

BISHOPSTONE PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in Bishopstone Village Hall
Thursday 14th March 2013 at 7.30 pm.

MINUTES

<u>Present</u> :	Parish Councillors :	J H Thompson (JHST), Chairman A Thorne (AJT) G Brutton (GRB)
	Clerk	M Ash (MRA)
	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 Mrs P Stockton Mr M Bundy Mr N Mead Mr D Leaver Mrs S Leaver Mr A Mattick Mrs J Mattick Mr J Kington Ms T Steel Mrs P Abbott Mr R Abbott Mr V Hayes

1. Election of Chairman

Councillor Thompson was elected unopposed to chair the meeting.

- 2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Councillor N Barter. Mike Ash said that Cllr Barter was still in hospital but that his condition was much improved.

- 3. Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st March 2012 were agreed to be an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**: There were no matters arising not included elsewhere on the agenda.
5. **Parish Council Report for 2012**: The report by the Chairman is at Attachment 1.
6. **Wiltshire Councillor Report**: Cllr Jose Green said that she would be standing for re-election to Wiltshire Council for this area on 2nd May. She was grateful for the friendly way she had been treated over the last four years by people in the Chalke Valley. She had done her best to support Bishopstone projects at the SWWAB. She felt that the area board system had been hugely effective. There would again be a 0% increase in Council Tax this coming year. The Government's grant wasn't as bad as expected, although Wiltshire receives £94 less per head of population than the English rural average. Wiltshire Council is investing in services for the young and the elderly, in particular to support the elderly living at home. An additional sum had been secured from Government to be invested in road maintenance – particularly repairing potholes. The Area Boards would have funding in future to support significant capital projects. Looking forward, from 1st April local authorities would be responsible for public health. This would be a major challenge. A new contract had been let for highway maintenance to Balfour Beatty with a £20m saving. It was not yet clear precisely how the work previously done by the Parish Stewards would be delivered.
7. **Neighbourhood Police Report**: PCSO Jenny Moss gave a short update on recent incidents. A major campaign was underway to persuade motorists 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.
8. **Village Hall Management Committee Report** : Roger Stockton's report is at Attachment 2.
9. **Parochial Church Council Report**: Mike Ash read out a short report provided by Cllr Barter. This is Attachment 3.
10. **The Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity Fund Report**: Mr Reg Barrett gave a report from the Trustees. This is at Attachment 4.
11. **Bish-Bash Committee Report**: Marion Foster reflected on the two major Bish-Bash events of 2012. The Party in the Park had been a great success and she was grateful for the financial support received from the Parish Council and the SWWAB. Similarly the Christmas event at the pub, with a "Santa Trail" for children had been tremendous. Large crowds has attended both events. So much so that the proceeds from the raffle etc had provided sufficient funds to undertake events in 2013 without the support of public funds. The event being planned for 8th May, the "Bishopstone Big Day Out", would have music and dancing like the Party in the Park but would also have a more traditional "village fete" feel. There would be a large marquee in which a food festival will be held with exhibits from many local businesses.

12. Photo Archive: Roger Stockton gave a brief report on the Village Photo Archive project. A copy is at Attachment 5. Mike Ash also reported on the NADFAS work taking place to record the interior of the parish church.

13. Village Plan: Mike Ash said that, following the Public Meeting in October 2012, a steering group had been formed to take forward the preparation of a Community Plan for Bishopstone. The group had now met twice and was preparing a project plan. It was hoped to hold a number of events to discuss the way forward, one of which was proposed to be a “drop in” tent at the Big Day Out.

14. Elections 2013: Mike Ash reminded the meeting that elections would be held on 2nd May for both Wiltshire Council and Bishopstone Parish Council. All seven places on Bishopstone Council were for election. As there were currently two vacancies there would still be a need for two additional councillors, even if all the existing councillors stood again. He therefore encouraged new candidates to come forward.

15. Open Forum: The main items raised were the possibility of re-positioning some of the public seats in the parish so that they faced the river and the need to do more to promote activities for younger people in the village (according to the 2011 Census there are 149 people of 16 or younger in the parishes of Bishopstone and Stratford Tony). One suggestion was a video games evening in the Village Hall.

14. Date of Next Meeting :

The next Parish Meeting would be on 14th March 2014.

Signed as an accurate record:

.....Chairman

.....Date

Attachment 1

PC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013

Cllr Thompson said that two members of the Parish Council had resigned during the year. Cllr Ted Draper had retired. He had been a great servant over many years on both Salisbury District Council and Bishopstone Parish Council. Cllr Jason Lovering, who had moved away from the village, had contributed over the last year. He thanked both for their efforts.

The main points to mention in what had been a busy year were:

1. Jubilee

- (a) The Party in the Park had been a great success – nearly £1500 of financial support from PC and SWWAB grant. (M Foster to report separately)
- (b) The Jubilee Photo Project (£300 PC grant). This had not only produced a valuable record of the village but had contributed much to the jubilee spirit.

2. Bus shelters. These had been fully refurbished at a cost of £2600.

3. Wiltshire Youth Leisure Credit Scheme – the team had undertaken repairs to stiles and gates in the parish (and work is about to be done to repair the footpath from Flamstone St to Croucheston).

4. Saturday Soccer Training was funded by the PC from May to December 2012. PC continuing support plus SWWAB grant will enable this to continue in 2013. Dinton U16s use of the soccer pitch for their “home” fixtures 2012/13. It was good to see the recreation field in use.

5. Donations were made to PCC (£600), VHMC (£500), CVSC (£500) and STaB (£450).

6. Planning

- (a) Draft Wiltshire Core Strategy had been amended to reflect comments from BPC and others to allow some continuing infill developments in the village.
- (b) Work has begun on Bishopstone Parish/Community Plan (M Ash to report separately).

7. Bus pull in car parking issue: this problem had much reduced following a STaB article and a letter to residents.

8. A Welcome Pack has been produced and is now given to all new residents. This contained details of village organizations, refuse collection, bus times etc.

9. Much work has been done with Wiltshire Highways/Parish Steward on drain and ditch clearance, gritting and road markings.

10. Expenditure – in 2012/13 nearly £9000 was spent (cf precept of £5000) so reserves are now diminished. PC has agreed a budget for 2013/14 with a reduced level of expenditure and a small (£500) increase in the annual precept.

Looking ahead:

It is hoped to make progress on Recreation Field toilets rebuild.

We are working with other PCs to make case for area not to be forgotten in Wiltshire Council's high speed broadband project.

Attachment 2

VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2013

I am delighted to be able to report, on behalf of the Chairman and the Committee of Trustees that the hall is prospering both financially and in usage, going from strength to strength.

During 2012, we broke all records for hall usage by the half-year point in the calendar. The metric measuring this is displayed on the board. So far in the first 2 months of 2013 we have exceeded the TOTAL usage in 2003.

The whole Committee has given and continues to give a level of dedication to the hall that deserves very special recognition. Their tireless efforts have resulted in many successful self-funding events, each with good food and hospitality. None of this happens by accident and they merit the recognition and praise of the village.

The rental and hiring of the hall has reached such a level that it is now difficult to find free time for further bookings or maintenance during a packed weekday calendar.

Educational courses have had a very good uptake – the fact that the village is now full of Italian speaking, yoga practicing, country-dancing astronomers who spend a lot of their time repairing antiques highlights the breadth of courses. They also seem to find time for something else, as the pre-natal NCT classes always seem full!

Much of this has been helped by the installation of broadband wifi link to the hall.

What than for 2013 –

We have just obtained over half the funding required for a new audiovisual system. SWWAB have been very generous granting us £5000. Unfortunately our submission to BLF's Awards for All was not successful. I am speaking to the tomorrow but in the meantime the Trustees are discussing how we might raise additional funding required – so fingers crossed. The system will consist of an electronic screen, a projector in the ceiling, Bluray DVD player, amplifier, surround sound and an induction loop for the hard of hearing. This will make film nights a little more profitable and possibly enable us to advertise for conference usage as well as enhancing instructional courses.

The fact that people attend the hall from the length and breadth of the Chalke Valley confirms the reputation that the hall has in the local community. It is warm, comfortable and friendly.

I am pleased to announce that the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sara Troughton will officially unveil a plaque on 12 July, this being followed by a BBQ and film night.

Most of all though, this hall is for **all the village** – and this last year has seen a much wider cross-section of our population using the facilities on offer. This must be our overarching aim - to continue this trend and with the continued level of help and support I know that we will.

Roger Stockton

Attachment 3

PCC REPORT 2013

The Church has had a good year under the leadership of our Vicar Jenny Taylor. We had an appeal for more financial help from the village which means that we will be out of the red this year. Then some lead was stolen from the Vestry roof and more recently, some more was stolen from the west end. This was a bit of a setback but we must move forward. To this end we have had installed an alarm system to help prevent this happening again. Although we have lost 2 clergymen recently, the Church still has 3 services a month. The Carol service was well attended by 120 people. We have had some repairs done to the Church-yard wall and are starting a 5-year list of repairs this summer. This should help to keep our Church in good repair. The STAB magazine is now on much more even keel, our editor, Nick Mead has been joined by Sarah Brough, to help with the advertising. The Church-yard always look good and the help from the Parish Council is much appreciated.

Attachment 4

The Reverend. Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity for Bishopstone. Reg No 201494.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2012.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on the 29th January 2013. The charities income is derived from 1087 Income Shares of the COIF Investment Fund. The trust fund is managed by the Charity Commissioners through CCLA Investment Management LTD of Senator House, 85, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET. The value of the shares on the 31st December 2012 was £11,292.95 (2011 £10,332.70) equivalent to 1038.91 pence per share.

The shares had risen in value at the above date by 88.34 pence per share or 9.29% as compared with the corresponding value at 31st December 2011.

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.

The Trustees at any time are the Rector, one trustee appointed by him and one trustee appointed by the Parish Council.

In 2012 we made two grants totalling £526.50 and received income from dividends of £487.08. 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 2012 was £1622.68.

The Trustees at the 31st December 2012 were Mrs J Bebbington appointed by the Rector and Mr R Barrett appointed by the Parish Council and the Chairman being the Rector – Revd. Canon D Henley. As I am the appointed representative of the Parish Council I require your confirmation that you wish me to continue in this capacity for the ensuing year.

R. Barrett. Trustee
For and on behalf of the Charity Trustees

Attachment 5

PHOTO ARCHIVE FOR BISHOPSTONE REPORT

Over the last year work has progressed to build up an archive of photographs of Bishopstone.

The Archive is being assembled by Ann Stutchbury, on whose behalf I give this report. The archive currently comprises a collection of photographs, maps, drawings and written notes illustrating the history of the village.

At the moment it includes:

- The Elizabeth Gallop's original two albums of historic photographs, some going back to the late 1890's
- A DVD of high quality, electronically enhanced copies of the above albums

- Copies of the individual photos from the above album, which in turn have been professionally scanned and electronically enhanced and stored
- Jubilee 2012 Bishopstone Digital Photo Book
- Jubilee 2012 Bishopstone Photo Album
- A DVD of the Secret Valley (which comprises Chalke Valley photos from 1960/70s, produced by the Dorset Camera Club). This was shown in its original format at two Lunch Clubs, but has since been digitally enhanced by Alastair Lack of Coombe Bissett
- Other Jubilee Street Party/Party in the Park photos
- DVD of 2012 village houses

The time-consuming work by a small group of dedicated enthusiasts deserves mention. To give you an example the Secret Valley comprised some 750+ slides, each one of which was reviewed and manipulated using a computer programme and the whole film re-assembled. You will appreciate that all of these records these are a valuable history of the village that, unless stored properly, could be irretrievably lost. It is the intention to put most of this material onto a storage drive, which will be kept as a backup archive.

The aim is to preserve the archive, also adding to the County Archive in Trowbridge. A notice has gone into STaB encouraging people to send any photographs or cuttings that could be added to the Village Archive. Ann will continue to insert a similar notice to STaB each month.

The Elizabeth Gallop album is being added to the village website as well. So far 34 of 110 pages are on the site.