

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 6th September 2007 at 7.55 pm.

MINUTES

1. **Present** : Parish Councillors : E R Draper (ERD),
N T Barter (NTB),
B C Draper (BCD),
T W Long (TWL),
J F Murray (JFM)
Neighbourhood Police : PC Peter Jung
County Councillor : Tony Deane

2. **Apology for absence** : Apologies had been received from PC Jung who would be joining the meeting at approximately 8.30pm and County Councillor Tony Deane who would have to leave the meeting at 8.15pm.

3. **Declaration of Interests** : There were no amendments to those previously registered.

4. **County Councillor Report** : The government approved Wiltshire County Council's bid for unitary status in July 2007. Subject to legal challenges over the process adopted it meant that the unitary authority would probably take over in 2009.
The County Council were discussing the structures needed for the new status and currently this focussed on community boundaries. These communities would have "Management Committees" and Councillor Deane thought it important that rural areas be properly represented so as to have their full influence in decision making. Therefore he felt that deciding the geographic area of a community was a crucial first step towards the right balance. Did we want communities based on population centres – Mere, Tisbury, Wilton and so on or would we prefer the basis of the Salisbury District Western Area. Councillors agreed that we had little information on which to base a decision. Furthermore they felt that if county-wide decisions were to be reached without even a basic knowledge of the options available and their consequences then this was no way in which to proceed. Pressed by Councillor Deane for a choice irrespective of whether enough information was available the council decided to choose the Western Area Planning option.

5. **Public Question Time** : There were no members of the public present.

6. **Minutes of the last meeting** : NTB proposed approval, seconded by BCD. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

7. **Agenda items** :
7.1. **Finance Report** :

- 7.1.1. JFM handed out the schedules showing the financial position which form part of these minutes.
- 7.1.1.1. Payments that would seek approval at this meeting had been included in the Expenditure column versus Budget
 - 7.1.1.2. Including tonight's payments the amount in the bank was £ 4,863.31
 - 7.1.1.3. The VAT refund to be claimed to date amounted to £258.99
 - 7.1.1.4. The second half-payment of precept from Salisbury District Council amounting to £1,800.00 had yet to be received.
- 7.1.2. It was proposed by ERD and seconded by BCD that the following payments be approved :
- 7.1.2.1. Salisbury District Council £25.00 being a charge for the District Council elections held on 5th May 2007.
 - 7.1.2.2. Salisbury District Council £11.75 being the charge for printing a flier promoting the Junior Cricket Day which Bishopstone Cricket Club had organised on the Recreation Ground on 29th July 2007. VAT of £1.75 to be reclaimed
 - 7.1.2.3. Chalke Valley Sports Centre £400.00 This represented the 2007/2008 donation and was the sum approved at the November 2006 budget discussion. The Sports Centre surplus for the year ended March 2007 amounted to £322.82: this was after a deduction of £1,000.00 for depreciation.
 - 7.1.2.4. Clerk's expenses of £32.11 including £1.16 for under-stamped mail from Carers Support Salisbury.
 - 7.1.2.5. Atkinsons (Bishopstone) Ltd £61.69 being the internal audit fee: this amount had not been included in the expenditure accounts yet.
- 7.1.3. The Statement of Accounts for the period ended 31st March 2007 had now been audited. It was proposed by NTB and seconded by BCD that this be approved.
- 7.1.4. The Annual Governance Statement for the period ended 31st March 2007 had also been audited. It was again proposed by NTB and seconded by BCD that this be approved.
- 7.1.5. The Annual Internal Audit Report for the period ended 31st March 2007 had also been completed without any notified problem.
- 7.1.6. As agreed at the Meeting on 1st March 2007 – item 8)ii - the sum of £1,260 had been paid to Chalke Valley Sports Centre to assist with the erection of their new machine store. Of the monies earmarked there remained the sum of £404.92 yet to be paid over to CVSC to clear out the funds that had reached their expiry date. This was the balance from the £1,561 agreed at the March 2007 meeting plus the accrued interest.
- 7.1.7. The chain link fencing at the western end of the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground had been purchased in approximately November 2002 at a cost of £1,334.80 with R2 monies. It had now been insured until next year's insurance policy renewal date at no extra cost to the premium. The future additional premium would be about £12.00 which would provide cover for animal or vehicle damage but not vandalism, etc.

7.2. Recreation Ground Management Report :

- 7.2.1. A very successful Junior Cricket Day attended by about 30 children had been run by Bishopstone Cricket Club on 29th July. Another success had been the two football matches when Chalke Valley Football Club had used the ground. Despite the weather a cricket match had also been managed. JFM was still waiting to hear if Chalke Valley Football wanted to make use of the ground for training.
- 7.2.2. One estimate of £2,600 had been received for clearing the remains of the old pavilion. ERD agreed to contact Ted Barnes in order to get another price. See Action Plan.
- 7.2.3. Estimates were still being obtained for refurbishing the toilet block.
- 7.2.4. Following the repeated discussions about the subject advice had been taken from the Legal Department of Salisbury District Council about the health issues associated with dog fouling. They had suggested three options :
- do nothing.
 - strengthen the rules by asking dog owners to clear up and provide disposal bins for them to do it.
 - deny access to dogs completely.
- TWL proposed and BCD seconded that we choose the total exclusion option with a period up to the next Meeting to note any objection. See Action Plan.
- 7.2.5. Advice had also been taken from the Legal Department about limiting the Parish Council's liability in respect of any claim connected with the Recreation Ground. The advice had been that a displayed notice would not absolve the Council from liability but it could support a mitigation case. See Action Plan.
- 7.2.6. TWL sought reaction to a fete or festival being organised on the Recreation Ground in 2008. All were generally in favour providing willing hands could be found to organise an event. See Action Plan.

7.3. Clerk's Report :

- 7.3.1. TWL explained that paragraph 12b in the Parish Council's Code of Conduct approved on 5th July 2007 – item 8.8 – was a paragraph that had to be adopted by passing a resolution. ERD proposed and JFM seconded the proposal that the Council adopt the paragraph. See Action Plan.
- 7.3.2. An update on the longer term jobs in hand with Wiltshire County Council Highways Department was given
- Flooding in Netton Street - the vactor had attended but could not achieve much because of the ditch at Ebbelbank not being dug out. The residents at Ebbelbank had agreed to attend to the ditch. TWL expressed some reservations because the blocked interceptor on the edge of Ebbelbank property had not been cleared.
 - Broken drain pipe in Pitts Lane was on the camera survey for September 2007.
 - Muddy road at the eastern end of Mill Lane had been cancelled with officers not thinking that it was now necessary.

- Flooding at Faulstone Lane near Faulstone Farm Cottages was a long term project that had to be added to the JCB list for ditching.

7.3.3. Support rails had been fitted to the bungalow in The Styles where they were badly needed.

7.3.4. Wiltshire County Council had told us that the painting would shortly be done to create a bus stop clearway at The Old School House bus stop.

7.3.5. No reply had yet been received to the letter sent on 9th July to Wiltshire County Council Highways Department asking for urgent attention to improve the road surface on the High Road C12.

7.4. Neighbourhood Police Report : Apologising for his late arrival PC Jung made it clear that there were lessons to be learned from the meeting he had been attending in Bowerchalke over the illegal occupation of The Drove by travellers. The lengthy processes that were having to be pursued to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the travellers were protected had the effect of dramatically delaying the implementation of any court order to move them.

7.4.1. JFM reported that two responses had been received to his letter expressing concern that the PCSO had yet to be replaced. Both had stated that every effort was being made to recruit a replacement. One had asked us to let the writer know if we had any suitable person who might be interested in filling the vacancy.

If the position had yet to be filled then JFM had three concerns :

- the absence of a PCSO meant that the day to day policing of the valley was under-manned, bearing in mind that the introduction of the Neighbourhood Police Project had been accompanied by a reduction in the number of regular police officers.
- the fact that they had gone ahead with this project implied that they did so without suitable backups in place to cover eventualities such as resignations, sickness and leave etc.
- during this period where we would be without a PCSO there must be budget savings: at least one salary. What was happening to those savings? The income had come out of our Council Tax. Could they be allocated to purchasing transport for the CPSO because apparently this had been a problem.

All agreed that a further letter should be sent to Devizes. See Action Plan.

7.4.2. TWL read a prepared statement in which he claimed that Wiltshire Police had failed in their reorganisation because they had not understood that change must be accompanied by improvement for it to be palatable. People in Bishopstone wanted the police to fulfil their primary role – protection of the public. For villagers to be satisfied with the police, the police in turn had to understand the villagers' expectations. Families and retired people were increasingly paying the high price of living in villages because they wanted to escape the unpleasant aspects of urban life. The standard they expected for lawful activity and social behaviour was higher than the standard accepted in towns. The police should recognise that fact otherwise they were proposing that we all go down to the levels to be found in the decayed inner cities. Neighbourhood police teams offered us the chance of heading towards what we wanted. We had paid our taxes for

policing, about £50,000 from Bishopstone this year, so we ought to have the resources immediately.

7.5. District Councillor's Report :

7.5.1. ERD reported that the government's unitary decision would probably mean elections to the new council in 2009. He thought the whole affair would ultimately prove to be a disaster for Wiltshire and its residents.

7.5.2. The Bourne Hill Offices Project for Salisbury District Council had now been voted upon following the May election of a Liberal/Labour coalition and the public consultation. The modified development was now estimated at a gross cost of £20.6 million. By the time it came to pay the price for this project the new unitary council would be in place and it would be they and the people of Wiltshire who would pay.

8. Planning Matters :

Decisions given by Salisbury District Council since the last meeting :

Reference	Place	Development	Decision	Date of Decision
2007/1017	Windwhistle Manor Farm	Change from redundant farm building to workshop	Granted	11.07.07
2007/1054	Throope Down House, Blandford Road	Erect workshop/storage building	Granted	17.07.07
2007/1124	Croft Cottage, Netton Street	Two storey rear extension	Granted	25.07.07
2007/1125	Croft Cottage, Netton Street	Two storey rear extension	Granted	25.07.07
2007/1226	14 The Croft	Front extension porch & rear dormer window	Granted	10.08.07

Councillors noted that work had been carried out to dramatically clear the river banks between the iron footpath bridge and Lower Mill in Mill Lane. Until any plans were submitted for consideration there was nothing to know about what the new owners of the land might have in mind.

9. Any Other Business :

9.1. ERD and JFM had just received a letter dated 29th August 2007 concerning the Chalke Valley Sports Centre management.

It pointed out that the Centre had been created to serve the needs of the five Chalke Valley Communities. Further that the present committee had been in office for nearly 5 years and only one of its number came from a village other than Broadchalke. The letter called upon the villages to redress the current imbalance and suggested that three things had to change :

- *each officer of the Committee must be appointed for a fixed term of no more than 2 years*
- *there must be a cross section of members drawn from the communities*
- *agree a succession policy for each member of the current committee with perhaps the addition of a new member representing Broadchalke School to ensure that the children's interests are maintained and the use of the school's facilities by club members is properly coordinated.*

To rectify these shortcomings there would be an EGM on 19th September. Each village should appoint a representative and bring names of residents prepared to serve in some capacity and represent their council.

Councillors agreed that the ideals of a sports centre serving, managed and supported by the valley remained laudable. However the reality was that the Centre would thrive by natural support and we could not force our villagers to participate. It was agreed that we should continue our support and subject to the outcome of an EGM we should promote the need for support. JFM to attend the meeting in his role as representative of the council

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.20 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 1st November 2007 at Bishopstone Village Hall starting 7.30 pm.

Signed as an accurate record :

.....
CHAIRMAN

.....
DATE

Attachment 1

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**Bank reconciliation as at 31st July 2007****Bank Account Balances as per statements**

Current Account		£1,666.24
Business Instant Access Account*		£5,329.81
Less total outstanding cheques		(£1,480.50)
Plus o/s deposits		£1,260.00
Less o/s transfers		(£1,500.00)
Total		£5,275.95
<u>Cash Book Balances</u>		
Current Account		£ 186.14
Deposit Account		£5,089.81
Total		£5,275.95

Attachment 4

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**Expenditure v Budget for the financial year 2007/2008 as at 31st July 2007**

DETAILS	EXPENDITURE	ANNUAL BUDGET	VARIANCE	
Churchyard Cutting		£600.00	£600.00	
Village Hall		£500.00	£500.00	
Clerks Salary/Expenses	£66.49	£1,000.00	£933.51	
Hire of Village Hall		£60.00	£60.00	
WALC subscription	£149.61	£175.00	£25.39	
Chalke Valley Sports Club	£400.00	£400.00		
Insurance	£637.66	£650.00	£12.34	
Audit Commission		£150.00	£150.00	
Internal Auditor		£50.00	£50.00	
Repairs & Maintenance		£500.00	£500.00	
Bus Shelter Cleaning		£104.00	£104.00	
Donations	£50.00	£200.00	£150.00	
Contingency	£160.00	£500.00	£340.00	
Local elections	£25.00	£1,000.00	£975.00	
TOTAL	£1,488.76	£5,889.00	£4,400.24	

Notes

Expenditure is shown net of VAT which is refundable

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ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Remind Ted Barnes about removing the remains of the pavilion from the Recreation Ground & ask how much it would cost	ERD	
Submit notice to STAB advertising compactor visit on 20 th October	TWL	
Print flier for door-to-door drop for compactor visit on 20 th October	TWL	
Prepare report for councillors on road signs in the village	TWL	
Make objections if applicable to the Post Office closure plans when they are published	TWL	
Submit article to STAB about decision to deny access to the Recreation Ground to dogs	JFM	
Prepare text of notice for Recreation Ground about limiting the Parish Council's liability	JFM	
Explore the possibility of organising a summer event on the Recreation Ground next year	TWL	
Amend the Council's Code of Conduct as necessary and check the Council Standing Orders for public participation	TWL	
Follow up with Highways Department objecting to the state of C12 High Road	TWL	
Write to Chief Constable again raising PC's concern over PCSO vacancy	JFM	
Prepare criticism and improvement suggestions to 2007 Draft Risk Assessment	All councillors	