

BISHOPSTONE PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in Bishopstone Village Hall
Thursday 12th March 2015 at 7.00 pm.

MINUTES

<u>Present</u> :	Parish Councillors :	J H S Thompson, Chairman G Brutton N Barter Mrs A Smith	
	Clerk	M Ash	
	Wiltshire Council	Cllr Mrs Jose Green	
	Members of the public:	Mr R Barrett Mrs M Foster Mrs C Ash Mr R Stockton Mrs P Abbott Mr R Abbott Mr N Gooch	Mr C Goodfellow Mrs S Leaver Mr D Leaver Mr E Schruers Ms J Wise Mrs J Stocker Mr A Stocker

1. **Election of Chairman:** Councillor Thompson was elected unopposed to chair the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Councillors Thorne and Gibbon.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th March 2014 were agreed to be an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Parish Council Report for 2014:** Major James Thompson summarised the Parish Council's year. The main points are covered in Note A attached to these minutes.
5. **Wiltshire Councillor Report:** Cllr Jose Green reported on Wiltshire Council's priorities – the economy, and the vulnerable, including children and the elderly. Wiltshire had a budget of £900m for 350 different services. A total of £30m in savings had to be achieved this year with a 0% increase in Council Tax. The effects of last winter's flooding had been a major focus of attention during the past year, and much effort had gone into developing flood plans and supplies of materials. She thought that Bishopstone was a good example of a "resilient community" thanks to the work of the Parish Council and volunteers like Roger Stockton. Cllr Green noted some forthcoming

developments – an increase in time for street parking in Salisbury, a new 50mph speed limit between Bishopstone and Coombe Bissett and further work on re-surfacing the C12. She wanted to reassure that local concerns were listened to by the South West Area Board.

6. Parochial Church Council Report: Norman Barter presented a report from the PCC as follows:

During the last 12 months the church has seen a lot of preparation work come to fruition. The repairs to the tower and work in the South Transept have been completed and the next stage of the repairs is being looked at. The work recording the church and its contents, being done by the local NADFAS group, has continued and the report should be completed in the next 12 months. We count our blessings that we still have 3 services a month taken by 2 existing Priests, helped by visiting clergy. A new Team Vicar should soon be in place to succeed David Henley. The Remembrance Service saw 100+ people in the church, and the Carol service 140 in the Village Hall. We are very appreciative of the continuing support of the Parish Council in helping to keep the church yard looking good.

9. Village Hall: Norman Barter gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, as follows:

The Village Hall continues to be used by a variety of groups including Pilates, Film Club, Toddlers, Moviola, Lectures etc, as well as by private parties. Our own Spring and Christmas fairs, Burns Night etc have proved very successful. The new heating in the Memorial room is now up and running and is much appreciated. None of this would be possible but for the tireless efforts of my wonderful committee and support from the Parish Council.

10. Bish-Bash Committee Report: Marion Foster reported on Bish-Bash events past and future. The Summer Country Fair had been very successful, as had that at Christmas, with 72 children visiting Santa's grotto. Both had grown in size, but the Committee was trying, so far as possible, to keep them as local events. The Summer Fair this year would be on 13th June and would be a true country fair with ferret racing, morris dancing and a ceilidh in the evening. Anthony Draper had volunteered the use of one of his fields for car parking so the whole of the recreation Field would be available for the fair. Bish Bash had now established a "virtuous circle" whereby events were self financing. Ali Thorne would also be running a Clay Pigeon Shoot on 6/7 June, with proceeds going to Bish Bash funds and the church.

12. Emergency Planning: Roger Stockton reported on Emergency Planning in general and flooding issues in particular. A note of the main points covered is at Annex B.

13. The Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity Fund Report: Reg Barrett reported on behalf of the trustees of the Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity. This charity has provided small support grants for those in the village in dire need since 1842. The grants are made from the interest earned on capital sums invested by the Rev Montgomery. In the year 6 grants had been made totalling £1186. The balances of the charity were now quite low and there would be a need to rebuild these over the coming

years. Nevertheless, if called for help, the charity would do its best to provide assistance. He indicated that he would be willing to carry on as the Parish Council's appointee to the trustees.

14. Village Plan: Nick Gooch said that the Bishopstone Plan, which a small group of volunteers had been working on since 2013, was approaching final draft stage. It was intended to distribute copies of the final consultation draft to every home in the village. In the next 2/3 months. The final version would be presented to a public meeting and then to the Parish Council. It was important to remember that this would be a "living document" and would need to be developed and updated as issues arose.

15. Open Forum: The main points covered in discussion were:

- Concerns about recent burglaries in the village. Major Thompson said it was important to get the message across not to leave keys in the lock in doors, to lock outside sheds and to leave the radio and lights on when the house is unoccupied.
- The farmers had now completed the hedge cut and quite a lot of debris had been left behind on footpaths. It was confirmed that it is the landowners responsibility to clear up any mess and this would not be done by Wiltshire Council.
- Whether a bid could be made to the lottery to invest in much more children's play equipment in the play area. It was pointed out that there are space limitations if the cricket field is to be preserved and that the provision of some additional equipment (climbing tower, slide etc) was to be discussed at the meeting of the Parish Council later in the evening. The idea of a lottery bid would be borne in mind.
- Wessex Water had made a mess of the road in Croucheston whilst undertaking emergency repairs to a water main. This had been reported to Wiltshire Council Highways.
- Whether there were any controls over the lighting of bonfires. It was confirmed that there are none but requests had been included in STaB for gardeners to take care and consider the impact on neighbours. This could be repeated. It was always possible to take matters up directly with neighbours in cases of concern.
- The need to renew the white "give way" hatching lines at the bottom of Croucheston Drove. Farm vehicles often drive down the drove at speed without giving way to oncoming cars on the road. This matter had been raised on numerous occasions with Wiltshire Council and would be taken up again.

There being no other issues, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Date of Next Meeting :

The next Parish Meeting would be on 10th March 2016 ay 7.00pm.

Signed as an accurate record.

.....Chairman

.....Date

Flooding, the establishment of Emergency Response Group and preparation of Emergency Plan (this will be covered by Roger Stockton in his report).

Recreation field – vandalism of train, planned clean up and re-paint. Basketball court construction to begin soon, planning for more toddler play equipment. Pity better use cannot be made of field - need for adult organisers.

Allotments – protracted negotiation with Wiltshire Council to lease the land in The Styles, land subsequently cleared and sub-let to four villagers. Much help from Roger Stockton.

Whitlock Rise – resurfacing of car park (but to poor standard), problem of abandoned cars, continuing efforts to sort out fencing, anti-social behavior.

Speeding in the village – managed to get road junction warning signs for Flamstone Street but disappointed that Wiltshire Council rejected call for extensions of 30 and 40 mph limits. We will keep pressing this. Attempt to establish Community Speed Watch thwarted by PCC but still under discussion.

Footpaths – many thanks to the group of volunteers who carried out an audit of all the footpaths in the Parish and to those who turned out to erect gate replacements for three stiles on heavily used footpaths in the village.

Roads – Mill Lane was washed away in the storms and closed. Wiltshire Council were initially very slow to take action, and then had extended consultations with the Environment Agency over what was to be done. However, road reopened on 13th February - 12 months to the day since the storm. The C12 was repaired for the Cycle Race last May (which will be back this May) and Wiltshire are proposing a comprehensive resurfacing in 2015/16.

Housing – discussions held with Wiltshire Council about the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey carried out in November 2013. That survey established that there is a need for some more affordable housing in Bishopstone. Consideration of this matter in abeyance until Bishopstone Plan produced.

Continuing difficulty of liaison with Balfour Beatty and getting them to focus on local priorities for road repairs, grass cutting etc.

Planning Applications – the PC does much work commenting on planning applications in the parish. Mostly the PC has been able to support proposals brought forward, whilst safeguarding the wider interests of the village. The most contentious has been the proposed redevelopment of Faulston Barns. A decision on this by Wiltshire Council is still awaited.

For the future – the PC is promoting “self help” in the village. There is no doubt that the cut-back in public services are affecting us. The more we can do for ourselves to keep the village functioning, clean and tidy the better.

EMERGENCY PLANNING REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015 Annex B

The Emergency Plan is in being and functions well through its network of Flood Wardens and Area Representatives.

Flood Wardens.

The two Flood Wardens are now

- West – Nigel Peasley based in Croucheston
- East - Chris Sexton based at Lower Mill

Nigel has taken over from Richard Tory.

Flood Stores.

The village now has two dumps of stores – one comprising sand, bags and signs is at Throope Manor and covers the eastern end of the village, the other is at Faulston House and comprises sand only at the moment as we are still awaiting more bags and signs from Wiltshire Council. In the event of a flooding emergency the Flood Wardens will control these stores. Their priority is to assist the elderly and vulnerable as designated in the plan. Individual “at risk” homeowners should make their own arrangements to protect their properties.

River Clearance.

Considerable effort during spring summer and autumn 2014 by landowners and volunteers has resulted in a clearer river with better flow. Thanks goes to all those involved.

A detailed report is available at Annex A.

Telephone Problems.

Events of the summer have resulted in us having a much better understanding of the layout of the phone network in the village. Regrettably BT and Openreach are not helpful when it comes to resolving problems but we now have an excellent in to both organizations with the help of our MP.

Electricity Network.

The understanding of the electricity network in the village for the Emergency Plan is still ongoing but will be completed before winter 2015.

Rest Centre

The village hall has been designated a “Rest Centre” in the event of local emergencies. Appropriate signage will be displayed soon. This will give us a central location for shelter in the event of an emergency. The hall has all the required facilities. Wiltshire council will provide all additional emergency stores, blankets, beds and food if/when required. VH may bid to S&SE for a generator.

DETAILED NOTES ON FLOODING ISSUES AND AT RISK AREAS

Croucheston Mill and river.

The river above Croucheston Mill has been reviewed. We are now clear on how the sluice system that operates. A resident had complained about the lack of drainage from west to east of the path to Flamstone Street to the Mill. The drain has now been found and is and was working properly. It is unlikely to have had any affect on the flooding of properties in the area.

Croucheston Drove

Pending response from Wiltshire Council ref drainage.

Netton Street.

The drainage of the street was reviewed with Wiltshire Council. The lower drain at the junction of Netton Street and Butt Lane still floods. Extensive work has been done by residents and volunteers to clarify the drainage pattern in Netton Street. It now seems that the roadside drains in the western part of Netton Street do not drain into the river but water flows underground into a ditch in front of Linden House and Croft Cottage. The ditch in this field is to be cleared.

Faulston Bridges.

Significant clearance of the river has occurred in this area both above and below Faulston Bridges. However, weed cut from west of Faulston Bridges floated downstream and blocked the bridge at Faulston, minimizing the flow. It has been cleared. Large bushes that had blown down at the Triangle have been moved.

The ditch exiting the sewage plant has been cleared.

Faulston Lane.

Still awaiting notification from Faulston Estate agent that the responsibility to clear ditches in this area belongs to Faulston Estate.

Mill Lane.

Holes in the road have been repaired.

Other area – Flamstone Street.

NTR

The promised sandbags and two bags of sand have still not yet been delivered by WC.