

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone
Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

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

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar
Mr R Stockton
Mrs C Ash

1. Election of Chairman 2025/26

Cllr Edwards proposed that Cllr Thorne be re-appointed Chairman for 2025/26. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Rigg and approved.

2. Election of Vice Chairman 2025/26

Cllr Thorne proposed that Cllr Edwards be re-appointed Vice Chairman for 2025/26. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Barter and approved.

3. Declarations of Acceptance of Office

All Councillors signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office forms. The Chairman formally welcomed Cllr Wendy Prior to the Council and thanked Michelle Tatner and Simon Williams, who both stood down at the election, for the contributions they had made to the work of the council.

4. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from three members of the public – Mrs M Barter, Mrs P Abbott and Mr R Abbott.

5. Declarations of interest

There were none.

6. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 13th March 2025.

PE proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 13th March 2025 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by NR and agreed.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan

MRA said that most matters arising from the minutes were covered by items on the agenda. He said that mowing of the Recreation Field and Play Area by idverde had now begun and would be at fortnightly intervals.

8. Public Forum

Mr Stockton raised the issue of Wiltshire Council's housing allocations policy. Faulston Estates were planning to sell some of their properties and tenants who had lived in the village for very many years were likely to be in need of new accommodation in the near future. Meanwhile Wiltshire Council properties were being occupied by tenants from other parts of Wiltshire, some of whom were causing problems in the village. He felt that these tenants should be found more suitable accommodation elsewhere and the needs of established village families met. In discussion Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar undertook to raise the issue of problem tenants with the Housing Department if he could be provided with details of anti-social incidents that had occurred.

9. Cllr Nabil Najjar Report

Cllr Najjar gave a short report. He was pleased to have been re-elected to Wiltshire Council and praised the Chalke Valley for having higher levels of turn out to vote than other parts of Wiltshire. At the time of the meeting the control of Wiltshire Council remained to be resolved after the election, but he was hopeful that commitments already entered into, eg in relation to the speed limit change in Bishopstone, would remain. A number of issues, including the continuing pothole problem, were raised in discussion.

10. Chairman's Items

There were none.

11. Proposed Wildflower sowing of the Community Orchard.

Cllr Edwards gave a short presentation on the benefits of sowing a wildflower meadow in the area on the Recreation Field now planted with fruit trees as the Community Orchard. It was agreed to take this project forward and consider detailed proposals at the next meeting.

12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return and Budget 2025/26

MRA said that he had circulated paper BPC(03)25 before the meeting (copy attached to these minutes) setting out a draft Annual Accountability Return. The Council's internal auditors had approved the accounts for the year. As both income and expenditure for the year 2024/25 was below the threshold of £25,000, the Council could submit a Certificate of Exemption from audit by external auditors. The paper also included the current account budget for 2025/26 for formal approval.

Separate resolutions for approval were put forward (with proposer and seconder) as follows:

		Proposer	Seconder	Decision
(a)	Certificate of Exemption from submitting an Annual Return for an assurance review by external auditors	Cllr Barter	Cllr Prior	Approved
(b)	Annual Governance Statement 2024/25	Cllr Smith	Cllr Rigg	Approved

(c)	Accounting Statements 2024/25	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Barter	Approved
(d)	Documents for publication under the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities	Cllr Smith	Cllr Prior	Approved
(e)	Confirmation of budget for 2025/26	Cllr Rigg	Cllr Smith	Approved
(f)	Atkinsons be re-appointed as the Council's internal auditors	Cllr Prior	Cllr Edwards	Approved

13. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that arrangements for the youth Bubble Football event in Bishopstone on 14th June were now well underway, together with those for a climbing wall in Broad Chalke and Nerf gun and football training session in Fovant. Fovant are also planning to hold a youth disco and barbecue in August and their own Bubble Football event in the Autumn. He said he was very grateful for the support provided by Cllr Rigg and parents in the village in making arrangements for the event on 14th June. A key purpose of these events is to conduct a survey amongst young people in the villages about the facilities and events that they would like to see provided in the future. All those booking the first events will be asked to complete the survey. Anybody else can complete it by logging in using the QR code that would be provided STaB and on WhatsApp. Two five a side goals have been purchased also for use on 14th June. These can be made available for use on the Recreation Field at other times.

Approval was sought for the following items of expenditure:

- WALC subscription 2025/26 £274.76
- Insurance 2025/26 £719.47
- Website hosting charges £194.39
- Football goals (Clerk re-imbursement) £210.21

Cllr Edwards proposed that these items of expenditure be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Rigg and agreed.

14. Planning Matters

Consideration was given to the proposal to build 15 houses at the site known as "Whitlocks" on the High Road. All Councillors had been present at the public discussion held as part of the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May. It was agreed to respond to Wiltshire Council's consultation on the planning application by saying that whilst the Parish Council does not object to the use of the site for housing purposes, it does object to the scale of the development proposed in this application and to the layout of the site which would create additional traffic and road safety hazards through the proposed direct access onto the High Road. A copy of the full response, as approved at the meeting, is attached to these minutes.

It was also agreed to raise no objection to the proposal to demolish the existing garage at Briar Cottage, The Cross and replace it with a slightly larger building.

15. Questions or statements from Councillors.

There were none.

Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 10th July at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 13th March 2025
ACTION PLAN

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