

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in Bishopstone Village Hall
Thursday 10th March 2016 at 7.00 pm.**

MINUTES

<u>Present :</u>	Parish Councillors :	J H S Thompson, Chairman A J Thorne G Brutton N Barter J Gibbon Mrs A Smith	
	Clerk	M Ash	
	Wiltshire Council	Cllr Mrs Jose Green	
	Members of the public:	Mr R Barrett Mrs C Ash Mr R Stockton Mrs P Abbott Mr M Gulliver Mr J Gulliver Mr R Goodfellow Mrs J Goodfellow	Mr C Goodfellow Mr M Bundy Mrs M Furmston Mr N Mead Mrs M Barter

1. **Election of Chairman:** Councillor Thompson was elected unopposed to chair the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from PC Pete Jung.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th March 2015 were agreed to be an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Parish Council Report for 2015:** Major James Thompson summarised the Parish Council's year. The main points covered are set out in Note A attached to these minutes. He said it had been a busy year involving work to repair and improve the children's play area, action to counteract speeding in the village, to deal with flooding and other possible emergencies, securing faster broadband, with on-going work to try to solve the lack of mobile phone coverage, dealing with fly-tipping and litter (the litter pick as part of "Clean for the Queen" had been a great success) , the completion of work on the Bishopstone Plan, the development of Faulston Barns and much more. He thanked Rob and Ali Thorne for the work that they do to maintain the recreation field, John Gibbon and helpers for setting up and running the Community Speed Watch, Roger Stockton and team for the emergency planning arrangements, Nick Gooch and Trevor Long for their work on the Bishopstone Plan and his fellow Councillors and the Clerk, Mike Ash, for their

support. He confirmed that he would be stepping down as both Chairman of the Parish Council and as a Councillor at the AGM in May, having been Chairman for the last six years. The meeting expressed its thanks to James for all that he had done.

5. **Wiltshire Councillor Report:** Cllr Jose Green spoke about the many challenges facing Wiltshire Council, notably that of achieving further budget savings this year. She emphasised how much she relied on Parish Councils to keep her informed of local issues and to help her get things done. Priorities remained the protection of the vulnerable – young and elderly and the promotion of a vibrant economy. The returning military personnel presented a particular challenge in terms of providing jobs, homes and services. By 2026 40,000 new jobs would be needed and 30,000 new homes. The new contractor for road maintenance etc will be in place by April 2016.
6. **Parochial Church Council Report:** Norman Barter presented a report from the PCC as follows: The Church has now finished the repairs, ending this 5 years plan but we await with trepidation for the next Quinquennial Inspection, due this summer, which will tell us what repairs we need to undertake in the next 5 years. The Church recording, being carried out by NADFAS, should be finished by the end of this year and should make very interesting reading. We still have 3 services a month with the well attended Remembrance Service and the Carol Service in the Village Hall. We welcomed Catherine Blundell, our new Team Rector, last year. The new Nave Altar should be in place this June. The Churchyard continues to look tidy, with grateful thanks for the help from the Parish Council.
7. **Village Hall:** Norman Barter gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee. He said that the Village Hall continues to be used well. Our own Lunch Club , Moviola Films, Community Cafe, Magic Lantern Society, televised Rugby, Rural Arts shows, Lectures and our Fayres continue to be popular. None of this would be organised without an enormous amount of effort by the excellent committee and other volunteers, and of course you who support us. We have had a cleaning and painting day to keep our hall in good condition. But there is one project, which will take a few years to accomplish and that is the resurfacing of the car-park. Plans are in hand but resources will have to be found. We thank the Parish Council for your continued support.
8. **Bish-Bash Committee Report:** Ali Thorne reported on preparations for Bish Bash 2016, which would take place on 11th June and be themed around the Queen's 90th birthday. There would be a party for villagers on the Recreation Field, followed by the Country Fair, similar to 2015. A band and disco would continue into the evening.
9. **Emergency Planning:** Roger Stockton reported on Emergency Planning. He said that the village has a revised Emergency Plan that was produced and completed in January 2016. This now covers a wider range of potential emergencies as suggested by Wiltshire Council. That plan has been distributed, in restricted format, to the Flood Wardens, Area Representatives and the Parish Council. Wiltshire Council has a copy. An unrestricted form of that plan, with no detail of the location of key equipment, is available to villagers on the village website. Details of contacts and useful numbers in the event of an emergency were produced and placed in February's edition of STaB so every household can have a copy.

The Flood Wardens and Area Representatives form the team to cover potential emergencies in the village. The village has two stores dumps and is provided with an adequate amount of flood prevention stores. SSE are running a scheme whereby Parishes can apply for funding for equipment or stores they may need. We are bidding for funding for additional equipment such as generators, pumps and radios.

Roger said he was confident that we are well ahead of the majority of other villages in Wiltshire in our planning and preparation for emergency events.

10. **The Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity Fund Report:** Reg Barrett reported on behalf of the trustees of the Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity. The accounts were approved by the Trustees on the 24 February 2016. The charities income is derived from 1087 Income Shares of the COIF Investment Fund. The value of the shares on the 31st December 2015 was £13407.82 (2014 £13243.79) equivalent to 1233.47 pence per share. The shares had risen in value at the above date by 15.09 pence per share or 1.2% as compared with the corresponding value at 31st December 2014.

The charity was originally established and funded by a bequest of The Rev George Augustus Montgomery, Rector of Bishopstone from 1821 to 1842. He also built the village school, which is now a private house. With the passage of time, the method of relief has changed but we still make small grants for education and training as well as fuel. Our current authorised purposes restrict us to making grants to persons who are residents in the Parish of Bishopstone. We are required to satisfy ourselves that the persons we assist are in hardship or distress. We are willing to consider any request on behalf of a child or family or pensioner suffering hardship. A referral can be made by a statutory or non-statutory body affecting a resident of Bishopstone. It is perfectly in order for any resident to apply on her/his own behalf. All applicants can be assured that their request will be dealt with swiftly, sympathetically and most importantly, in confidence.

In 2015 we made three grants totalling £241.50 and received income of £612.09. We are not a large charity by any means and are restricted to distributing income only by way of grants. The closing balance of the fund at 31st December 2015 was £1066.03.

The Trustees at the 31st December 2015 were Mr A Bebbington, the Chairman – Revd. Jenny Taylor - and himself as the appointed representative of the Parish Council. He would require confirmation that the Parish Council wished him to continue in this capacity for the ensuing year. The Chairman said that this matter would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting that followed.

11. **Open Forum:** The main points covered in discussion were:

- Concerns about the “scalpings” from the roadway into Croucheston Farm from Faulston Lane, which tended to get spread all over the lane.
- Whether it would be sensible to re-surface the informal “lay by” opposite Meadow View. It was agreed this should be considered and possibly taken up in the Community Area Transport Group.
- The problem of the fence of the car park at Whitlock Rise. Wiltshire Council officers had confirmed that no gate or gap will be provided to allow access from the car park to the

Whitlock Rise properties fronting onto the High Road or for residents of the main part of Whitlock Rise to reach the bus stop, telephone box etc. This will be a major inconvenience to the residents of the road, many of whom are elderly. The landowner of the path that runs alongside the car park has indicated that he has no objection to an access from the car park being provided and for his path to be used as a public right of way. The access through the car park has been used for at least 20 years and so should be established as a public right of way. It was agreed that the Clerk to the Parish Council should write to Wiltshire Council again about this and attend the next Housing Liaison Meeting.

There being no other issues, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Date of Next Meeting :

The next Parish Meeting would be on 9th March 2017 at 7.00pm.

Signed as an accurate record.

.....Chairman

.....Date

PC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015/16

Recreation Field/Children's Play Area

- vandalism of Play Train in 2014/15 and more in 2015/16 (comment!) repairs undertaken and re-painting to be completed soon
- basketball court installed to provide activity for older children
- following consultation with the Mothers and Toddlers Group a play tower for toddler age group to be installed in the next month or so
- lack of use of Recreation Field – need for adult volunteers to organize

Speeding in the village

- request to Wiltshire Council for 20mph speed limits on back roads turned down
- but Community Speed Watch now up and running in the village (thanks to Cllr Gibbon). Is having an effect on driver behaviour in 30mph zone. More volunteers required.

Emergency Planning/flooding

- flooding materials (sand bags, gel bags, road signs and other equipment) now stockpiled at two locations in the village
- mechanized "spinner" secured to use to spread salt/grit in snow and ice as back-up to Wiltshire Council snow clearance
- emergency plan updated and extended to cover a wider range of emergency situations
- works to improve the operation of the river, drains and ditches undertaken – extensive discussions held with Wiltshire Council about Netton Street problems, more work to be done
- thanks to Roger Stockton as Emergency Planning Co-ordinator and to volunteers in the village who have helped with river/ditch clearance work

Broadband/mobile phones

- after much pressure exerted on BT (thanks to Roger Stockton and Mike Ash), and with the help of John Glen MP, high speed broadband finally reached the village (or at least the western part) last Summer, rest of the village can now get the faster service.
- the company charged by the Government with solving the "not spot" problem for mobile phone coverage made a complete mess of its proposals for the Chalke Valley. In the end the only new mast proposed would have been in Ebbesbourne Wake and that has now been dropped. I wrote to John Glen on this and Mike is continuing to liaise with him on a possible new Government initiative which would provide support for local communities that put forward site proposals.

Fly tipping/littering/dog mess

- became a much bigger problem during the year (closure of re-cycling centre?). Asbestos along Mill Lane took a while to get cleared but Wiltshire Council now responding better to requests to clear fly-tipped rubbish (latest incident in Crouchston Drove).
- great that 30 villagers turned out last Saturday to litter pick as part of "Clean for the Queen". Huge pile of rubbish collected from roadsides and footpaths throughout the village. Aim must be to keep it that way.
- but dog mess remains a problem – please would owners pick up after their pets.

Whitlock Rise

- carried out a year long dialogue with Wiltshire Council about the state of the car park and its fencing. WC finally put up new fencing – but this cut off pedestrian access. Discussions are on-going...

Bishopstone Plan

- steering group delivered final version of the BP in January. Very useful piece of work, providing a check list of the things that the community values, and wishes to see retained, and the things that need to be changed or improved.
- PC now considering implementation. Not a great response so far with request for help with this.

Faulston Barns

- planning permission for the barns redevelopment finally granted a year ago. Work started in September and is now fully underway. Good relations established with the developers which assisted in arranging construction traffic management measures. They are helping with flooding issues in Faulston Lane and the developer contribution for village amenities is meeting a substantial part of the costs of the works to the Children's Play Area.
- the development will mean six new families arriving in Bishopstone by this time next year.

On-going challenges

- consultation on bus service, which Wiltshire may significantly cut back. The PC will be opposing any cutback, but users need to respond as well.
- quality of maintenance of roads and grassed areas – Balfour Beatty have gone (which Councillors resigned?) and Ringway are coming back, complete with local stewards, which should be a good thing.