

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Bishopstone Village Hall

Thursday 3rd March 2011 at 8.30 pm.

MINUTES

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

Twelve members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for absence**: Apologies had been received from Councillor Norman Barter (NTB) and Councillor Dan Jarvis (DJ).
2. **Declaration of Interests**: There were no amendments or additions to those previously registered.
3. **Public Questions**: Questions were raised as to how the agreement reached with the landowners of the Picnic Field was to be interpreted. In particular, when would specific permission be required and how was permission to be sought – who should be contacted? Would paddling in the river be allowed? It was agreed to take these matters under consideration of the minutes of the last meeting.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting**: In answer to the questions raised under item 3, Cllr Ash read out the terms of the Picnic Field access agreement as recorded under Item 8 of the draft Minutes of the meeting on 6th January. Blanket permission would be given to people from the village of Bishopstone to use the field for informal recreation. However, that permission did not extend to organised events such as picnics or camping. There was a discussion as to when a spontaneous visit by a group of people became an organised event requiring permission. Mr Stewart said that where there was a degree of preparation (eg of food or drink for a picnic) it should be possible to make a phone call to alert the landowner. Mr A Thorne had agreed to act for Mr Stewart in his absence. Relevant contact phone numbers could be included in STAB magazine. Mr Stewart confirmed that the blanket permission did not extend to paddling or swimming in the river. Notices would make clear that permission was not granted for entering the river. If people chose to ignore those notices, they did so at their own risk.

Mr Brutton said that if the PC withdrew its application to register the Picnic Field as a village green, he would not pursue the matter further.

Following the discussion, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th January 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record - proposed by MRA, seconded by ERD

5. **Matters arising from the minutes:** The Chairman said that in the light of the approval of the minutes of the last meeting, the PC would now write to Wiltshire Council withdrawing its application for the Picnic Field to be registered as a village green.
6. **Chairman's announcements** : No further announcements were made.
7. **Agenda items** :

- (a) Councillor Resignations and Vacancies
- (b) Parish Clerk vacancy

The Chairman said that, following the resignations of Councillors Long and Lampert, reported at the last meeting, he had now received the resignation of Councillor Jarvis who was fighting the Barnsley Bye Election that evening, with every chance of success. He thanked Cllr Jarvis for all his work on the Parish Council and wished him the best for the future. There were now 3 councillor vacancies, and a vacancy for a Clerk. A total of 7 people had expressed an interest in the councillor vacancies, though he needed to confirm that interest in one case. No applications had been received for the post of Clerk. One option was for Cllr Ash to take over as Clerk, relinquishing his role as a Councillor, which would mean there would be 4 councillor vacancies. He would consider further the way forward.

- (c) Picnic Field – progress

This matter had been discussed under Item 4

- (d) Briefing on Localism Bill

MRA gave a short presentation on the Localism Bill, currently before Parliament. A copy of his briefing note on this is attached to these minutes.

8. **Planning Matters:** The Chairman reported that planning permissions had been granted by Wiltshire Council for tree felling at Briar Cottage, Crouchston. An application had been received for modifications to an extension, already approved, at Webbs Cottage, Pitts Lane.
9. **Questions or statements by Councillors:**

ERD said he was concerned about the lack of affordable housing for local people in the village. Because of Wiltshire Council's allocation policy, affordable homes for rent in the village did not necessarily go to people from the village.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 12th May 2011 at Bishopstone Village Hall at 8.00pm.

Signed as an accurate record :

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 6th January 2010 at 7.30 pm.**

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Write to Parochial Church Council to promise a £450.00 donation to STAB	JHT	✓
Identify volunteers to train for the Community Speed Watch	JHT	
Write to highway authority about parking in the bus stop pull-in at Pitts Lane and a grit bin for Whitlock Rise	JHT	✓
Contact WC regarding arrangements for recruitment of a new Clerk and insert advertisements in STAB (and, as necessary, elsewhere) for Clerk and 2 Councillors	JHT	
Inform WC that the Village Green application should continue to be held in abeyance pending possible withdrawal of the application if the minutes of meeting on 6 January are approved at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 3 March	JHT	✓
Write to WC withdrawing Village Green application.	JHT	