

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held using Zoom Video Conferencing
Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7.00pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : J Gibbon (JG) Chairman
A Thorne (AJT) Vice Chairman
N Barter (NTB)
Mrs A Smith (AS)
P Edwards (PE)
Mrs M Tatner (MT)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Mr R Stockton
Mrs C Ash
Mr A Stutchbury
Mrs A Stutchbury

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Brutton.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 14th January 2021.

AJT proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 14th January 2021 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by PE and agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan.

MRA reported that the work to provide a new fence in Faulston Lane had been completed. The only response he had received to the article in STaB regarding tree planting in the village was from the owner of Mac's Meadow, who is proposing to plant some trees. The proposed metro count of vehicle speeds in the back roads of the village had been delayed because of the pandemic, but he had agreed locations with Wiltshire Council and the counts should take place once traffic movements are back to normal. It was agreed to set a date with Outdoor Play South West for the installation of the new equipment in the Children's Play Area. Other matters arising were covered by items on the agenda.

5. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

6. Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green

A report submitted by Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green is attached to these minutes. JG pointed out that this was the last time that Cllr Green would attend the meeting in her current role. He thanked her for all the support she had provided to the people of Bishopstone and the Parish Council over the years and wished her well for the future.

7. Chairman's Items

The Chairman said he wished to record his appreciation of the Prescription Collection Service that had operated for Bishopstone residents during the pandemic. Thanks were due to the organisers, the Area Co-ordinators and the volunteer drivers.

8. Superfast Broadband.

Roger Stockton presented a short report on the project to bring superfast broadband services to the western end of the village. A small group led by Toby Mills was taking the project forward. There were now a total of 103 properties for which an interest had been recorded in receiving Fibre To The Premises (FTTP). However, the scheme was dependent on the availability of vouchers from the DCMS. The current voucher scheme ends on 31st March and news of a successor scheme was awaited. Once the position becomes clear all participants would be contacted.

Roger Stockton said that it was a pity that Wiltshire Council had no programme to top up the national vouchers such as that in Hampshire. Cllr Green said that she would write to the portfolio holder urging consideration to be given to such a scheme.

MRA said that the Council had previously informally agreed to provide a budget to cover expenditure by the working group on taking forward the FTTP project. As there was no specific relevant power it would be necessary to use powers under s137 of the Local Government Act. The following resolution had been tabled:

“That the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area and of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: Up to £250 for costs relating to taking forward the Bishopstone FTTP Project”.

This resolution was proposed by NTB, seconded by AS and agreed.

9. Parish Clerk's Report.

Elections. MRA provided an update on arrangements for the election on 6th May for membership of the Parish Council. A notice about the election had been included in the March edition of STaB but he had not received any enquiries. The deadline for the submission of nominations is 8th April so there is still time for candidates to come forward. He had booked to hand in nomination forms on 6th April so any Councillors who wished him to hand in their forms should get them to him by 5th April.

Meetings in May. MRA said that the Annual Parish Meeting had been postponed from March and would need to be held, at the latest, by the end of May. Under the Government's plan for the lifting of Covid related restrictions it should be possible to hold actual meetings, with appropriate distancing measures, in the Village Hall from 17th May. It was agreed to proceed on the basis of an actual meeting, combined with the May meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 18th May. If Covid restrictions are re-imposed for any reason the meetings would be held using Zoom video conferencing. Final announcements about meeting arrangements can appear in the May edition of STaB.

Speed Indicator Device. MRA said that the SID was in need of repair and maintenance. Cllr Edwards had received an estimate from the manufacturers, Pandora Signs, of £1065 (including vat). He had asked Broad Chalke Council, who shared use of the device, whether they were prepared to meet half the cost. Their Councillors had expressed concern about the cost and proposed to investigate whether a new device, ideally smaller in size and lighter in weight, could be obtained at less cost. MRA said that given the original cost of the SID had been £3,500 it was unlikely that a cheaper replacement could be obtained which provided the same features. PE said that the solar power unit, which was working well, would fit other Pandora models so it might be worth investigating the cost of a replacement device which used the existing power unit. He agreed to investigate further.

Covid-19 Support Arrangements in the Village. Progress with vaccinations was noted. MRA said that the Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice had indicated that the surgery at Broad Chalke would reopen for the collection of prescriptions on two days a week from 13th April. As a result the Emergency Planning Group recommended that the Bishopstone Prescription Collection Service should be closed at the end of April, with emergency cover only after the collection on 9th April. A notice about this can be included in the April edition of STaB. Councillors agreed but said that the matter should be kept under review in case there was any sign of resurgence of the virus.

Clerk's Expenses. MRA submitted an expenses claim for expenditure he had incurred of £40.00 in respect of the fee to the Information Commissioners Office and £71.46 for printer cartridges. AJT proposed that this expenditure be approved, this was seconded by MT and agreed.

10. Planning Matters

Councillors agreed to make no objection to proposals for the erection of a double garage at Rose Cottage, Bridge Road or to the removal of two trees at East and West Cottages, Faulston Lane.

11. Questions or statements from Councillors.

No matters were raised.

12. Date, location and time of next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 18th May 2021 following the Annual Parish Meeting which would begin at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 11th March 2021

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Campaign to promote greater volunteering in the village.	PE	
Quotes to be obtained for works to the basketball court and swing frames.	MRA	
Consideration to be given to future Emergency Planning Co-ordinator	MRA/RS	
Report to be produced following metro counts on back lanes.	MRA	
Alternatives to be considered for a replacement Speed Indicator Device.	PE	

CLLR JOSE GREEN'S REPORT TO BISHOPSTONE _____MARCH 2021

Wiltshire Council [WC] is still encouraging resident's to download the NHS Test and Trace App' onto your phone particularly with regard to the Covid 19 mutations. Although the situation changes almost on a daily basis do answer a call if it is from 0300 456 0100 as it is the contact trace team.

We are inclined to forget that it is business as usual for WC; for examples, Highways are still working hard and recently over 58km of roadway has been resurfaced, numerous potholes filled, 520 bridges inspected for safety, many fallen tree works cleared up after the storms, 164 tonnes of silt and debris removed from drainage systems and the Bin Collections reliably picked up.

Staff have had to self-isolate and 127 staff have been redeployed, 35 to hospitals. Other staff have been demobilised to the vaccine centres, the Wellbeing Hub and the testing stations. With the elections due on May 6th, 300 Polling stations need to be made Covid 19 safe, so there is plenty going on.

Although numbers are now slowly dropping there had been a sharp rise in the cases per 100,000. Up to last week the total number of deaths reached 528 but sadly rising. It is hoping all schools will be reopened on March 8th although 10 thousand children of key workers and children with special needs are attending school, a big increase from the last lockdown.

As the clock is ticking towards my retirement the volume of work remains much the same, working virtually cuts down so much travelling time; the planning committee works very well and the voting arrangements on Teams appear to be very efficient, it is a shame that site visits are still unable to happen due to the restrictions.

The 'virtual' public consultation meetings of the **Local Plan Review 'Empowering Local Communities'** , 1300 people joined the events held across Wiltshire. The document will cover all aspects of planning policy until 2036. The assessed housing needs for the whole of Wiltshire , set by Government is 45,600- not only homes but employment needs are also required- it's been recognised that sustaining our Communities and managing rural development, -whether homes for local people, affordable, type and in the right location is something we all want to achieve. The option to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan, such as Broad Chalke has done, remains for the village residents to decide, it doesn't have to be a huge volume of work or size but enthusiasm is required so that the aspirations for the future years can be documented.

Other key parts of the Local Plan is addressing **Climate Change and the Gypsy and Travellers Strategy** where sites are required to meet their future needs.

WC has a target to be carbon neutral by 2030, how is that to be achieved? LED Street lighting, planting trees, wild flower trials along highway verges and amenity land, ensuring public buildings are energy efficient, Council housing insulation improvements, wind turbines, solar panels, encouraging waste reuse and recycling, battery storage, installation of electric charging points is to name but a few. It is hoped that this year alone could see a reduction of the carbon footprint by 80%. No doubt the reduction of car journeys has helped!!

On 23rd February a prudent Budget was set at Full Council After a 10 hour debate it was agreed that WC's share of the Council Tax will rise by 1.99% with a further Levy of 3% for Adult Social Care. I am aware that the Council Tax is the highest financial demand on a household. Together with the Police, Fire and Rescue and Parish Council's increases it is a hefty outlay. WC's priorities have always been to maintain the services they provide. Although it is a balanced budget this year, [mainly due to the vast sums that have been sent down by Central Government] the future years will require careful decisions and efficiencies post pandemic as the demand for services will surely rise. There is a Council Tax support fund for those who qualify, already there has been an increase in demand for this. £6.7m is the current figure in lost revenue through CT arrears.

As in other years Children's Social care and those with special educational needs is a priority as is the Waste Service, Leisure facilities and many others.

It's good to see Fovant has extended the 20 mph speed limits through the village.

WC has recently been awarded £22m from Central Government for Highway maintenance; this includes the pothole repair fund which Government recognised as a high priority, we must ensure we get our fair share of this budget as potholes still seem to be an issue on the rural roads. Please report any issue by using the MyWiltsApp.

On **March 2nd the Area Board held** a mini Employment event. Apprenticeship schemes and opportunities for NEETS were discussed. It was very informative.

A brand new project is being launched to support new activities for the Youth. We have Seeds 4 Success in our Area which do a marvellous job with younger people and the need will increase after Coronavirus. This will be discussed at the next **SWW Area Board on the 17th March** together with what findings have been returned after the consultation regarding the priorities for the next 3-5 years. The final tranche for a community grant will also be decided. Grants will still be available for directional Finger posts, projects to improve ROW's and SID (speed camera's) in the new financial year.

Finally, now is the time to bid you a fond farewell. It has been an honour to be the ears, eyes and voice, not only to those who have approached me but to those who are the silent majority. I have always endeavoured to ensure a balanced debate so that a fair outcome is achieved. My role has been huge and diverse which at times has been challenging but enjoyable. There have been notable occasions and opportunities that are too numerous to mention.

The PC's and residents have kept me going and I feel confident my successor will find the same. I cannot end without giving my sincere thanks to all who have given me encouragement over the many years and above all to all those amazing unsung hero's who give of their all within the Community we live, not only during these exceptional months but in normal times which hopefully will return in the not too distant future.

Thank you again.
José Green.