

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm.**

**MINUTES**

**Present** : Parish Councillors : P Edwards (PE) Vice Chairman  
N Barter (NTB)  
Mrs A Smith (AS)  
S Williams (SW)  
Ms Nicky Rigg (NR)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

**Also present:** Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar  
Mrs S Brough  
Mrs K Pendlenton  
Mrs P Carnall  
Mrs E Williams  
Mrs M Barter  
Mrs C Ash

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

AS proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by NR and agreed.

**4. Youth Activities Parish Collaboration Project**

MRA said that Wiltshire Council's South West Area Board wished to extend out of school youth activities in its area. The Board currently supports Seeds4Success, a youth support charity based in Mere which provides opportunities for personal and social development of young people through programmes that develop practical skills, provide recreational activities, conserve the natural environment and strengthen the local community. It is now proposed to undertake a pilot project to extend this approach over a wider area. The parishes of Fovant and Broad Chalke are already involved. The issue for discussion was whether Bishopstone should join this project, at a cost of £500 for the 2025/26 pilot programme.

The pilot would cover both a process of engagement with young people in the village, to better understand what might be needed, and some initial activities. It is clear that, to be a success, parents/carers would need to provide support for the youth worker professionals. Thanks to an

initial approach by Cllr Rigg a number of parents had expressed support for the project. At the time of the 2021 Census there were 83 young people between the ages of 10 and 19 in the parish and it was felt that a project of this type is needed.

In discussion it was said that it would be important to ensure that contact is made with as many young people as possible and that activities were provided that could be reached without the need to travel. A number of questions remained to be resolved: such as how it is proposed to identify and engage with young people and establish what activities they are interested in, where activities will take place and how much input will be required from the Parish Council or local parents/carers. NR proposed that the Parish Council should support the project and contribute £500 to the cost. This proposal was seconded by AS and agreed. MRA said that he would be attending meetings for further discussions with the SWWAB and would circulate more information in due course.

In a related matter, MRA confirmed that Hotspire FC (Salisbury) will be using Bishopstone's Recreation Field once a week for football training sessions for 12, 13 and 14 year olds. Hotspire wish to encourage young people from the village to join. A start date has yet to be finalized as some work is required to prepare the field.

## **5. Public Forum**

No matters were raised.

## **6. Cllr Nabil Najjar Report**

Councillor Nabil Najjar said the main issues Wiltshire Council are dealing with at the moment are the Government's proposals for a £6m cut in funding to the Council and for greater devolution. The former has triggered a review of spending with the aim of avoiding an increase in Council Tax, though that may prove impossible. The devolution proposals might see a combined strategic authority for Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset. Under such an arrangement Wiltshire would retain its autonomy and continue to deliver services, but there would be a more co-ordinated approach to the promotion of overall economic development and strategic planning. He was asked whether the Government's reforms of the planning system would see a free for all in development in our area? Cllr Najjar said that whilst some of the more detailed constraints on development might be eased, Wiltshire's Local Plan, currently being updated, remained the determining factor in where development would be allowed. The landscape designations in our area (Cranborne Chase National Landscape) would continue to act as a restraint on development.

## **7. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan**

MRA said that the failure of the landowners to clear the drainage ditch in Netton Street had been referred to Wiltshire Council for action.

Following correspondence with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust the hedge along the High Road had been cut. This should allow greater visibility at the bus stop by Pitts Lane.

Next steps on the project to reduce the speed limit on Broad Chalke Road to 30mph would be discussed at a meeting of the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group in February. Hopefully this will see a commitment from the SWWAB to fund implementation after April.

The new Bishopstone Community Orchard has now been planted next to the Children's Play Area by Michael Pratt (Tree Warden) and a group of volunteers. The initial cost to the Parish Council

would be £916.59. However, this sum is within the budget agreed with Wiltshire Council and will be covered by grant from them. NTB proposed that the initial payment be made, this was seconded by SW and agreed.

Other matters arising remained to be actioned.

**8. Chairman’s Items**

There were none.

**9. Parish Clerk’s Report**

MRA said that a quote had been received from idverde Ltd for mowing the Recreation Field. A cut every two weeks from April to the end of September would cost £1020 +vat. He thought that this was a very reasonable price. Some adjustment in the cutting programme might be required to accommodate the proposed soccer training by Hotspire FC. This matter was being taken forward jointly with the CVSC in Broad Chalke and before proceeding further a quote will be sought from another company for comparison.

MRA reported that he had successfully reclaimed £3,448 in vat from HMRC. He sought approval to payments of £150.00 to the Village Hall Management Committee for hire charges in 2024 and of £694.88 to Landford Trees Ltd for the fruit trees now planted in the Community Orchard. This latter sum would be reclaimed from Wiltshire Council in due course. PE proposed that these payments be made, this was seconded by SW and agreed.

**10. Planning Matters**

There were none.

**11. Questions or statements from Councillors.**

There were none.

**Date, location and time of next meeting.**

**The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March.** However, the planning application for the proposed Whitlocks development is due to be submitted at the end of January. It is therefore likely that any meeting in March will need to consider the Parish Council’s response to that application. When any meeting needs to be held will depend on how quickly Wiltshire register the application and begin public consultation. Meeting arrangements would be set out in STaB and on the Village Network.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

-----

Signed as an accurate record:

.....

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL****PARISH COUNCIL MEETING****Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025****ACTION PLAN**

<b>WHAT ACTION</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b> ✓
Minor works to be completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clapper bridge</li> <li>- Graffiti in Faulston Lane</li> <li>- Drainage ditches in Flamstone Street</li> </ul>	AJT NTB	
Letter to be sent re car parked in Butt Lane.	MRA	
Play Area Safety Inspection consideration of implementation	All	