

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone
Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : A Thorne (AJT) Chairman
P Edwards (PE)
N Barter (NTB)
Mrs A Smith (AS)
Ms Nicky Rigg (NR)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar Mrs S Wylie
Mr A Stutchbury Mrs J Mildred
Mrs A Stutchbury Mr N Legh
Mrs S Seal Mrs C Ash
Mr M Walker Mrs M Barter

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs M Tatner and S Williams and from PCSO Charlotte King.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 12th September 2024.

NR proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 12th September 2024 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by NTB and agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan

MRA said that he had written to the Police thanking them for their increased presence in the village. He had made the same point to the Chief Constable during a meeting of the SWWAB the previous evening. Various local tasks – repair to the Clapper Bridge, removal of graffiti on Faulkston Bridge, clearance of ditches in Flamstone Street – remained to be done, AJT said he would tackle these as soon as possible.

MRA said that he had sent a second letter to the owners of the field in Netton Street asking for the ditch to be cleared. He had set a deadline of the end of November, after which the matter would be referred to Wiltshire Council.

All other matters arising were covered by later Agenda items.

5. Public Forum

Mrs Stutchbury asked what action had been taken to get the hedge cut on the High Road where it prevents those standing at the west bound bus stop from seeing the approaching bus. MRA said that he had written to the landowners and they had referred the matter to their Farm and Estate Manager for action.

Concern was expressed about a car that is permanently parked opposite the entrance to the pub car park which causes an obstruction. The Clerk said he would write to the homeowner concerned.

6. Cllr Nabil Najjar Report

Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar said he was pleased that agreement had finally been reached to reduce the speed limit on Broadchalke Road through the village from 40mph to 30mph. The next step was for Traffic Regulation Orders to be published. At a meeting the previous evening the Area Board had endorsed the work of Carer Support Wiltshire, which runs a monthly café event at the Broad Chalke Hub to provide peer support for those operating as volunteer carers within the community. He drew attention to the upcoming public consultation on a proposed development next to Whitlock Rise. He would not be commenting on this but would be interested in any views, for or against, from local residents. He acknowledged that there had been much disruption locally as roads were closed for surface maintenance, but this was essential work and he hoped that improvements had been noted. In discussion reference was made to the problem of increased collisions, and damage to vehicles, as drivers moved towards the centre of the road to avoid the deep trenches being created in the verge at the edge of the road surface.

7. Chairman's Items

There were none.

8. C12 Speed Limit Reduction (Update)

MRA said that he had attended the latest meeting of Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG). As a result, he was concerned about the timetable for the reduction in the speed limit on Broadchalke Road. Funding for local highway works is normally provided through the Group, which meets 75% of the cost of works, with the Parish Council providing 25%. Whilst the final cost of the legal processes and replacement signing had yet to be determined, it was expected to be around £8,000. The Group's budget for this year was fully committed and there were a large number of other projects already in the pipeline for funding in 2025/26. One option would be for the Parish Council to meet the full cost. This might help ensure early implementation, though this would still depend on the availability of the technical resources in Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Cllr Najjar said that he did not think it would be necessary for the Parish Council to meet the full cost. He was confident that the LHFIG would be able to find their share of the costs in 2025/26.

Proposals for improving the signage at the junction of Portfield Road and the High Road had now been submitted to the LHFIG. The first step would be to measure the speed of vehicles on Portfield Road.

9. Play Area Safety Inspection

Consideration was given to the latest ROSPA safety inspection of the Children's Play Area. This had not revealed any significant risks requiring immediate action, but had identified a few longer term maintenance issues, including the potential for damage to support posts from grass strimming, which could expose the wood to rot. It was agreed to use weedkiller to create a clear area round the posts. This would be done when conditions allow and with safety measures in place. It was agreed that a number of items highlighted in the report were trivial and did not represent a risk requiring action. Action on other matters would be considered further.

10. Finance Update and Precept for 2025/26

MRA reported that spending in the current year is well within budget and there was likely to be a healthy balance of the accounts at the end of the year. He had set out a preliminary proposed budget for 2025/26 (see attached paper circulated to Councilors before the meeting). However, there were two matters that needed consideration in deciding the level of the Precept for next year. The first was the question, referred to under Item 8, of whether to budget to meet the full cost (around £8,000) of implementing the speed limit change. If the LHFIG is able to meet 75% of the cost, the Parish Council's share would be around £2,000. Following discussion, it was agreed to seek LHFIG funding but also ensure that sufficient funds are available to enable the speed limit change to be implemented as soon as possible, if necessary by meeting the cost in full.

MRA also drew attention to the recently revealed concerns about the fabric of the church. It was now clear that major works to the North Transept roof are needed and that these would be costly. Whilst applications for grant funding could be made, for example to the Heritage Lottery Fund, it was clear that a substantial local fund raising effort would also be required. Councillors agreed that it was important for the Parish Council to give a lead in fund raising.

It was suggested that these additional expenditure pressures could be met in part by reducing reserves and in part by a small increase in the level of the Precept for next year. AJT proposed that the Parish Council should provide a donation of £5,000 towards the church repair fund and increase the Precept from £7,500 in 2024/25 to £10,000 in 2025/26. The Precept increase would add less than £9.00 a year to Council Tax on a Band D property. After discussion, this proposal was seconded by PE and approved.

11. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that Wiltshire Council had approved the grant for the Community Orchard and an order had been placed by the Tree Warden, Michael Pratt, for twelve trees. It was hoped that these will be available for planting in mid-December. He also reported that discussions are taking place with a football club based in Salisbury regarding the potential use of our Recreation Field for training by their youth members for two hours on a Wednesday evening.

He sought approval to payments of £112.80 to Play Safety for the Play Area Inspection and of £45.00 to Parish On-line, which he uses for maps of the village. PE proposed that these payments be made, this was seconded by NR and agreed.

12. Planning Matters

Consideration was given to an amended proposals for a Potting Shed at Little Bridge House, Bridge Road and to works to trees in the Conservation Area at the same address. No objections were

raised.

13. Questions or statements from Councillors.

There were none.

Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 9th January 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 14th November 2024**

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Letter of thanks to be sent to the Police.	MRA	✓
Proposals for safety improvements to the Portfield Road/High Road junction to be sent to the LHFIG.	MRA	✓
Minor works to be completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clapper bridge - Graffiti in Faulston Lane - Drainage ditches in Flamstone Street - Letter to owners of Netton St field. 		✓
Letter to be sent re car parked in Butt Lane.	MRA	