

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 1st March 2007 at 8.55 pm.
(following the Annual Parish Meeting)

MINUTES

- 1) **Present** : Parish Councillors : E R Draper (ERD) Chairman,
N T Barter (NTB),
B C Draper (BCD)
T W Long (TWL),
J F Murray (JFM),
County Councillor : Tony Deane
- 2) **Apology for absence** : PC Peter Jung had to leave the meeting to resume his duties.
- 3) **Announcement** : The Chairman informed the meeting that a notice of resignation had just been received from Councillor Ms Helen Holdsworth.
- 4) **Declarations of Interest** : There were no amendments to those previously registered.
- 5) **Public Question Time** : No members of the public attended
- 6) **Minutes of the last meeting** : BCD proposed approval, seconded by JFM. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 7) **Matters arising from the January Action Plan** :
 - i. Actions not completed were agreed to be carried forward to these minutes.
 - ii. It was agreed that Terry Everett would no longer be needed to identify the village drains and ditches.
 - iii. The C12 repairs at Flamstone Park amounted only to a patching job. Councillors expressed their concern over the condition of the whole stretch of the High Road going westwards from Rebels Field to the village boundary. It was not safe to cycle along this road and there was no sign that the Highways Department would do a proper repair job. County Councillor Tony Deane recommended that a report be made to "Clarence" since this both recorded the facts and forced action by the County Council.
 - iv. The wish to get some contribution from the people of Stratford Tony towards the upkeep of their churchyard was proving difficult. ERD had established that no precept could be agreed for the hamlet unless the parishioners decided that there should be one.
 - v. TWL had asked the landlady at the White Hart if she would be agreeable to having a plastic bottle bank added to the mini-recycling point. She had already asked and SDC were not agreeable since all householders would soon have their own wheelie bins for recyclable material.
- 8) **Agenda items** :
 - i. Finance Report : The Responsible Finance Officer (JFM) reported -

Schedule 1 - Bank reconciliation reveals balance at the bank of £5000.70

Schedule 2 – Movements from 1st April 2006 until 31st January 2007 over the current account.

Schedule 3 - Movements over the Interest earning account

Schedule 4 - Expenditure v Budget, including the payments for approval below.

Assuming no more expenses the positive variance to the budget would be just under £3,000. The principle underspends were

- the clerk's salary
- repairs and maintenance
- the hire of skips.

Given no new major expenses this financial year the Council should have approximately £5,000.00 in its account at the end of the financial year.

Payments for approval ;

- Donation to Chalke Valley Sports Club - £350, 00 which was approved. Although it had been agreed at the November 2006 meeting that this donation be increased to £400 the decision was taken to revert to the planned review in mid-2007. A cheque for £350.00 was signed.
- Expenses claim by the Acting Parish Clerk - £21.52 was approved and the cheque signed.

Appointment of external auditor

- In a letter dated 9th February last the Audit Commission advised that unless we had any objection they proposed extending Mazaar's term for a further year (2006/07) pending a further competition in which tenders will be invited for appointment as auditors, again on a country-wide basis.
There is no requirement to respond to their letter if we are content with their decision. I propose that we record as a minute that we are content. All present agreed.

Business Rates – Sports Clubs – Discretionary relief in respect of the Recreation Ground

- the forms in respect of our claim for Mandatory and/or Discretionary Relief and Small Business Relief have been completed and sent in.
- SDC had suggested we also consider registering with the Inland Revenue as a Community Amateur Sports Club as this can reduce the cost to the local council tax payer. The implications of this would be examined and a report made before proceeding. See Action Plan.

ii. R2 Policy Funds

It was proposed by ERD and seconded by BCD that the amount of £1,561 which was nearing its expiry date should be offered to the Chalke Valley Sports Ground. All agreed. See Action Plan.

iii. Clerk's Report

Only routine activities were reported.

iv. Village Website

The report on progress towards improving the Parish Council's input to the site was discussed. The Chairman proposed that TWL and JFM should proceed with the update. NTB proposed that the £150 contribution that would be needed to improve the stability of the site should be approved. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 7th May 2007 at Bishopstone Village Hall starting 7.30 pm

Signed as an accurate record :

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE

