

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.00pm.**

**MINUTES**

**Present** : Parish Councillors : J Gibbon (JG) Chairman  
N Barter (NTB)  
Mrs M Tatner (MT)  
S Williams (SW)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

**Also present:** Mrs C Ash

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr A Thorne and Cllr A Smith.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

SW proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by JG and agreed.

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

MRA reported that the new Speed Indicator Device was now in place and operational. JG said that whilst there was some hope that drivers would better understand their responsibilities as a result of having the sign there were still too many people driving at high speed through the village.

MRA said that the location of a total of 19 fire hydrants had been identified in the village and a map of these was now included in the village Emergency Plan.

MRA said that he had written to all the organisations which receive annual grants from the Parish Council seeking their views on future need for support. He would report their answers as part of the budget discussion at the next meeting.

All other matters arising or in the Action Plan were covered by items on the Agenda.

**5. Public Question Time**

No matters were raised.

## **6. Chairman's Items**

There were none.

## **7. Traffic Survey Results**

Consideration was given to paper BPC(06)21, copy attached to these minutes. It was pointed out that as 85% of all vehicles were travelling at under 30mph there is no case, under the criteria set by the Department for Transport, for 30mph speed limits to be introduced.

MRA said that Wiltshire Council's policy on 20mph limits is that they may only be introduced where the existing average speed is less than 24mph. Against that criteria all the surveyed roads qualify. However, given that average speeds are already below 20mph and that both national and local research shows that the introduction of 20mph limits reduces the average speed of traffic by only about 1-2mph, the benefits of introducing speed limits was not clear. Enforcement by the police was also unlikely given their resource constraints.

If 20mph limits were to be introduced it would mean the erection of signs at the start and end of the zone and of smaller repeater signs at 200m intervals along the road. The impact of this signage on the appearance of the village has been registered previously as a matter of concern to residents. The Parish Council would also be expected to meet 25% of the cost of the signs and of the legal Traffic Order that would need to be made.

Any such proposal would have to be submitted to Wiltshire Council's Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and would only be implemented once it became one of their top five priority schemes in the South West Wiltshire area.

It was agreed to consult Wiltshire Council's Traffic Engineer on the possible extent of any restriction area and the costs of implementation, with a view to taking final decision on whether to pursue the introduction of 20mph limits at the meeting of the Parish Council in November.

## **8. Tree Planting**

Consideration was given to paper BPC(07)21, copy attached to these minutes. It was agreed to take forward a project to plant trees in the spare land at the north east and north west corners of the Recreation Field. NTB said that it would be important to ensure that water was available to assist the establishment of the saplings. An application would be made to the Woodland Trust for one of their free packs of 30 saplings. SW agreed to take on responsibility for overseeing this project and he would look for other volunteers to join him. When the time comes there would be a need to involve the whole community, particularly young people, in planting the trees and ensuring that they thrive. The project team would also endeavour to help other landowners with their tree planting schemes.

## **9. Play Area Additions**

Consideration was given to paper BPC (08)21, copy attached to these minutes. MRA said that it had been agreed at the July meeting that, following the successful additional provision of play equipment for older children in the play area, there should now be some additional provision for the very youngest. It was agreed that any additional equipment needed to be appropriate to the

pre-school/early years age group, different in nature from that already available in the play area. Following discussion it was agreed to pursue proposals for the provision of two “springers”, together with an additional bench for parents/carers. It was agreed to seek a detailed estimate of costs and to submit a bid for support from the South West Area Board for 50% of the cost of the project. A final decision on whether to go ahead would then be taken at a future meeting.

#### **10. Parish Clerk’s Report.**

(i) MRA said that he had met an officer from Wiltshire Council’s Drainage Team in Faulston Lane to discuss the clearance of the “soak away” ditches on the north side of the lane. It was agreed that Wiltshire Council will now write to the Trustees of Faulston Estate to require them to clear the ditches. Cllr Edwards had spoken to the owners of the field in Netton Street about the need to clear the ditch that drains the drainage system under the street. They had agreed to inspect and decide what needs to be done. MRA said that a notice would be included in the next edition of STaB on the need for all landowners to make sure that watercourses are clear ahead of winter.

(ii) MRA said that the full list of premises to be included in the Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) project had been submitted to Openreach on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

(iii) MRA reminded Councillors of the need to complete on-line forms on Wiltshire Council’s website regarding their Registration of Interests. He undertook to circulate guidance on how to do this.

#### **11. Planning Matters**

MRA drew attention to the consultation by Wiltshire Council on a draft Climate Change Strategy and a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. A note about this would be included in October’s STaB.

#### **12. Questions or statements from Councillors.**

NTB asked that Wiltshire Council be contacted about the state of the road up to the racecourse from Stratford Tony. The run-offs at the side of the road were now very deep and dangerous if a car ran into them. MRA said that the road was in Stratford Tony Parish and he would liaise with the Clerk there about making representations.

MT raised the issue of whether a second community defibrillator might be housed in the soon to be defunct phone box opposite Pitts Lane. This would be more accessible from the east end of the village compared to the current defibrillator at the Village Hall. This idea will be investigated for discussion at the next meeting.

MRA said that Cllr Smith had raised with him the state of the goal posts on the Recreation Field. These were now heavily rusted and insecure. MRA said he would discuss with Cllr Thorne.

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

The next meeting of the Council will be on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date

### BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

#### ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Quotes to be obtained for works to the basketball court and swing frames.	MRA	
Report to be produced following metro counts on back lanes.	MRA	✓
Proposals for further play area equipment to be brought forward.	MRA	✓
Proposals for tree planting on the Recreation Field to be brought forward.	MRA	✓
Letters to be sent to village organisations in receipt of grants from the Parish Council to ascertain future need for support.	MRA	✓
Traffic Engineer to be consulted on costs of 20mph limits.	MRA	
Project team to be set up for tree planting.	SW	
Detailed estimates to be obtained for additions to the Play Area and bid submitted to SWWAB for grant funding.	MRA	
State of Racecourse Road to be raised with Stratford Tony Parish Meeting Clerk and Wiltshire Council	MRA	
Condition of goal posts in Recreation Field to be assessed.	MRA	

## BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL (BPC(06)21)

### TRAFFIC SURVEYS – 2021

#### Introduction

1. Over the years representations have been received from residents expressing concern about vehicle speeds along the village roads south of the main C12. These roads are subject only to the national (non motorway) speed limit of 60mph. There have been calls for the imposition of 30mph or 20mph limits.
2. As a result the Parish Council requested Wiltshire Council to undertake traffic surveys to determine the volume and speed of vehicles using these roads. The timing of these surveys was delayed during the pandemic lock-down periods because surveys then would have been unrepresentative of normal conditions. The surveys finally took place over the week beginning 12 July 2021.
3. Locations for the metro count apparatus were agreed with the Parish Clerk. They were in Flamstone Street, Butt Lane, Harvest Lane, Church Lane and Faulston Lane (see map).

#### Results

4. The reports for each location are summarized in the following table:

Location	Total vehicle movements (both directions combined).	Average speed of vehicles (both directions combined)	85 <sup>th</sup> percentile (both directions combined)
Flamstone Street	530	15.7	21.1
Butt Lane	2390	18.2	23.0
Harvest Lane	1786	20.7	26.0
Church Lane	962	18.6	23.9
Faulston Lane	897	16.0	20.8

Note: the “85<sup>th</sup> percentile” is the speed that 85% of vehicles are slower than. It is used by traffic engineers as an indicator of the “natural” upper speed for the road when considering speed limits.

#### Conclusions

5. The main conclusions are:
  - (i) average speeds are 20mph or less in all locations;
  - (ii) the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile in all locations is less than 30mph.

There is clearly no case for 30mph limits given that existing speeds, even at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile level, are well below that. The issue for consideration is whether to pursue 20mph limits.

6. Wiltshire Council's policy on 20mph limits is that they may only be introduced where the existing average speed is less than 24mph. Against that criteria all the surveyed roads qualify. However, both national and local research shows that the introduction of 20mph speed limits reduces the average speed of traffic by only about 1-2mph. Given that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed in four out of our five locations is already below 24mph the impact is likely to be even more marginal. Any enforcement by the police of 20mph limits is unlikely.

7. If a 20mph limit were to be introduced it would probably be applied to all the roads in the village south of the High Road. This would mean the erection of speed limit signs at all the main access points, with smaller repeater signs at intervals throughout the village. Any such proposal would have to be submitted to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) and would only be implemented once it became one of their top five priority schemes in the SWWAB area. The Parish Council would be required to meet 25% of the cost of the signage and the legal costs of the Traffic Order. No firm estimate of total costs is yet available – but is likely to be in the region of £5000.

### **Recommendation**

8. There are those in the village who would welcome the re-assurance of the introduction of 20mph speed limits even if, in practice, these make little appreciable difference to the average speed of vehicles using the roads. Residents might see it as perhaps having some impact on the very fastest drivers (though with limited chance of enforcement). The downside would be the proliferation of signage in the village and the cost – is it value for money to spend more than £1000 for marginal benefit?

9. On balance I recommend no further action – but I can see that Councillors might feel that there are benefits in being seen to do something on this issue. In which case I recommend that the next step should be to ask for a firm estimate of costs.

Mike Ash  
Clerk  
September 2021

## **BIHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL (BPC(07)21)**

### **TREE PLANTING**

#### **Introduction**

1. Councillors will recall that the need to encourage tree planting in the village was raised at the meeting last November. It is Government policy to increase tree planting as one way of seeking to combat climate change. In addition there is the “Queen’s Green Canopy” campaign - a tree planting initiative to mark the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone from individuals to villages, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen’s leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.
2. Publicity to encourage individual landowners to plant trees has already been included in STaB. It was agreed at the last meeting to consider what the Parish Council itself might do. The only land in the village which is owned by the parish council is the Recreation Field. This paper sets out options for tree planting there.

#### **Recreation Field**

3. The Recreation Field comprises quite a large area of land – much more than is needed to accommodate the cricket and football pitches and the Children’s Play Area. It already has a substantial number of trees along the south and east sides, with a small overgrown area of trees and bushes in the north east corner (see attached satellite view). It would certainly be possible to plant a selection of trees in the scrub area in the north east corner, and in the north west corner, without compromising the main open area of the field. It may also be desirable to plant a few trees along the north and west boundaries.
4. One suggestion that has been made is whether to include fruit trees and, in effect, create a community orchard, the produce of which would be free to local residents to pick.

#### **Tree Availability**

5. As part of the response to the Government’s initiatives on tree planting the Woodland Trust is making available to local communities free packs of trees ready for planting. These must be planted on land which is accessible to members of the public.
6. The most appropriate pack is one of 30 saplings comprising a mix of broad leaf trees (Rowan, Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Hazel etc). The Woodland Trust say that, planted together, these would cover one tennis court. In our case the 30 could be spread over the locations mentioned above. All packs come with bamboo canes and 60cm spiral guards which protect the young trees from rabbits and other small mammals.
7. If 30 trees are too many, an alternative option would be to purchase individual trees, either from local suppliers or the Woodland Trust (where most species cost £8.95). The Woodland Trust packs can be applied for from 1<sup>st</sup> September for delivery in March 2022.

## Issues

8. If it is decided to apply for one of the Woodland Trust free packs, and if this is successful, the following tasks arise:

- planting locations would need to be identified and marked;
- holes will need to be dug and trees planted;
- there will need to be regular inspections and care for the saplings until they become established.

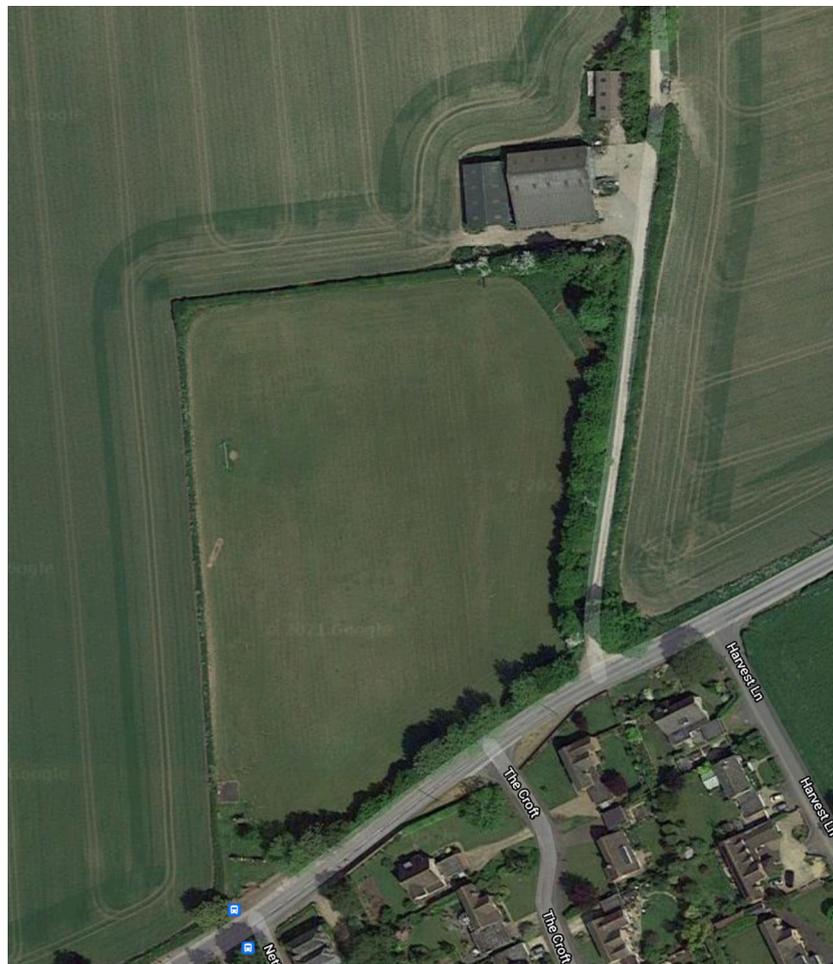
The key questions are – who will undertake both the organisation of this project and the work required. Can we rely on volunteers for all, or part of this? It would be possible, if necessary, to contract the actual planting.

9. If it is decided to undertake a project as outlined above, I recommend that a “task and finish” group is set up as with other previous projects in the village. Would any Councillor be prepared to chair such a group? Others could be recruited through personal contact and/or through an appeal in October’s edition of STaB (though any bid for a Woodland Trust pack probably needs to be submitted before then). A particular focus of the project could be to involve young people in the village.

## Conclusion

10. The views of Councillors are sought on whether to undertake a tree planting project in the Recreation Field and how this can best be organized.

Mike Ash  
September 2021



## BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL (BPC(08)21)

### CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

1. It was agreed at the last meeting that, following the successful extension of equipment in the Children's Play Area for slightly older children, consideration should be given to some small additional provision for the very youngest. This paper sets out proposals.

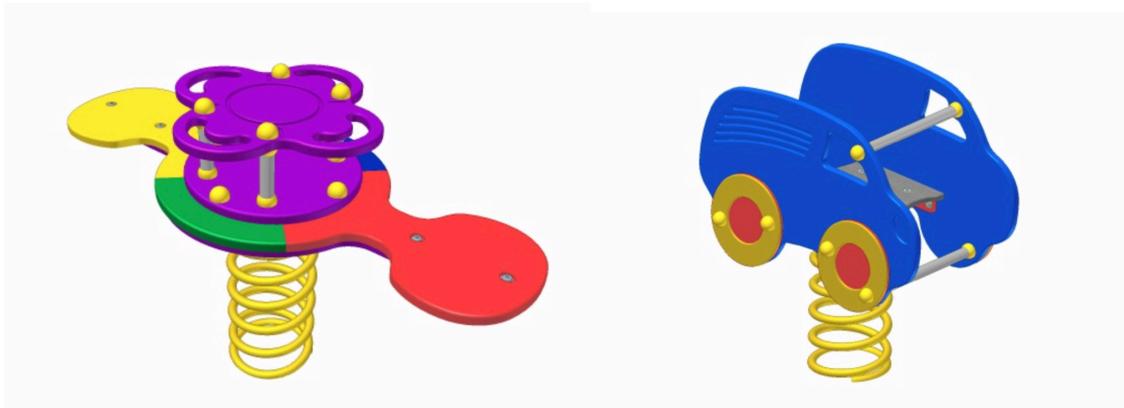
2. Any additional equipment needs to be appropriate to the pre-school/early years age smaller and different in nature from that already available in the play area. A very popular piece of equipment is a "springer" (see photograph). These come in a huge variety of – as animals, cars/bikes, see-saws etc.



group,

forms

3. Outdoor Play South West, who have provided all the new equipment in the play area, have a range. It is suggested that two "springers" might be the best solution, such as:



Two person see-saw.

Van

It would be necessary to locate these in an area of safety surfacing, similar to that provided for the recent new equipment.

4. The photograph, below, shows the area between the entrance to the Play Area and the swings which is probably the best location. It is further suggested that an additional bench be provided here for parents/carers to sit when supervising small children. Positioned on the west side (left in the photograph) this would also provide a sense of enclosure of the space.



5. No firm estimate of costs has yet been obtained. However, the two springers will cost approximately £800 (+vat). Safety surfacing will cost a similar amount. Together with a seat the overall costs would therefore be of the order of £2,500.

### **Recommendation**

6. I recommend that firm estimates of costs be obtained for the proposals set out above (ie two “springers” plus a bench) and reported for consideration at the next meeting.

Mike Ash  
September 2021