

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone
Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

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

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Mr I Smith
Mrs M Smith
Mrs M Tryhorn
Mr N Legh
Mrs Caroline Ash

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr S Williams and Wiltshire Councillor N Najjar.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no additional declarations of interest.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 13th July 2023.

PE proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 13th July 2023 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by MT and agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan

MRA reported that Wiltshire Council was currently undertaking extensive works in Faulston Lane to enlarge the existing ditches and put a bigger diameter culvert under the road. They had also dug out the ditch that carries water from the road north towards the river. He would be in touch with the Engineer overseeing the project to make sure that the old “soak away” ditches on the north side of the road were also restored.

MRA said that, further to the discussion at the meeting in July, there had been continuing widespread concern about road closures in the village. The proposed closure of the C12 for three days in August had been cancelled at the last minute, much to the frustration of villagers. He had written to Wiltshire Council officers and Cllr Najjar about this. They had said that it was their intention to take matters up with Openreach.

MRA said that a submission had been made to Wiltshire Council setting out in detail the case for a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph in the section of Broad Chalke Road past the Recreation Field, Play Area and the White Hart. This submission was given initial consideration at the meeting of Wiltshire Council's Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group on 6th September. It was agreed that the proposal was worthy of detailed consideration and consultants will be appointed to undertake a Speed Limit Assessment. This is likely to take place in November and the matter will be discussed again at LHFIG in the new year.

The resurfacing of the first part of Pitts Lane, adjoining the High Road, has been completed. As agreed the cost of this work was shared between the residents of Pitts Lane and the Parish Council.

MRA said that he had been in the course of obtaining estimates for the work to restore the footpath alongside the river, between Bridge Road and Croucheston, when he was informed that this work would be undertaken by volunteers from the South Wiltshire branch of the Ramblers Association, led by Wiltshire Council's Footpath Team. The work has now been completed. They have restored the river bank, which was largely destroyed by the high level of the river last winter, rebuilt the two footbridges and provided new hand rails. It was agreed to send a message thanking them for their efforts.

5. Public Forum

Mr Legh said that whilst the work to deal with flooding in Faulston Lane was welcome, the need for something to be done about flooding in Netton Street remained. MRA said that Wiltshire Council was well aware of the problem – inadequate drain size under the road which meant that the drains could not cope with the very heavy downpours we now experience and which were easily clogged by debris. However, he undertook to mention this issue again to the drainage team.

Mr Smith thanked the Council for its efforts to get the speed limit lowered. He said that the dangers were made worse by the overgrown state of the verges. MRA said that Wiltshire were about to undertake visibility grass cutting but he would also mention the issue to the Parish Steward.

6. Chairman's Items

There were none.

7. Parish Clerk Recruitment

MRA said that he had circulated a paper on next steps in recruiting a new Parish Clerk (copy attached to these minutes). Attempts to recruit a volunteer from within the village had proved fruitless. He felt that any new Clerk would be unlikely to take up this role on the existing voluntary basis and that an appropriate level of pay should be offered. Based on agreed national scales, this would mean a salary of between £11.63 and £12.73 per hour. So for a five hour week this produces an annual salary of between £3,024 and £3,310 a year. The number of hours to be worked and the precise level of pay would be for negotiation. He suggested that the Council might make a further appeal to the community in Bishopstone but also formally approach Clerks of other parish councils in the area to see whether any of them would be prepared to take on this role in addition to their current duties. Whilst this is undoubtedly a second best solution, it would be better than having no Clerk at all. PE proposed that the level of remuneration suggested was appropriate and that the next steps outlined should be taken. This was seconded by AJT and agreed.

8. Parish Clerk’s Report

MRA said that the new seat had now been installed in the Children’s Play Area. It had an inscription commemorating the coronation of King Charles III and provides a handy place for parents and carers to sit close to the play equipment used by the youngest children.

It had previously been pointed out that the two Public Access Defibrillators in the village – at the Village Hall and in the kiosk opposite Pitts Lane - are a little remote from the eastern end of the village. It was therefore proposed to purchase a third defibrillator to be located in that area. The most accessible location was the bus shelter at the end of Church Lane. The case did need a trickle electricity supply to keep the defibrillator at the correct operating temperature and he had discussed this matter with Mr Michael Pratt whose property adjoins the shelter. He had agreed that a spur could be run from his service. This would need to be installed by a qualified electrician. MRA said that he had not yet had an opportunity to discuss the details with Michael Pratt. However, the cost of the defibrillator was likely to be approximately £1,600 + vat, with the cost of the electrical connection on top. The cost of the project would therefore be between £2,000 and £2,500. He asked that this level of expenditure be approved in principle. This was proposed by NR, seconded by PE and agreed.

9. Planning Matters

Consideration was given to a planning application for a replacement of an existing MOT garage at Pinewood Park Business Centre on the Blandford Road. It was agreed to make no objection.

10. Questions or statements from Councillors.

NTB said that the drainage ditches at the bottom end of Flamstone Street needed clearing. MRA said he would see if Lee Curtis might be able to undertake this under the Minor Works Programme.

Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 9th November 2023** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 7th September 2023

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Consideration to be given to provision and siting of additional bench in Recreation Field.	MRA	✓
Repairs to gate to footbridge in Mill Lane to be investigated.	AJT	
Further consideration to be given to mechanisms to close gate to Play Area.	PE	✓
Article in STaB re need to clear dead trees.	MRA	
Wiltshire Council to be contacted about traffic management arrangements with road closures.	MRA	✓
Possibility of installing a defibrillator near Church Lane to be investigated.	MRA	✓
WC to be reminded of flooding issue in Netton Street.	MRA	
Grass cutting of road verges to be raised with WC.	MRA	
Action on Parish Clerk recruitment.	MRA	
Drainage ditches in Flamstone Street to be cleared.	MRA	