is no official limit on the number on the Bank Mandate – the only requirement being that any cheque must be signed by 2 Councillors - and the Clerk suggested that as a problem had never arisen before the November Meeting and everything would change after the Elections in May, when 2 of the current signatories are not standing,

the PC should continue with the current arrangement. **All Agreed**

b Mr Whitehead's complaint about Footpaths: the Clerk approached the 2 farmers involved - apologies were offered for any inconvenience suffered, but problems in cultivating a field crossed by a path were pointed out. The Chairman read out the letter drafted by the Clerk, which she will sign and send as soon as possible, with any addition in manuscript.

7. Correspondence: relevant emails already forwarded to Cllrs concerned

i Wiltshire Council: Preliminary Announcement - Road Closures for repairs.

After 11 February - exact dates will be announced on site.

C20 Seend to Worton - from A361 to junction with C228 Mill Road, and from far end of Worton to A360 at Black Dog Crossroads.

Closed to all traffic from 7pm to 6am for (estimated) 5 nights.

Details of this and other closures from Simon Price (Atkins) 01225 730360

ii Wiltshire Council: model Dispensation Request and Decision Forms, more elaborate than the form drafted by the Clerk, agreed by PC and used for this Mtg **PC decided no change**

iii Keevil Clerk : sketch map of proposed Desert Landing Strip, large scale map on request – George Goodwin 01380 730360

Cllr Ogilvie's contacts tell him 2 other airfields are being considered: if Keevil is chosen

the PC will have to consider requesting a full list of flights (as in the past) from MOD,

and making sure construction traffic does not go through Bulkington.

iv Wiltshire Involvement Network: Public Meeting on NHS reforms, national and in Wiltshire.

Devizes Corn Exchange 10.30am to 3pm Saturday 2nd February **No Cllr able to attend**

v Mrs Julian Peters – letters about British Legion wreath, in future to be supplied through Steeple Ashton branch, Bulkington organiser David Raby-Cox.

vi Wiltshire Council reminder to landowners - legal width of Footpaths and Bridleways:

across field 1 metre for Footpath, 2 metres for Bridleway,

field edge Bridleway must be 3 metres, no legal minimum for Footpath.

Farmers present agreed that 1 metre was too narrow and they always allowed more.

8. Planning: 1 new Application to consider:

W/12/02304/FUL

Erection of barn-style timber-framed garage

Nimrod Cottage 18 High Street

Bulkington SN10 1SJ

Mr Calum Ogilvie Case Officer: Mr Philip Baker

Cllr Ogilvie answered questions from the PC, chiefly

(a) about fire risks from a timber building close to a dwelling – he is in discussion with the Building Control officers and the builder, and may in the end consider using brick

(b) about access to paint/treat walls – no problem. Cllr Elliott reminded him that a timber wall *must* be 1 metre from any fence, but Cllr Ogilvie said there will be no fence between the new garage and the garage and proposed “studio” next door.

There has been a complaint from the householder across the road that the garage would be too big and too high, and if rotated through 45 ° would block light,

but the Planning Officer says this is “not a material concern”.

In fact the garage would be 9” lower than the proposed “studio”.

Cllr Ogilvie then left the room while the PC discussed the Application.

The PC decided to **Support** the Application, subject to the appropriate application of building regulations, and the Clerk will inform Mr Baker of this. **Clerk**

9. William Breach Centenary Playing Field: Report

Cllr Mrs Oliphant reported that at the AGM in December the Committee was restructured;

she has joined the Cttee and Ms Richardson is a new member, with Cllr Ogilvie as an honorary member.

Cttee members will meet Jane's Pond on Saturday the 12th to discuss maintenance.

There will be a meeting at the end of February to settle events for the year and decide on disposal of old play equipment.

There is £1,070.70 in the bank account.

The Cttee has applied for a Maintenance Grant.

10. Section 137 LGA 1972: No Application received.

11. Finance:

Received since last Meeting:

date from amount £

10 Dec Interest on Deposit Account 00.24

? Jan Interest on Deposit Account 00.24

No Payments since last Meeting

Authorised at this Meeting:

date payee amount £ [inc VAT] chq no

9 Jan Society of Local Council Clerks – 2013 sub. 100.00 - 58

Bank Balances [after payments above] £

Lloyds TSB – Treasurer's [Current] A/c 203.97

Lloyds TSB – BUS Instant Access [Deposit] A/c 6, 649.46

HSBC Current A/c 11.97

[remains open for PF Maintenance Grant]

Main expenditure to come is Clerk's half-year Salary and Expenses – approx £780 - to be paid in March.

Election costs – if any - will fall in next, 2013/14, Financial Year, and will be covered by money put into Reserves in past years.

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11. Finance contd

The Cllrs then considered the Precept Request for 2013/14.

Cllrs had few questions or comments on the figures circulated by the Clerk, though

Cllr Mrs Breach pointed out an error in the estimated cost of Hedgecutting – it was agreed

to raise this from £60 to £100 at an earlier Meeting.

The unanimous decision was to keep the Precept at £4,500 although this will mean an increase of approximately £1.40 in the Band D tax because of a change to the taxbase;

with a one-off grant from Wiltshire Council intended to help with this change

the total requested will be £4,671.52.

The Precept Request form was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk and will be sent

to Wiltshire Council before the end of the week.

In relation to the War Memorial Grant Application Cllr Boulton asked for the PCAccounts for last year – the Clerk promised him a copy of the main page of the Year End Statement sent to the External Auditors, and if the Heritage Lottery demands more information she will try to provide it.

12: Any Other Business:

- Cllr Mrs Breach said that the weather has caused such difficulty that it may not be possible to cut the hedges as usual this year.
- Cllr Mrs Breach asked about progress with repairing or replacing the Notice Board – the Chairman said she has looked at the problem and will ask Jonathan Difford whether he could do the necessary repairs, for about £100. Smallbone might also be asked to quote.
- Cllr Ogilvie said overhanging hedges along the footway to the Church are causing problems and he suggested a note in Spotlight to ask householders to trim hedges.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Next Meeting on Wednesday 20 March
to include Preliminary Accounts for 2012/13

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs F A Price 1 The Croft Urchfont Devizes SN10 4RT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 March 2013

Present: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair;
Cllrs R N Boulton, Mrs H C Breach, R G Elliott, C Ogilvie, Mrs C Parkyn and Mrs A Read

Cllr J Seed – Wiltshire Council

No member of the Public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 7.35pm and as there was no OPEN FORUM asked Cllr Seed to speak before he went on to another Meeting.

- He is standing for re-election as Unitary Councillor for Summerham and Seend.
- Information on roads – closures/repairs – can be found on the Bulkington section of his website
- Redstocks-Seend road will be closed while a bridge is repaired.
- Wiltshire Council is putting £2.4M more money into roads

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Police – all either on leave or engaged at another Meeting

2. **Declarations of Interest and/or Dispensations:**

Cllr Mrs Read and Cllr Boulton for Village Hall;
Cllr Mrs Oliphant and Cllr Ogilvie for Playing Field;
Cllr Mrs Breach and Cllr Elliott for Footpaths;
Cllr Mrs Breach for Hedging work, and for Playing Field.

3. **War Memorial – Progress Report**

Cllr Boulton said when he called a meeting to discuss the way forward he put a notice in Spotlight and personally invited ex-service people in the village but only Mrs Boulton and Mr Liam Quinn came - this means he cannot form a 6-member committee as required by the Heritage Lottery Fund. At least 6 letters of support from the community are also needed – no response here either. Consequently, he has withdrawn the Application to the Fund.

The Chairman said something clearly had to be done, but discussion was pointless until the extent of the work needed is known.

She has established that re-cutting the list of names would cost £1K, of which £500 is already promised – by Deborah Baillie, see **November Minutes**.
A survey should show whether major work is actually needed.

Cllr Mrs Read suggested that in many ways 1918, the *end* of the War, is a more suitable anniversary for celebration; this would give 4 more years, until 2018, to drum up support.
The PC could draw up a 5-year plan, and announce it on Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr Ogilvie said the survey should be done before 11th November.

Cllr Elliott asked about Mr Stirling's fee for a survey.

The Chairman said Mr Stirling had been willing to do a survey without charge initially, in hope that his fees would be covered by the Heritage Fund grant – she will check with him and report.

Cllr Boulton will hand on as much paperwork as possible;

he will fill Cllr Ogilvie in on all his contacts;

Cllr Ogilvie and/or the Chairman will make copies of documents;

War Memorial will be a regular Agenda item from now on.

4. Emergency Planning:

A new Committee needs to be formed – both Cllr Mrs Parkyn and the Chairman thought they could find one or two members, and the group could be set up at the next PC Meeting – the first of the new Parish Council after the Elections.

Cllr Mrs Breach volunteered that her farm has a tractor suitable for pulling vehicles out of ditches, a tow-rope, and a generator for emergency power supply.

5. Minutes of Meeting on 9 January:

Accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Reports on Matters in the Minutes:

- a Elections: the Clerk has received Nomination Packs – she can make more copies as needed - and a Timetable of Nomination Dates etc, which she distributed.
Those standing for election must be proposed and seconded by local voters;
the Clerk can supply the numbers on the Electoral Roll of all 3 persons in each case.
NB Clerk will be away first half of April, but can pick up answerphone messages on 840294, or could be reached on 01373 452136.
- b There is no definite news about Keevil Airfield.

7. Correspondence: relevant emails already forwarded to Cllr[s] concerned.

- i Wiltshire Council Parish Newsletter available on –
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/parishnewsletter.home.htm> – has Election information
- ii Keevil Minutes 11 March: considering adding equipment to Playing Field – a member of the public wanted “cycling facility” but PC not keen because of cost.
No news on proposed wind farm at West Ashton
Keen to be included in super-fast broadband – writing to John Thompson, Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council, who is in charge of the project.
- iii WALC March newsletter : Core Skills Training for Councillors, especially newly-elected, in North Wiltshire – probably Chippenham - 6.30-830pm on 18 June. **Clerk to book 3 places**
- iv Tasty Marketing – invitation to a free conference Councils: a Changing Future in Bournemouth on Friday 19th April, 9.30am – 12.30pm. **No Cllr wished to attend.**
- v Ms Bedrock-Carlson of 30 Bulkington asked about Allotments – referred to Seend Clerk.

8. Planning: No Application for consideration at this Meeting

W/13/00119/FUL, W/13/00123/LBC
Alterations and Extension to existing Farmhouse (Tynings Farm)
24 Bulkington Drove Bulkington SN10 1SN

Mr J Laughton

Case Officer: Mr Russell Brown

PC considered this Application at a Planning Meeting on 20 February, decided to **SUPPORT**

No Decision received from Wiltshire Council on this Application

or

W/12/02304/FUL – garage at Nimrod Cottage, SUPPORTED at 9 January PC Meeting and since revised in some respects.

9. William Breach Centenary Playing Field: Report:

The Chairman said the next PF Cttee meeting is scheduled for 21 March, but meanwhile she reported

- PF has a healthy Bank balance of around £1K, which covers estimated Fireworks costs of £650
- Events planned for 7 April, and then June or July
- Play Equipment for the smallest children needs replacing
- Sustainability Grant still hanging fire
- Whether the PF should again make a contribution to the PC's Insurance costs - to be decided
- Suggestion that P C could use the £350 underspent on the Jubilee to pay for bench on the Field - invoices for the timber required to be sent to the PC for payment.

That £350 be made available to the Playing Field Committee for this purpose

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Parkyn

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Breach
All in Favour

- Possibility that winter fund-raising events could be held indoors - in the Well Inn
- Playing Field Cttee Minutes to go on village website.

10. Section 137 LGA 1972: No Application received.

11. Finance:

Received since last Meeting:

date	from	amount £
9 Jan	Interest on Deposit Account	00.24
11 Feb	Interest on Deposit Account	00.25
11 Mar	interest on Deposit Account	00.22

Payments since last Meeting:

date	payee	amount £	[inc VAT]	chq no
20 Feb	WALC – Elections Training	42.00	[7.00]	59

Authorised at this Meeting:

date	payee	amount £	[inc VAT]	chq no
20 Mar	Mrs F A Price – Clerk's half-year salary	650.00	-	60
	- half-year expenses	203.32	-	61
	Bulkington VH – Hall Hire	80.00	-	62
	Protect Fire Equipment Ltd – extinguisher service and safety check	57.96	[9.66]	63

When billed – timber for PF Bench – up to £350

Bank Balances [after payments above]	£
Lloyds TSB – Treasurer's [Current] A/c	170.67
Lloyds TSB – BUS Instant Access [Deposit] A/c	5,949.95

HSBC Current A/c 11.97
[remains open for PF “sustainability” Grant, no activity this year]

The Clerk presented her **Report on Progress against Budget** to March 2013, showing that the PC is still just “in the black” and should not have to draw on its Reserves to any significant extent. She distributed copies of this Report and **Summary Receipts & Payments** for 2011/12 and 2012/13, plus detailed **Receipts** and **Payments** sheets, all for PC's accounts with Lloyds TSB, but not final. Cllrs had no queries.

The Clerk warned that the effects of Localisation of Council Tax will not really be clear until the PC sets the Precept request for 2014/15 - in January 2014.

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12: Any Other Business:

- The Clerk suggested that as the May 15 Meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting - including 2012/13 Chairman's Report and Clerk's brief Financial Report – and must include the election of a Chairman for 2013/14 and setting Meeting Dates for the year in addition to normal business, an earlier start would be advisable – say 7 o'clock. **All agreed**
- The Chairman said she had written to Cllr Seed asking for some clarification about the proposed new runway at Keevil Airfield, and he had spoken to the Member of Parliament, whose response was “there is nothing to tell”.
The Steeple Ashton Chairman has told Cllr Mrs Oliphant that some people in that village have had considerable briefing on the matter, and she has promised to write to Cllr Seed about this.
Cllr Mrs Oliphant will then write to the MP.
- A car parked near the bus shelter is causing problems for farm traffic – the Chairman will contact Mr Laughton, asking him to approach his tenant about this.
- Cllr Ogilvie agreed to be one of the signatories for cheques after the Elections – two of the current signatories are standing down, but remain Cllrs until 2 May.
- Thanks were offered to Mr Boulton and Mrs Breach for their years of service as Councillors.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Next Meeting 15 May

**This will be the First Meeting of the newly-elected Council
and
will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting**

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk : Mrs F A Price 1 The Croft Urchfont DEVIZES SN10 4RT

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Wednesday 15 May 2013 at 7 pm in the Village Hall

Present : Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair

Cllrs S Barratt, Mrs C Crawford, R G Elliott, Mrs J Flynn, C Ogilvie and Mrs A Read

No member of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

In the absence of any member of the public and since the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were confirmed at the July 2012 Parish Council Meeting the PC went at once to

3. Chairman's Report: by Cllr Mrs S Oliphant, Chairman of the Parish Council 20012/13

As in previous years pressure on our budget has been a focus for us as costs increase and we strive to manage our expenditure without requesting an increase in our Precept.

So, I would like to start by thanking my fellow Cllrs for their unanimous decision, again after careful consideration and debate, not to increase our Precept. In reality this means that we have very little contingency and will have to continue our theme of identifying and approving ideas that will deliver savings in our expenditure. Thanks also to our diligent Clerk for her accurate reporting on and excellent management of our funds to bring us in on budget for another year.

The biggest change for us this year has been the resignation of 3 Councillors and the election of 3 new ones. Thank you to Cllrs Helen Breach, Chris Parkyn and Neville Boulton for their support and commitment to the Parish Council, and welcome to Councillors Jan Flynn, Clare Crawford and Simon Barratt. With new members joining the Parish Council, I would like to remind us all of the 10 principles of our Code of Conduct (Integrity, Leadership, Objectivity, Judgement, Accountability, Openness, Respect, Stewardship, Lawfulness and Selflessness) and encourage everyone to apply these principles to every aspect of our business in the coming year to ensure that Bulkington remains the sort of Village we all want to live in.

My thanks also to Cllr Jonathon Seed for his ongoing support and to our Policing Team for their sustained commitment to maintaining a policing presence in our Village and it is disappointing therefore that we have to record more targeted thefts within our community.

Our continued interaction with the Planning Department has done little to change my views about our rôle in the planning application approval process so, once again, while I welcome the support offered by Cllr Seed I remain sceptical that the Localism Bill, particularly the elements regarding neighbourhood planning, will achieve its stated aim to "shift power back into the hands of individuals and communities". But as we all continue to give or time on a voluntary basis and apply ourselves diligently to the review of planning applications, I would like to thank all of you for giving up your evenings to review the applications that we have had.

As a Council we voted unanimously to make £1,000 available to support the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and I would like to thank Cllr Ogilvie for his leadership of the team that created such a successful event, where it was a pleasure to community groups working together to a common goal. The money left in that budget has been used to supply an additional picnic table on the Playing Field for families to enjoy.

A big thank you to our Playing Field Committee who have rounded off another successful year with a healthy bank balance, additional members added to the Committee and a published calendar of maintenance and community events to ensure that this wonderful resource can be enjoyed by the whole community.

Bulkington is a working village and our thanks as ever go to the farmers and landowners who manage the land, hedges, ditches, lanes and footpaths around the Village. It is easy to take our surroundings for granted and we count ourselves lucky that our landowners take their responsibilities seriously and give their time and resources to improve our environment.

4. **Financial Report** by the Clerk Mrs F A Price:

The Annual Return for 2011/12 was accepted by the Auditors, Mazars, in August. External Audit fee was £400 + £80 VAT and the Internal Auditor's fee was £30.

Summary figures for the last 2 years, **nb** 2012/13 *not yet fully audited*.

	2011/12	2012/13
	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	6,034	6,119
+ Precept	4,500	4,500
+ Other Receipts	59,601	1,400
- Staff/Admin Costs	1,725	1,898
- Other Payments	<u>62,291</u>	<u>3,988</u>
Balance carried Forward	6,119	6,133

[**nb** These figures include Lloyds TSB Accounts *and* £11.97 in HSBC Account, see below]

Total Fixed Assets : Playing Field and Equipment, War Memorial and Bus Shelter: £50,080 - includes the £35,250 Insured Value of the new Play Equipment.

No grants etc for the Playing Field during the year, but the HSBC Account is kept open – with a minimal sum in it – to handle any further grant which may be given in the next year or two. External Audit costs were high at £400 + £80 VAT reflecting the Playing Field grant in 2011/12 - the Audit was actually carried out and charged in 2012/13.

Insurance costs remain high, but the Playing Field Committee reimbursed part of the Play Equipment All Risks cover, and the Council is in a 3-year fixed premium agreement.

The Fireworks display and Jubilee Celebrations were covered by the general policy.

The P C agreed to make up to £1,000 available under Section 137 for the Jubilee celebrations, and when these costs came to about £650 it was decided to spend the remaining £350 on the materials for a self-assembly picnic bench/table – which should be ready very soon – but the purchase was not actually made until April and so forms part of the 2013/14 Accounts.

The regular business of the Parish Council shows very little change from previous years, which accounts for the difference of only £14 in Balance Carried Forward.

Staff/Admin costs rose by £173, including £35 Training for an Elections course for the Clerk.

With 3 new Councillors Training costs will be considerably higher in the coming year.

It was possible to keep the Precept steady at £4,500 for the coming year, but there was a small one-off grant from Wiltshire Council (£171.52) intended to cover changes in the taxbase brought about by the Localisation Bill. The final effects of this will not be clear until next year's Precept is set in January 2014, but should not be so great as to force a rise in Council Tax – **nb** the Parish Council share of the total tax paid is very small so any change at this level has little effect.

The Council's reserves remain steady at about £6,000 or Precept + 1/3, which should cover any unexpected and uninsured expense – though not a major project.

5. **Questions and Comments:**

- Cllr Barratt asked for clarification about the Precept – the Clerk briefly ran through the process of setting the PC's request and submitting it to Wiltshire Council.
- Cllr Mrs Crawford asked about future grant applications, and suggested building in administrative costs and/or fees to any future applications.

With no further questions or comments the Annual Parish Meeting ended at 7.30, and the Parish Council proceeded immediately to the Annual Meeting of the Council

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs F A Price 1 The Croft Urchfont Devizes SN10 4RT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 July 2013

Present: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair

Cllrs S Barratt, Mrs C Crawford, R G Elliott, Mrs J Flynn, C Ogilvie and Mrs A Read

Apologies from Cllr J Seed of Wiltshire Council, and the Police.

No member of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting started at 7.30 and in place of the **OPEN FORUM**, Ms Emma Christie was asked to speak on plans to open a Nursery/Kindergarten to serve the villages from which children go to Keevil School. Keevil School is very much in favour, and Ms Christie asked if any Cllr would like to join a Committee to run the project under the School's aegis.

A village representative would be welcome, not necessarily a Councillor.

Steeple Ashton has the most children in the right age group, followed by Bulkington, and a first year trial run will be in the Steeple Ashton Methodist Church.

- Cllr Mrs Crawford asked what the hours would be:
probably normal school hours except for the 2-year-olds, who would do mornings only.
Longer hours would not really be practicable.
Currently, children go to lots of different places, which is hard for parents without transport.
Payment would be by a voucher system.
- Posters will soon go up to advertise the project, and it is hoped to open in January 2014.
- Cllr Mrs Flynn asked about numbers and staff:
Maximum 15-20 children, taught by Ms Christie herself and up to 3 Teaching Assistants.
- Cllr Ogilvie promised to put information on the village website, and
Cllrs Mrs Crawford and Mrs Flynn will distribute information in the village.
- The Chairman said she has heard from her counterpart in Steeple Ashton that there is some concern there about proper affiliation to a School.

- The Chairman passed on a Police report – thefts from sheds/ garages in Sells Green and Keevil;
200 litres of fuel stolen after a pipe was cut in Steeple Ashton;
in Bulkington 4 Lotus wheels taken from a stable at Leaze Farm – the car had been advertised for sale, which must have led the thieves to the farm. CCTV did spot them, but no arrest yet.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Police and Cllr Seed

2. **Declarations of Interest and/or Dispensations:**

Cllr Mrs Read for Village Hall;

Cllrs Mrs Crawford, Mrs Oliphant, and Mr Ogilvie for Playing Field.

All have a general interest in **4. New Runway**, and the Clerk stated that they could speak on this matter without a special Dispensation.

3. **Minutes of Meetings on 15 and 22 May:**

15 May : Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council - first of new Council

22 May : Special Finance meeting to approve Accounts

All accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. New Runway at RAF Keevil – Meeting Report:

The Chairman, with Cllrs Ogilvie and Barratt, attended the meeting on 4 July, along with representatives from other Parish Councils in the surrounding area likely to be affected. It was addressed by spokesmen for the RAF and their Contractors but poorly organised; it proved impossible to get straight answers to questions such as the actual amount of flying proposed.

- A maximum of 270 days a year is promised – but no *number of sorties per day* proposed, and no *definition of aircraft types* to be used, altogether, *precise numbers lacking*.
- Altogether, Cllr Mrs Oliphant felt the speakers were very cagey about *numbers*.
- No clear information about *route* to be used and *number of trips per day* by lorries bringing in stone from Somerset quarries – and presumably taking at least some spoil out even if the proposed “bund” to reduce noise is actually built.
There will surely be heavy traffic, 9-5 Monday to Friday.
- A full *public meeting* seems *unlikely* but there will be a “drop-in day” at the Airfield.
- *Planning application* is to be submitted in September, and *permission* expected by end of year, but no clear indication of *when work will start*.

Cllr Ogilvie said that more information is promised, but the villages need to know about the impact of *operations*, not just the *construction work*.

He added that there were *safety concerns* – more flights plus a change from Hercules to much bigger aircraft add up to increased danger, and the MOD's fire and rescue services will probably only operate on the airfield itself.

Cllr Mrs Flynn said that the *number of sorties* is actually limited by such factors as the wear and tear on aircraft tyres.

Cllr Mrs Crawford said that the villages must demand a full *impact assessment* – and added that it was curious that no “sweeteners” such as land for allotments had been mentioned.

However, any public meeting organised by the PC, possibly with others, would have to be limited to *information*.

Cllr Ogilvie said he would liaise with the other villages, and keep Cllr Seed informed by email.

The Chairman pointed out that other villages, especially Steeple Ashton, would be much more affected by construction traffic, but added that nothing had been said about *maintenance* – graders and the like will have to come in at intervals.

She pointed out that as no alternative to Keevil has been suggested if the MOD fails to get planning permission for this runway it will probably simply sell off the land – for development? She concluded by saying the only thing to be done was to attend the “drop-in day” and get as much information as possible.

See 7. Correspondence [iv]

5. War Memorial – Progress Report:

Cllr Barrow's son-in-law did an informal survey and reported:

- basic structure is sound, but
 - pointing between stones of base should be done as soon as possible
 - Conservation Officer must be consulted before any work starts as structure is listed
 - whole structure rests on a substantial bottom layer, largely below modern ground level
- Cllr Barrow will enquire about costs – he remarked that the other Bulkington had been able to afford to do a new memorial with names simply incised, without lead inlay.

Cllr Mrs Oliphant asked about restoring the list of names -Cllr Elliott said a Bartholomew's sign-writer is willing to do the work, but at unknown cost - he will get quotations.

The last quotation the Chairman had was about £1,000 – Mrs Baillie's £500 donation could go towards this, or the re-pointing.

6. Reports :

- a Tree Planting: Bulkington does not really have suitable sites – the Woodland Trust prefers a sizeable piece of ground which can support a *group* of trees.
Cllr Mrs Flynn said that Cllr Elliott's son Glen had suggested reclaiming an old pond – long since dried out and filled in - and planting trees round it.
Cllr Elliott said that the local geology means difficulty in filling a pond – and sustaining trees.
The Chairman said Gaston Green might be a possibility, and Bulkington Drove is Common Land.
Other sites pose difficulties:
Cllr Ogilvie said planting trees in hedgerows makes hedge-cutting difficult if not impossible;
Cllr Elliott pointed out that roadside verges belong to the frontage landowners – right up to the mid-line of the road – so their permission would have to be sought.
Cllr Barrow said it was surely best to start small:
Cllr Mrs Flynn and Bulkington in Bloom will enquire about tree numbers and other factors.
- b Emergency Planning: Cllr Ogilvie has looked into it and found a group of interested people.
Cllr Mrs Crawford will get a draft Emergency Plan from the Housing Association she works for - she added that her husband works in Health & Safety and could join the team.

7. Correspondence:

- i Enquiry from Charles Lucas of Chesterton Humberts about a Neighbourhood Plan and land available for housing – said to be on behalf of a client (unnamed) in Bulkington.
Clerk consulted Cllrs and replied to Mr Lucas that the PC had considered a Plan in the past but had decided against it on grounds of cost and complexity of process.
The Chairman agreed that Neighbourhood Plans are hard to produce and have no real force - adding that the real question is “do we want more houses?” and she thinks there is no general objection but nobody wants over-development.
Cllr Elliott said vacant Wiltshire Council land around the village has never been developed.
The Clerk will write again to Mr Lucas saying that the PC will continue to consider each Application on its merits, applying the same scrutiny criteria as Wiltshire Council. **Clerk**
- ii Joanne Eccleston of Community First, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator for the Melksham Area wants to speak to the PC about “how the Good Neighbour Service can help the older residents of Bulkington”. After some confusion about dates the Clerk invited her to speak at the September Meeting and she has accepted – she should only need about 5 minutes..
- iii WALC July Newsletter –
Core Skills for Councillors 12th or 30th September **none able to attend**
Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration latest edition (discount offer) - **see 11. Finance**
already obtained by Clerk through SLCC **no Cllr to stand**
Election of Parish Representative for Melksham Area on Executive Cttee
- iv Keevil Minutes for 8 July contain slightly more precise dates for the Airfield Development- Planning Approval expected by Christmas 2013; Procurement of materials to take place between August 2013 and May 2014; Construction between May 2014 and February 2015. PC agreed that “overall the the development should be welcomed as securing the future of Keevil Airfield”.
- v WALC - Forms for notices of Conclusion of Audit – printed for when the External Auditor's report comes and is copied for Notice Board display, which should be in the next month or so.

8. Planning: No new Application to consider, but Wiltshire Council Decisions:

W/13/00119/FUL, W/13/00123/LBC

Alterations and Extension to existing Farmhouse (Tynings Farm)

[PC SUPPORTED at Planning Meeting on 20 February]

PERMISSION 3 June 2013

W/13/00712, revision of W/11/02717

Proposed alterations/additions to garage to form Residential Studio at Tudor Cottage

[PC OBJECTED at Meeting on 15 May]

REFUSED 8 July 2013

W/13/00832/FUL

Extensions to Willow Mead 20A Bulkington

[PC SUPPORTED at Planning Meeting on 29 May]

PERMISSION 8 July 2013

9. William Breach Centenary Playing Field:

Cllr Mrs Crawford reported that the next Cttee Meeting will be 22 September, and the Prize for the Best Sunflower will be presented then.
 The new Picnic Bench has been installed and is being well used.
 Finances are healthy with a Bank Balance over £1,000.

10. S.137 LGA 1972: No Application received.

11. Finance:

The PC first considered the Annual Risk Assessment – **Accepted**, no change necessary.
 The Internal Audit provisions were also considered and **Accepted** unchanged

The Clerk then presented her Report on **Progress against Budget** to July, which showed a healthy position, but some uncertainty over Grasscutting costs because of changes to providers – it is not clear whether the Pond area will still be included in the Playing Field contract, and whether the Parish Steward (or replacement under privatisation) will continue to cut the Cross area – free.

Wiltshire Council contract for the PF has ended – the charge for April and May was paid 3 July. With nothing heard from new contractors, PC has to assume bill will come at season end, and hope it is not too much higher than before. A small rise can be covered by Contingency. There will be small overspends in Training if 2 other new Cllrs take up courses, and in the usually underspent Publications with the purchase of Arnold Baker.

Clerks' pay settlement so far only applies to full-time employees – the 1% agreed would mean £13 pa in Bulkington's case, but different terms for part-time Clerks may be announced soon. In general, comparison with last year is impossible because of Jubilee expenses and paying the total PF grasscutting bill of £875 in advance.

Cllrs had no comments or queries.

Received since last Meeting			
Date	From	£	£
9 May, 10 June	Interest on Lloyds A/c 27214460	0.59	
07/Jul	[est] Interest on Lloyds A/c 27214460	0.30	
Paid since last Meeting			[inc VAT]
20/Jun	M A Kimber – Internal Audit 2012-13	30.00	-
21/Jun	WALC – Cllr Training	42.00	[7.00]
03/Jul	Wiltshire Council – PF grasscutting April-May	145.99	[24.33]

Authorised at this Meeting			
Date	Payee	£	£ [VAT]
17/Jul	SLCC Enterprises Ltd – <u>Local Council Administration</u> (inc £3 p&p)	63.00	-

Bank Balances [estimated, after payments above]

Lloyds TSB – Treasurer's [Current] Account 27213368	£158.70
Lloyds TSB – BUS Instant Access [Deposit] Account 27214460	£9,022.78
HSBC – Current Account 80200085	£11.97
Account will be closed as soon as PF Grant process is complete	

12. Any other Business:

- ◆ Cllr Mrs Flynn asked who is responsible for cutting the verges – the Chairman said this used to be done by the Parish Steward but the current situation is unclear.
- ◆ Cllr Mrs Flynn remarked that the path past Mr and Mrs Gray's paddock had been strimmed and asked who by – nobody knew, but it seemed possible that the Steward or his replacement had done the work.
- ◆ Roadside Weeds – the Chairman said she and Cllr Boulton used to spray half the village each, she asked Cllr Mrs Read to find out whether any Roundup is left.
- ◆ Cllr Elliott said his copy of the Auction Catalogue – from when the estate had to be broken up after the death of all the heirs in WWI – loaned in connection with the now abandoned Heritage Lottery War Memorial Application, has not been returned to him.
Cllr Mrs Read said it might still be with Mr Boulton and she promised to enquire.
- ◆ Cllr Mrs Read said that the old photographs of the village which used to hang on the wall of the Village Hall have faded badly, and as the person who made the disc on which the original images were stored has refused to lend it for a new printing the faded ones are awaiting restoration, after which they will be kept in a book to protect them from the effect of light.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.35 pm

**Next Meeting 18 September
to include Half-Year Accounts**

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs F A Price 1 The Croft Urchfont Devizes SN10 4RT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 September 2013

Present: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant in the Chair

Cllrs S Barratt, R G Elliott, Mrs J Flynn, C Ogilvie and Mrs A Read

Cllr J Seed [Wiltshire Council] Pc Emily Thomas

Apologies from: Cllr Mrs C Crawford, who has to be away on business

3 Members of the public, and Joanne Ecclestone of Melksham Area Good Neighbour Service

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting opened at 7.35 with the **OPEN FORUM**,

and the Chairman invited Ms Ecclestone to speak first:

Ms Ecclestone said that the Good Neighbour Service is funded by Wiltshire Council and run through Community First; it is intended to help older people stay independent and in their own homes. She is responsible for all Melksham Area Board villages, and her first task is to find who needs help. The rôle is very varied, involving many visits to find out what is needed in each case, and the Service will do such things as Benefit checks and put people in touch with organisations like Age Concern. She can help with getting money from a Trust to which people donate un-needed Winter Fuel Grant; put people in touch with agencies that provide exchanges of furniture, curtains and so on; arrange for the Fire Service to fit smoke alarms; help with getting about by arranging Bus Passes and putting people in touch with local Link schemes; provide information about Mobile Library services, etc etc. The service is *free* and *confidential*, and she promised to send leaflets for distribution in Bulkington.

- Pc Thomas reported that 2 burglars have been caught in Semington, and there has been a big fire;
- Meat has been found dumped in the lay-by just before the Seend-Worton road – please report to the Police if it happens again

- Cllr Seed first reported on the RAF Keevil TLZ runway proposal – everything has now gone quiet, and the drop-in session did not prove helpful. Wiltshire Council has asked about construction traffic, and requested a full impact statement. No Planning Application has gone in yet, and these questions must be answered first.
- Wind Farm – no news as yet, probably awaiting Core Strategy
- Solar Panel Farm – likely to get permission if the Wind Farm is rejected. Cllr Seed stressed that, unlike wind turbines, solar panels can be removed and the land returned to use. Also, it is possible to get adjustments to eg the height of panels and the position of the transformer.
- Wiltshire Council is to put more money into roads, with Area Boards becoming more influential as the money will come down to them. For example, an Area Board can be asked to remove unwanted road signs – the Chairman said the 'High Street' and 'Wickleaze Lane' signs in Bulkington do not reflect any historic names and she will ask for their removal.

- Cllr Barratt asked about a grant for repairs to the War Memorial – Cllr Seed said the Area Board could consider an application for £500 or £600.

No questions from the public.

1. Apologies:

Received and accepted from Cllr Mrs Crawford who has been called away on business.

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Mrs Read for the Village Hall, Cllrs Ogilvie and Mrs Oliphant for the Playing Field.

3. Minutes of Meeting on 17 July:

Accepted as a true record after corrections, mainly of emphasis, in item **4. Keevil Airfield**, and signed by the Chairman.

4. War Memorial:

Cllr Barratt inspected the Memorial on 10 August, with a Wiltshire Council Conservation Officer who said there was no need to apply for Planning/Listed Building consent but advised using proper lime mortar for repointing work.

Quotations received from Chris Rendell - £1,230, and Inspire Conservation - £2,900+VAT.

Cllr Barratt recommends accepting the Rendell quotation, work to start as soon as possible.

Cllr Mrs Flynn added that simple power-washing could be done by one or more people in the village who have the right equipment, enquiries continue about re-doing the list of names.

Cllrs agreed that **Cllrs Barratt and Ogilvie** should carry on with the project.

Meanwhile the **Clerk** will try to clarify the new arrangements for the Parish Steward scheme; until recently he used to cut the grass round the Memorial, with an extra cut in early November.

5. Reports:

Cllr Mrs Read asked about “Round-up” for clearing roadside weeds – the supply is used up. Cllr Elliott will get some of the full-strength chemical available to farmers and bill the PC.

6. Correspondence: relevant emails already forwarded to Cllr[s] concerned.

- i Wiltshire Council: Road Closure – C244, Townsend Poulshot, Wednesday 30 October for 1 day; investigation for major work on Lutsey Bridge, which should take 8-10 weeks in 2014, actual dates to be announced later.
- ii Keevil PC Minutes for 9 September
 - Questions about TLZ from residents – particular to Wick Lane - and Cllr Seed's response
 - Report on meeting in Chippenham about 1914-18 Commemoration, saying this is to cover the *whole period*.
 - Concern about legality of advertising boards in the village – not clear if this refers to those put up by estate agents or builders
- iii WALC September newsletter
 - Last Core Skills Training for Cllrs, – 6.30-8.30 pm in Westbury **none able to attend**
 - Hard copies of Good Councillor's Guide - £2+VAT+p&p – eread@communityfirst.org.uk
 - Village Greens – mostly not applicable as all Bulkington commons etc registered long ago
 - “Taste of Wiltshire” trade show hosted by Community First and Business in the Community at Cleeve House, Seend on Thursday 26 September
 - Appeal for a Parish representative on WALC Executive Committee from Melksham Community Area – no Cllr volunteered. Anyone can suggest an Agenda item for Mtg on 23 September as long as it involves local Councils generally – contact eread@communityfirst.org.uk
 - WALC AGM – 6.30 for 7pm, 17 October, Devizes **no delegate from Bulkington**
- iv Advertisement from GlobalNet21 - “webinars” on community involvement – **Chairman** to look at
- v Audit Satisfaction Survey from Grant Thornton – **Clerk** to reply asap

7. Planning: no new Application,

but Tudor Cottage Application W/13/00712 has gone to Appeal – Wiltshire Council **refused** permission but has no further power, nor has the Parish Council.

Cllr Seed explained that once an Appellant puts in an Appeal an Inspector looks at the whole matter but no-one else can intervene. He himself had noted discrepancies between the ground levels used for measurements in the first and revised Applications.

7. **Planning contd**

Cllr Barratt asked whether the Applicant could just go on adding bits to the building - Cllr Seed - "Yes – but he can simply be told to take it back down to the original."

8. **William Breach Centenary Playing Field:**

The Clerk asked whether the Application for a further Grant was still going forward – Cllrs Ogilvie and Mrs Oliphant confirmed that the Cttee had decided it was going nowhere, so the HSBC Account kept open solely for it should be closed by the **Clerk, see 10. Finance**

The Chairman then reported:

- The Bank Balance (main account, with Lloyds) is £800+
- Preparations for the Fireworks Display are in hand
- Tidy-up Session followed by Games on 22 September – a marquee will be put up in case of rain - Mrs Oliphant to present the prizes in the Sunflower Competition, Cllr Mrs Flynn will brief her
- Materials for the Bonfire can be put in the Field after Sunday – **nb no glass or metal**, which must be removed from such things as doors/window-frames/kitchen cabinets.
- Proposed to replace the Sensory Garden fountain – children keep getting wet – with "magnapost"
- Play equipment for small children needs replacing, funds will have to be raised
- Fireworks – volunteers needed for marshalling and serving food and drinks
- Cttee to discuss – should money for the Fireworks Display be raised by a "door-knock" as before, or, especially as many come from outside the village, by sale of tickets?

9. **Section 137 LGA 1972:**

The usual grant of £50 towards Spotlight production costs was

Proposed: Cllr Elliott

Seconded: Cllr Mrs Oliphant

Agreed Unanimously

The Clerk will draw up a cheque for signature

see 10. Finance

10. **Finance:**

The Clerk presented her Report on **Progress against Budget** to September, which showed little change from the situation at the last Meeting as there were no Payments in August.

After Payments at this Meeting the PC should still be some £2,250 "in the black";

uncertainty over PF Grasscutting costs remains, but PC should come in under Budget.

Insurance costs remain steady as PC is on a 3-year deal, PF reimbursed part of the extra cost for new Play Equipment last year – further reimbursement this year? **Clerk to check figures**

War Memorial work – partly covered by donation – can be covered by Reserves.

Cllrs had no queries, but after the Clerk relayed the latest Local Council Clerks pay-scales, agreed to raise her roughly 2 points, rounded up to £1,400 pa (extra £100 to be paid in March).

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Read

Seconded: Chairman Cllr Mrs Oliphant

All in Favour

Received since last Meeting:

date	from	amount £
May-Sept	Interest on Lloyds A/c 27214460 estimated	1.65
18 Sept	Village Hall reimbursement ex-VAT cost of guttering	1,540.00

Paid at last Meeting:

17 July	SLCC Enterprises Ltd (<u>Local Council Administration</u> inc p&p)	63.00
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10. Finance contd

Authorised at this meeting:

18 Sept	Mrs FA Price – Clerk's ½ year salary	650.00
	– ½ year expenses	168.17
	New Windows Ltd – VH guttering [inc £308 VAT]	1,848.00

Bank Balances [est, after payments above]

Lloyds/Lloyds TSB - Treasurer's [Current] a/c	713.96
BUS Instant Access [Deposit] a/c [after VH reimbursement above]	7,663.40
HSBC - to be closed asap	11.97

11. Any Other Business:

- ◆ Cllr Mrs Read recorded the VH Cttee's thanks to the volunteers who repainted the inside walls – she will send a list of names to the Clerk.
- ◆ Cllr Mrs Read reported that the old photographs are now on disc, the damaged ones enhanced, and she will produce an Archive with as much text as possible over the next few months.
- ◆ The Chairman said that the trees on the Common need attention – Cllr Mrs Flynn promised to organise the work.
- ◆ The Chairman reported that the road surface by Manor Farm is very muddy and slippery – the Parish Council will monitor the situation.
- ◆ Cllr Ogilvie said the Emergency Planning Group is to meet on 1st October – the members are himself, Cllr Barratt, John Scott (Neighbourhood Watch), Liam Quinn and Dave Crawford.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Next Meeting 20 November

BULKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs F A Price 1 The Croft Urchfont Devizes SN10 4RT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 November 2013

Present: Cllr R G Elliott, in the Chair in place of Cllr Mrs S Oliphant
Cllrs S Barratt, Mrs C Crawford, Mrs J Flynn and C Ogilvie

Apologies from: Cllr Mrs S Oliphant, Cllr Mrs A Read

2 Members of the public

Clerk Mrs F A Price in attendance

The Meeting opened at 7.35 with the **OPEN FORUM**,

but as no questions were raised Cllr Elliott proceeded immediately to the main Agenda

1. Apologies:

Received and accepted from the Chairman Mrs Oliphant – delayed at work, and Cllr Mrs A Read – unexpected clash of engagements

2. Declarations of Interest: Cllrs Mrs Crawford and C Ogilvie for the Playing Field

3. Minutes of 18 September Meeting:

Accepted as a true record and signed by Cllr Elliott

4. War Memorial, Copper Beech Trees:

The re-pointed base is to remain covered up until the new mortar has “cured”; it will then be rubbed back to level with the stones – progress is being checked weekly. Two quotations have been received for work on the trees by the Memorial and those on the “Pond” area by the Bus Shelter.

Cllr Ogilvie is pursuing Wiltshire Council to establish who is responsible for these trees; he has confirmed that there are no Conservation Area or Tree Preservation Order issues.

Cllr Mrs Oliphant has offered to arrange contact with the tree surgeon who will be working on the trees by her house which were damaged in the recent high winds.

Mr and Mrs Baillie have most generously agreed to pay the whole cost of works on the Memorial – the Parish Council will put up a plaque acknowledging this, and the Chairman will write a letter of thanks on behalf of the P C and the village.

The plan to plant 2 Copper Beech trees at either end of the village is in hand, with the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Flynn organising.

5. Emergency Planning, Flooding:

Cllr Ogilvie said that the next meeting on the Emergency Plan will be in early January, and then reported the latest Wiltshire Council plans for flood precautions, under which Parish Councils will have initial responsibility – *legally* – for getting drains in their area in good condition.

He considers this excessive and suggests that the PC should say it is prepared to keep an eye on the condition of the drains and the general situation, and report as necessary.

He stressed that the risk of flooding increases daily.

Cllr Barratt pointed out implications for householders' insurance, and Cllr Mrs Crawford agreed that the PC cannot be placed in the position of being legally responsible for the upkeep of drainage. Cllr Ogilvie said he feels that Wiltshire Council is not keeping to its legal duties but is trying to pass them on to Parish Councils. The legal situation is very confused.

After some discussion it was agreed that Cllr Ogilvie write to Wiltshire Council saying that Bulkington Parish Council will continue to keep a “watching brief” and report any problems to Wiltshire Council, but is not prepared to accept a legal responsibility for action.

All in favour.

6. **Reports on Matters in the Minutes:** None other than those covered above.

7. **Correspondence:** relevant emails already forwarded to Cllr[s] concerned.

- i Wiltshire Council: Grant Options: Still considering what (if any) “top-up” grant to give to offset effects of localisation of certain payments on Council Tax and therefore Precepts - last year's payment to Bulkington was about £165 which the PC simply added to the already decided Precept request. Documents on various calculation methods for the next few years are far from clear, and Town and Parish Councils' responses to consultation were mixed, indeed confused. Decision will not be final until 17 December Cabinet Meeting – but all PC Precepts must be set before 24 January 2014, in Bulkington's case at Mtg on 8 January. **See 11. Finance**
- ii Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service: Public Safety Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17.
- iii Entry form for Prince of Wales Award, intended for “ Community Organisations who are looking to improve the lives of others through sustainable activities”. Leaflet implies that what qualifies might be such things as provision of allotments or open spaces for recreation.
- iv Enquiry from Kennet Beekeeping Club about support by providing sites for “out apiaries” - Cllrs felt Bulkington has no suitable land.
- v Keevil PC Minutes for 11 November:
 - advertising boards have been removed – reminder that permission must be obtained
 - dog fouling – reminder that all dogs will have to be “chipped” by the end of 2016. Keevil considering holding an information event and offering free chipping, also
 - Pilot area where dogs must be on lead, in force from 1 January 2014 – signs to be put up, to show area includes footpath from Martins Road to the Playing Field and path skirting Playing Field.
 - Meetings to discuss plans for developing Playing Field
 - Complaints about heavy tractors and trailers – Keevil Clerk to contact CP Awdry Contracting
 - AW Services charged over £1,250 inc VAT for PF maintenance in 2013 – an alarming rise.

8. **Planning:** No new Application to consider.

APP/Y3940/D/13/2203518 - Tudor Cottage Appeal to Planning Inspectorate – REFUSED.

9. **William Breach Centenary Playing Field – Report.**

Cllr Mrs Crawford reported a very good attendance at the 22 September Maintenance Day – much work done, especially on the Willow structure and the Sensory Garden.

The Mini Olympics were a great success.

New Committee members produced a lot of good ideas.

Fireworks display, postponed because of the weather, but a good attendance in the circumstances.

Food made small loss, but £300 was taken at the gate and overall profit over £300.

Plenty was learned for future events – for instance both the original and postponed dates should have been reported to Community First for Insurance purposes, but all is OK now.

Committee AGM will be in December.

Fund-raising is concentrating on play equipment for younger children – RoSPA's latest report pointed out minor problems with existing swings.

10. **Section 137 LGA 1972:**

Payment to Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day wreath plus Donation to total £50:

Proposed: Cllr Ogilvie

Seconded: Cllr Barratt

Agreed unanimously

see 11. Finance

11. Finance:

The Clerk distributed a summary of the PC's financial position to help Cllrs with deciding the Precept request at the Meeting on 8 January.

The latest information on the Tax Base - the number of Band D equivalent houses – shows a fall from 118.2 to 117.01, which in turn means a roughly 1% rise in Band D tax, from £38.07 to £38.46 for an unchanged Precept of £4,500. Cllrs had no questions.

Received since last Meeting:	<i>estimated</i> Interest on Lloyds A/c 27214460			£0.80
Paid since last Meeting:		£	+ VAT £	£
14 Oct	Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA safety check)	101.00	20.20	121.20
	Seend PCC No1 A/c (<u>Spotlight</u>)	50.00	S.137	50.00
24 Oct	Roses the Ironmongers (Fireworks)	374.98	75.02	450.00
Authorised at this Meeting:		£	+ VAT £	£
	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	50.00	S.137	50.00
	Society of Local Council Clerks (2014 sub)	64.00	-	64.00

When billed: Balfour Beatty: PF and Pond grasscutting £750 or possibly more – enquire about billing arrangements, through Stuart Renfrew at Wiltshire Council? **Clerk**

The Clerk reminded the PF Cttee that the ex-VAT cost of Fireworks - £374.98 – has not yet been reimbursed.

Bank Balances <i>estimated</i> after payments above and £1,000 transfer to cover grasscutting	
Lloyds Treasurer's (Current) A/c 27213368	£978.76
Lloyds BUS Instant Access (Deposit) A/c 27214460	£6,663.41

HSBC Account now **closed** – remaining £11.97 paid to PF account with Lloyds on 14 October , chq 100601 This cheque cleared on 28 October and October Statement shows **zero balance**.

There was some discussion of the PF contribution to increased Insurance costs – it was a condition of the Grant that the new equipment be insured against all risks for the first 5 years, and this resulted in a rise in the PC's insurance costs. The Clerk said that in 2012/13 the PF Cttee paid £182.40 (50%) and she suggested reducing the payment to £60 for 2013/14 (Year 3) and the remaining 2 years. The Cttee can then decide what level of insurance is appropriate. Cllr Mrs Crawford asked for more information, and the Clerk promised to check figures for the last few years and email them to her as soon as possible. **Clerk**

12. Any Other Business:

- Cllr Ogilvie reported that the host of the Village Website has changed hands, and he feared the site might be lost, so he has bought the domain name bulkington.org.uk for £96.82 for 10 years. All approved of this action – reimbursement to be arranged at the January Meeting.
- Cllr Barratt queried the lack of the promised superfast broadband in the village – Cllr Ogilvie said that BT appears to have taken the money made available by Wiltshire Council without providing a service beyond towns and larger villages. Cllr Mrs Crawford said that presumably there is not enough business in the village. Cllr Ogilvie said the matter should be raised with Cllr Seed at the next Meeting – and perhaps the Clerk could enquire by email.
- Cllr Mrs Flynn said that the nursery school talked about at the last Meeting has fallen through as the suggested site was not available. Permission has been obtained to build on Steeple Ashton's Playing Field, sharing costs with the Guides. Plans will be circulated in due course.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9 pm

Next Meeting, to include Precept Setting, 8 January 2014