

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held in Bishopstone Village Hall**  
**Thursday 3rd March 2011 at 7.30 pm.**

**MINUTES**

**Present** : Parish Councillors : J H Thompson (JHST), Chairman  
M R Ash (MRA)  
E R Draper (ERD)

Parishoners and members of the public :

Mrs M Tatner  
Mr S Tatner  
Ms A Musselwhite  
Ms S Barry  
Mr G Brutton  
Mr J Lovering  
Mr R Colwill  
Mrs P Abbott  
Mr R Abbott  
Mr V Hayes  
Mr R Stewart  
Mrs K Gibbon

PCSO Sam Spacey

1. **Apologies for absence**: Apologies had been received from Councillor N Barter (NB), Councillor Dan Jarvis, Reg Barratt and Mrs Jose Green (Wiltshire Council).
2. **Declaration of Interests**: None.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting**: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were agreed to be an accurate record - proposed by ERD, seconded by MRA. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes**: There were no matters arising not included elsewhere on the agenda.
5. **Parish Council Report for 2010** :

The Chairman said that it had been a busy year. The greatest challenge has been over the application to designate the Picnic Field as a village green. This has caused a great deal of emotional upset in the village, and stirred much ill feeling. This culminated in two very emotional and excited meetings, and formal allegations of misconduct and

dishonesty against two members of the PC. These allegations were thrown out by Wiltshire Council, but the hurt remained. The Picnic Field saga has now been concluded, with the owner giving a blanket permission for the use of the field for informal recreation by members of the village, as was the case in the past, with specific permission required for organised events and picnics. The PC will, as a result, again consider withdrawal of the application for village green status. This whole incident has caused considerable extra work to councillors and the clerk. He hoped that the whole episode was now closed.

The Council had co-opted Cllr Mike Ash this year, but three councillors have resigned: Cllr Trevor Long because of the actions of another councillor in regard to the Village Green application; Cllr Bridgette Lampert because she has moved out of the village; and Councillor Dan Jarvis to fight the vacancy in the Parliamentary bye-election at Barnsley. The Chairman offered sincere and grateful thanks for all they did for the PC and for the benefit of the village. We have also lost our Parish Clerk, and steps were still being taken to find a new one!

Special mention was made of Trevor Long. He served the PC for 4 years as unpaid clerk, during which time he arranged untold work to improve the village as well as acting as clerk and finance officer to the council. His presence would be sorely missed. Gratitude was also expressed to Rob Thorne for his continuing support for the maintenance of the Recreation Field. The play area has been maintained by Cllr Long, and so it would be necessary to look for a new guardian this year. The RoSPA inspection of the play area was made in the autumn, with a pass.

We are now looking for 3 new councillors, and so far 5 names have been put forward. Decisions on who to co-opt to fill the vacancies will be made as soon as possible. We now look forward to a quieter year, when we can consolidate, and look forward to other more exciting plans in the village.

## **6. Parish Plan Progress Report :**

Cllr Mike Ash said that work on the Parish Plan (PP) had begun in 2008 but there had been very little progress since, in part because there seemed to be only limited interest in putting such a plan in place. However, it was clear that there were benefits in having a PP, when seeking grant support for projects in the village (such as the village hall refurbishment), as a context for the consideration of applications for planning permission, to influence decisions on road improvements/safety and as a means of identifying steps to improve the village. The picture had been confused by the Government's proposals for introducing Neighbourhood Plans as a part of the Localism Bill. However, a Neighbourhood Plan was only likely to be appropriate if significant amounts of new development were anticipated, which was unlikely to be the case in Bishopstone. It was therefore desirable to re-invigorate the PP process. Help for this would be available from Community First. It might also be helpful to get someone along from a parish that had completed a plan to talk about their experience. MRA suggested that a separate meeting be held to establish a new working group. He would produce an article for STAB setting out proposals.

## **7. Wiltshire Councillor's Report :**

Cllr Jose Green sent her apologies as she was attending the SW Area Planning Committee in Salisbury. JHST read her report. The key points were that she attended all the SWWAB meetings this year, from which the greatest achievement was the grant of £10,000 for the new crossing at the White Hart, and £5,000 for the kitchen equipment in the new village hall kitchen. She was also instrumental in getting the grit bin relocated to Whitlock Rise. It arrived in mid February 2011. The crossing is due to be started during March. Wiltshire Council had undertaken public consultations on the subjects of waste removal and recycling, car parking charges, leisure facilities, libraries and future police organisation. JHST said that the PC would be pressing for the 30mph speed limit to be extended west after the crossing was installed.

**8. Neighbourhood Police Report :**

PCSO Sam Spacey said that 2010 had been a relatively crime free year. There was less than one report per month of offences, all minor. Bishopstone and Ebbesbourne Wake had the lowest crime rate in South Wiltshire.

**9. Village Hall Management Committee Report :**

JHST read a report from Cllr Barter, who was away. He reported that renovation plans for the village hall go ahead well, under the guidance of Roger Stockton. All the necessary grants were now secured, except for the Lottery, a response from them would not be available until May. Activities in the Hall continued apace. Moviola was a big success, bringing in many visitors from up and down the valley. Many events are planned e.g. Spring Fayre on 7th May, a Folk evening on the 13th March as well as the Lunch Club, Ceildh Club and various courses. All are advertised in the monthly STAB. The Committee remains most grateful to all the volunteers who make these events so successful. JHST thanked the Village Hall Management Committee for all it does.

**10. Parochial Church Council Report :**

JHST read a further report from Cllr Barter. The Church continues to be vibrant with a very successful Carol Service in the Village Hall in December which was attended by 120 people despite the weather! Generally church services are attended by 20 to 30 people with a friendly atmosphere. A new sound system has been introduced, which is a great improvement. A new service has been made available on Wednesday evenings. The PCC remain very grateful to all the volunteers who read, steward, clean, arrange flowers, intercess, write the monthly prayer, tend the churchyard and hedges, and sing. Special thanks were due to Olive Moody and the Singers for their great support. A service is still held once a year in Stratford Tony church. Details of all church services are in STAB each month.

**11. Recreation Field Sub-Committee Report :**

The Committee had not met since the resignation of Bridgett Lampert. JHST said he had already reported on the RoSPA inspection. Thanks were due to Rob Thorne for mowing the field. Dog owners were requested not to let their dogs into the field and, if they did get

in, to clear up any mess. More generally, thanks were also due to the Draper family for keeping the hedgerows in the village trimmed.

### **12. The Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity Fund Report :**

JHST read out a written report from Reg Barrett: The charity was originally established and funded by a bequest of The Rev George Augustus Montgomery, Rector of Bishopstone from 1821 to 1842. With the passage of time, the method of relief has changed but small grants are made for education and training as well as fuel. The current authorised purposes restrict the making of grants to persons who are residents in the Parish of Bishopstone. The trustees are required to satisfy themselves that the persons we assist are in hardship or distress. Requests will be considered on behalf of a child or family or pensioner suffering particular hardship. A referral can be made by a statutory or non-statutory body affecting a resident of Bishopstone or by any resident applying on her/his own behalf. All applicants can be assured that their request will be dealt with swiftly, sympathetically and most importantly in confidence. In 2010 three grants were made totalling £430 and received income from dividends was £469.15. The closing balance of the fund at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 was £1528.07. The Trustees at any time are the Rector, one trustee appointed by him and one trustee appointed by the Parish Council. All the Trustees have agreed to remain in post for the ensuing year. JHST said that the PC confirmed that Mr Barrett should continue as its representative. He thanked Mr Barrett, and the other Trustees for their work.

### **13. Village Flood Warden Briefing :**

JHST read out a further report from Cllr Barter. He said that Wiltshire Council had asked for details of properties through which a land drain runs from Crouchston Drove to the Ebble at the old watercress beds. This needs to be cleared to reduce the risk of flooding at Crouchston Drove crossroads. A map of the affected properties was circulated and Mrs Abbott undertook to produce a list of the names and addresses for forwarding to the EA.

### **14. Parish Council Finance Report :**

Detailed statements of the PC's finances were circulated at the meeting and are appended to these minutes. Mr Colwill asked why the balance of the Deposit Account was so high, double the size of the annual expenditure in the Current Account. JHST said that monies were being held in the Deposit Account against certain liabilities that may yet arise.

### **15. Questions from Parishoners and the Public :**

Mrs Tatner sought advice on what could be done about the road drain to the side of her property on the corner of Pitts Lane. A hole had been made by a workman and never repaired. Water gushing from the hole was eroding the roadway and undermining foundations. JHST said that Wiltshire Council's Highway Maintenance would be contacted. ERD volunteered to attend any site meeting that might be necessary.

A question was also raised about the agreement on use of the Picnic Field. This was held over until the meeting of the Parish Council later in the evening.

**16. Date of Next Meeting :**

The next Parish meeting would be on 8th March 2012.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

.....Chairman

.....Date

DRAFT