**BUCKLAND PARISH**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at**

**The Pump House Buckland Road Buckland**

**Present:**

**Mr Alex Wildman**

Mrs Mel Westmorland

Mr Roger Podbery

Mr Chris Langham

Mrs Karen Coombs

Dr Marjorie Talbot

Mr Anthony Haywood(District Councillor)

**In attendance:**

Joe Turner,

Jackie Jupe

Mary Hughes,

Brenda Lines

1. **Apologies for absence**

Mrs Judith Heathcoat (County Councillor)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

None

1. **Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2015, having been circulated, were approved and signed.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Solar Lighting**

**The Clerk reported that he had received a quote for solar lighting for the Oxford**

**Bound bus shelter for £1500.00.**

**After discussion Karen said she would seek grants from OCO**

**Roger mentioned the unofficial layby and it was agreed to pursue it again**

Precept

The Clerk reported that he had submitted the precept to the Vale at the South and Vale offices at Milton Park for £7600.00 as agreed via phone with Councillors

Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that he had sent an e-mail thanking Mr McNally for the gift

Of the Tree

Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that it was up and running and paid for and Marjorie stated

That the electrician had not charged for the instillation. She also mentioned that

We had a further 2 years of free electricity from B.T

1. **Oxfordshire County Council**

In Judith absents the Clerk referred to her written report for her main report.

1. **District Council**

**7 Broadband**

Martyn Clarke, as the Broadband Champion for Buckland, made a short presentation of what type of Internet connections may become available to Buckland Parish this year.

He covered the OCC initiative that is currently being delivered by BT to deliver Superfast Broadband (at least 24Mbs) to at least 90% of the population by the end of 2017.

It is likely that the Buckland Exchange will be upgraded sometime in 2015.  The anticipated delivery date published has already slipped three months in the last week and so cannot be relied upon as a guaranteed date. Nonetheless, BT vans have already been seen working around Buckland.  However, BT are deploying a technology called Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and Buckland has only one cabinet currently.  The rest of the lines are fed directly from the Exchange.  These will all have to be reworked before any household can order the Superfast service from their service provider.

This may result in some parts of Buckland being able to obtain the new service whilst other houses may have to wait substantially longer. It was also noted that whilst houses nearby the Buckland Exchange will receive a much faster service (70-80Mbs), houses further away from the Exchange will receive much less speed and on the outskirts of Buckland Parish this may well reduce to around 2Mbs.

Gigaclear, an alternative supplier of Internet connectivity, has approached Buckland and Littleworth to determine if there is any interest in their Ultrafast service that is delivered by connecting houses direct to the network using Fibre Cable.  This technology allows householders to obtain a 50Mbs service for an equivalent cost of the BT Superfast service.  However, there are additional connection charges that will range from £200-300 depending on how far the house is from the connection point on the boundary.  It is also 50Mbs in both directions, whereas the BT product has an upload speed that is a quarter or below of the download speed.  It is also not affected by distance and so anyone in the coverage area will receive the full contracted speed even if they were down in Buckland or Carswell Marshes.  The same Gigaclear connection can also be upgraded to 100Mbs, 200Mbs and 1,000Mbs when required in the future.

Gigaclear’s approach is to only build networks in areas where it is economically viable, which is why they asked Buckland for an expression of interest.  That level has now been reached and it is now possible to pre-order the service.  Once enough orders are received, they will then commit to building the network.  This network will cover a large area of Buckland Parish as well as enabling the more remote houses to pay extra to Gigaclear to extend the network to their properties.  The current BT Broadband network will still be available in Buckland and so there is no compulsion to install Gigaclear.

Gigaclear will be holding a meeting at the Buckland Memorial Hall at 7:30PM on the 18th February and it is highly recommended that anyone with an interest in better Internet connectivity should attend. The Buckland Parish has suffered from relatively slow Internet connections when compared to other nearby villages.  The Gigaclear option is quite compelling as it offers a faster connection throughout the Parish as well as being able to increase further in the future.  When compared to the current up to 8Mbs service, 50Mbs may seem a lot now, but in a few years may well  be seen as every day. The Gigaclear service is already being used in many surrounding areas, like Appleton, Tubney, Frilford, Dry Sanford, and Stanton Harcourt.  It is currently being built in Longworth, Southmoor and Boar’s Hill. All these communities have already committed to Gigaclear and so it would indeed be a loss if Buckland Parish was unable to join them.

8 **Litter Pick**

This was discussed, re having an organised litter pick but it was decided against doing so after Karen reported that Amy McClellan would like to do it as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. This was accepted by the Council. The Clerk was asked to contact the Vale regarding the rubbish along the Bampton Road.

9 **Defibrillator**

After a discussion which also included members of the Public present it was agreed to hold a meeting with Ian Jones (community responder) along with Mary Hughes, Erica Cowley, Alex Karen and the Clerk, so as to have a village wide position on raising the funds for this project.

10 **Wren**

The clerk read a letter from Wren regarding the acceptance of our application

for funding of the re-roofing project for Village Hall.

This is being managed by the Village Hall committee who are on top of the

Situation

11 **NAG**

Mel agreed to be the NAG rep for the Parish

12 **Website**

It was agreed not to pursue this at the moment

13 **Noticeboard (Gainfield)**

As previously agreed it was decided to remove the Notice Board after

advising the parishioners, by placing a notice on the board and by the

e-mail list

14 **Alan O’Shaughnessy**

The Council agreed to the Clerk sending a letter of appreciation to Alan

for all his work in the Belfry over the last 55 years in maintenance, teaching

and ringing the Bells

15 **Correspondence**

The Council accepted the quote from BGG for grass cutting and weed control

for the coming year.

16 **AOB**

* Alex expressed a wish for the forthcoming election to be widely published

To encourage as many people to stand

* Fiona mentioned it would be a good idea for signs on Marriage Hill to make

clear where the footpath is.

* Marjorie thanked the councillors and the Clerk for their hard work
* Joe reported on the latest Bus meeting that he had attended, that from June 2015 we will have a service every 20 minutes on Route 66.

There being no further business the Chairman then closed the meeting

Next Meeting May 19th

Chairman Clerk Date