

BISHOPSTONE PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in Bishopstone Village Hall
Thursday 13th March 2014 at 7.00 pm.

MINUTES

<u>Present</u> :	Parish Councillors :	J H S Thompson, Chairman A Thorne G Brutton N Barter J Gibbon Mrs A Smith
	Clerk	M Ash
	Wiltshire Council	Cllr Mrs Jose Green
	Wiltshire Constabulary	PCSO Jenny Moss
	Members of the public:	Mr R Barrett Mrs M Foster Mrs C Ash Mr R Stockton Mr N Mead Mrs P Abbott Mr R Abbott Mr T Long Mr N Gooch Mr C Goodfellow 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 Councillor S Tatner.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th March 2013 were agreed to be an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Parish Council Report for 2013:** Major James Thompson summarised the Parish Council's year, from problems with summer grass cutting to the floods of the winter. He highlighted the work the Council has been doing to get the car park at Whitlock Rise

resurfaced, to improve facilities at the recreation field, to maintain footpaths, to provide allotments, to get speed limits extended and to secure the future of the pub.

5. **Wiltshire Councillor Report:** Cllr Jose Green reported on Wiltshire Council's priorities – the economy, the vulnerable and elderly and the roads. She pointed out the need for communities to contribute voluntary effort if they were to be resilient. Discussions were being held with WC Officers to consider housing needs. She commended Bishopstone for completing its Housing Needs Survey. The SW Area Board was now playing an important role – and it was important that parishes took the opportunity to attend and raise issues which needed to be tackled. The Board's "Discover Chalke Valley" initiative, to boost visitors and the local economy, will be important in the coming year and the "Cycle Wiltshire" professional cycle event on 4 May will at least mean that the road through the valley should be re-surfaced where that is required.

6. **Neighbourhood Police Report:** PCSO Jenny Moss said that 2013 had been very similar to the previous year, with break-ins to vehicles and garden sheds being the primary criminal activities in the area. There had been some improvement in the last three months. The advice for motorists remained not to leave valuables in their cars. It was also worth leaving glove boxes and boot screens open so that it was clear that there was nothing of value in the car. The night-time joint operations with local farmers and gamekeepers had been useful in deterring felons. The neighbourhood Team remain very grateful for all the help they receive from local residents.

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

"The last 12 months have been spent in preparation for the much-needed repairs to our Church. Faculty permissions and grants do seem to take a long time but when the weather improves, repairs to the Tower and repairs inside the South Transept will go ahead. We still have 3 services a month, for which we count our blessings. We said farewell to Canon David Henley in January, with many regrets. He has been a wise and popular priest among us and we wished him and his wife a happy retirement. Christmas was celebrated with over 70 attending our Crib service at the Church and with over 140 people attending the popular Carol service packing into the Village Hall. The Churchyard always looks good. The financial help, given by the Parish Council to maintain it, is much appreciated."

8. **STaB Report:** Nick Mead said that finance issues had been the main concern in relation to STaB over the past year. Not all predicted income had materialised. Revised arrangements, including a limit on the number of pages, had been put in place to prevent any recurrence in 2014. Renewed efforts were being made to ensure that the magazine was delivered by the first of the month, but much depended on the, entirely voluntary, delivery team.

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

"The Village Hall continues to be well used by a variety of groups. The new innovation, an AV system, has been installed and has led to new uses for the hall. The new Magic

Lantern Club will be showing new and old films. Also various sporting events can now be shown on the new system. All this, with the fayres, coffee mornings, Moviola nights etc, have been well supported but could not take place without the enormous effort from a small, very hard-working committee. Lastly we are applying for a grant to bring the Memorial Room heating up to standard, by installing a small air-source heat-pump. We have plans to revamp the car park but at more than £30K, this is very long term. The committee is very appreciative of the continuing financial support from the Parish Council.”

- 10. 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 provides small support grants for those in the village in dire need. In 2013 seven grants had been made, totalling £1180. 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.
- 11. Bish-Bash Committee Report:** Marion Foster reported on Bish-Bash events past and future. Bish-Bash was now self financing and had been able to make donations in 2013 to STaB and the Chalke Valley Link Scheme. Bish-Bash would return for a Summer Country Fair on 7th June. There would not be a band on the field this year, but in the pub afterwards. Any financial surplus this year would go towards the church repairs.
- 12. Village Plan:** Trevor Long gave an update on work being undertaken by the Steering Group to produce a plan for the future of Bishopstone:

“Firstly we discovered that official reports like the 2011 Census contain a lot of facts and figures that define what our community is today. So most of our data collection needed to focus on discovering how people would want this village to be in, say, 5 or 10 years. The ideal would be a questionnaire to every person asking what needs improving, what needs changing, what must be protected and what needs doing to deliver the village you want in the future. At the beginning we decided against it because the response may have been poor given that there had been the survey about the village, and the village hall in particular, not too long ago.

The alternative has been the village fete, articles in STaB and feedback forms. The input has been valuable but - and it's an important but – the input has been from the usual suspects. I think that means people like you who are here tonight !!

We have spent a lot of time discussing how we can capture the opinions of the “difficult to reach” people because if this plan is to be recognised by the Parish Council and by Wiltshire Council then we must demonstrate that it has involved the whole community as far as possible. Apart from a couple of groups that we can meet up with, like the mums and toddlers, this is not easy. Therefore over the next few weeks we will be calling at all homes in the village with a simple “tick sheet” to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge. The next stage will be to produce a draft plan from the information we have collected and to present this to the village for comments and feedback, and then to distil a final Plan for the future of Bishopstone.”

13. Emergency Planning and Flooding: Roger Stockton gave a short presentation on flooding incidents in the village and the work that had now been done to formulate an Emergency Plan for the village:

“Just after Christmas we experienced an unusually long period of exceptional amounts of precipitation. In other words, it rained a lot. This was forecast on the news/weather forecasts. However, the village had no emergency planning arrangements in place to deal with the problems that arose. I volunteered to write a plan that covers flooding, snow and ice and blocked roads with sections on utility emergencies to follow once I have spoken with Wessex Water, Scottish and Southern Electric and BT. That plan will be put to the PC this evening for formal adoption.

The knee jerk reaction by most people to the Christmas flooding was that it was everyone’s fault but their own. The problem was highlighted in recent meetings with WC where the fact it was Christmas was the excuse for nothing happening. Some scheme that is capable of operating 365 days of the year is needed. **The aim of our plan is the increase of resilience to emergencies within Bishopstone by the development of a robust coordinated approach. Its objectives,** which have been completed, are:

- The identification of risks to the community and the relevant response actions
- The identification of the vulnerable in the community
- The identification of resources available in the community
- Key contact details for the Community Response Group
- Guidance on actions to be taken

The plan uses as its basis the establishment of Area Representatives for each of 7 areas in the village. These are Croucheston, Flamstone, Netton West and East, Faulston, N of the High Road and Throope. For flooding there are two Flood Wardens, Richard Tory who covers the Western end of the village and Chris Sexton who covers the Eastern end of the village, the dividing line being Faulston Bridges. I have briefed all of the above as Emergency Planning Coordinator. They form what is known as the **Community Response Group** and they understand what is required of them.

As far as flooding is concerned the plan contains the detail of flood warning codes, the details of the Floodlines pertinent to Bishopstone, details of susceptible areas, responsibilities regarding property and ditches and drainage and details for flood supplies, storage and delivery. Aspects of the plan pertinent to villagers is already on the website and will also be included in next month’s STaB.

I would like to stress 4 aspects:

- The plan is voluntary. If individuals or groups do not want to follow the advice given to them that is their prerogative – no forcing.
- The responsibility for the immediate protection of property lies with the owner of the property it is neither a local authority nor PC responsibility.
- The clearing of ditches and riverbanks is the responsibility of the riparian owner. Wiltshire Council has draft by-laws covering the required action on this.
- At risk properties should have a Flood Plan and equipment to resolve problems.

Distribution of booklets, flood plans, warning code details etc has all now been completed.”

14.Open Forum: There was a short discussion about arrangements in the village to deal with the larger number of tasks that now fall to be undertaken at the very local level. It is clear that the Parish Council (and the Clerk) cannot be expected to do everything. One answer is to use volunteers more regularly (such as Roger Stockton’s work on the Emergency Plan and Sue Dunwell’s co-ordination of the recent footpath audit). Consideration will be given to whether there are discrete subject areas which could be delegated to volunteers or ad-hoc sub-committees.

15.Date of Next Meeting :

The next Parish Meeting would be on 12th March 2015 ay 7.00pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

.....Chairman

.....Date