

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in Bishopstone Village Hall
Thursday 14th March 2019 at 7.00 pm.**

MINUTES

Present :

Cllr A J Thorne	Mr M Bundy
Cllr G Brutton	Mrs S Bundy
Cllr Mrs A Smith	Mr J Steedman
Cllr P Edwards	Ms S Porter
Cllr N Barter	Mr C Rothwell
Wiltshire Cllr Mrs J Green	Mrs S Seal
Mr R Stockton	Mrs C Ash
Mrs P Stockton	Mr M Ash
Mr C Goodfellow	
Mrs K Pendlenton	

1. **Election of Chairman:** Cllr_Ali Thorne was elected unopposed to chair the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr J Gibbon.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Cllr Barter proposed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th March 2018 be approved as an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr G Brutton and agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Parish Council Report for 2018/19:** The Clerk to the Parish Council, Mike Ash, set out a short report on the main issues considered by the Parish Council over the last year. A note on this is attached at Annex A.
5. **The Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity Fund Report:** Kate Pendlenton said that after the sad passing of Reg Barrett last year the Revd Canon Jenny Taylor had taken on the role of Chair of the Trust. Confirmation of the change of names on the account was still awaited from the bank, so no money had moved in or out of the account since the last report to the Parish Council. Rob Pendlenton had been appointed as the 3rd Trustee. The AGM of the trust will be held as soon as the bank paperwork has been sorted out.
6. **Parochial Church Council Report:** Sarah Seal presented a report on the activities of the PCC over the last year. A copy is attached at Annex B.
7. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr Norman Barter said that over the past year the Village Hall Committee had been working very hard with one aim: to improve the car park. With a lot of effort from the Committee on fund-raising, it was decided to go ahead last year. The Committee had the support of Roger Stockton who did an excellent job in masterminding the whole operation, for which they are very grateful. Help was also provided by the South

Western Area Board of Wiltshire Council (a grant of £5000) and an anonymous donor of the same amount. This all meant that the Village Hall now have a very good car park with a good surface.

Some other maintenance work remains to be done on the Hall, like a new roof over the ladies toilet, which will be done later in the summer. The Committee were very grateful for the ongoing support from the Parish Council.

- 8. **Bishopstone Playgroup Report:** Kate Pendleton said that the past year had been incredibly successful for the playgroup. This time last year numbers had dropped dramatically as several of the children who came to playgroup had moved on to school, and this meant that the group was struggling to pay hall hire fees, an application had been made to the Parish Council for a grant which was very kindly approved. Since then however, Cally Edwards – a local doula and NCT teacher – had joined the group to offer breastfeeding support. This, along with a publicity drive, including the setting up of a Facebook page and distribution of posters, had dramatically increased numbers, and she was delighted to say that the Group now make a small profit each week. Often over 20 children are attending each Friday.

A grant from the South Wilts Area Board allowed the Group to purchase some toddler-sized chairs and tables, and a gift from the Bish Bash Committee paid for a Summer party, complete with bouncy castle. During the last week some new toys for the group had been purchased which enable us to keep the group interesting and engaging for the children. The Group also has an active group of Mums who sign up to bring cakes to meetings which helped make the group appealing to the adults too!

- 9. **Bish-Bash Report:** Cllr Ali Thorne reported for BishBash. He said that the number of volunteers prepared to help with the Summer Fayre had diminished, so one was not planned for this year. The Christmas Fayre in the White Hart had been held and would continue. This, and other activities, had produced a donation of £1,442 for Riding for the Disabled.

- 10. **Open Forum:** No matters were raised.

- 11. **Cllr Jose Green:** Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green presented a report on Wiltshire Council issues. A copy is attached at Annex C.

There being no other issues, the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Date of Next Meeting :

The next Parish Meeting would be on 12th March 2020 at 7.00pm.

Signed as an accurate record.

.....Chairman

.....Date

Annex A**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL 2018/19**

A great deal has been achieved during the last 12 months.

As in many previous years a major issue was speeding through the village.

The Council, through the Community Speed Watch and use of the Speed Indicator Device try to persuade motorists to slow down. Following the refusal of Wiltshire Council to extend the 30mph limit past the White Hart, Butt Lane junction and the Recreation Field, a request was made for permission to use the CSW in that location to at least enforce the 40mph limit. This required a Metro Count which showed, perhaps surprisingly, that the average speed in that section was 34.8mph, with 85% of drivers observing the 40mph limit, so permission to use the CSW there was refused. However, the SID is used in that location.

A request was made to the operators of the Gurston Down Speed Hill Climb to encourage those attending their meetings to observe speed limits along the valley. This appeared to have some effect.

In September the Chairman reported that over a three year period the CSW team had held 128 sessions, had checked a total of 38,000 vehicle movements - with 800 drivers reported to the police. Sadly, these efforts to make the village a safer place for all was not appreciated by some, with negative comments made on social media. This led some members of our CSW team to question their continued involvement. Happily they have now decided to stick with it!

The village should recognize the debt of gratitude it owes to all the volunteers who turn out to operate the CSW and who help move and set up the SID. This is difficult, often very uncomfortable, work and their dedication should be applauded by all.

During the year the village suffered a number of incidents of vandalism. This ranged from criminal damage to property to an outbreak of graffiti. Undesirables were seen to be hanging around places such as the disused Crouchston Mill. A comprehensive schedule of incidents was reported to the police, who did step up patrols, at least for a time. Information was provided on the identity of some of those involved, however, there was unfortunately insufficient evidence to link any particular person to any specific incident.

On a more positive note, the Council secured the erection of signs warning drivers of the narrowness of Mill Lane, the public bench in Church Lane was refurbished and, most recently, the fence of the Recreation Field has been replaced.

Much focus has been on the Recreation Field. A great deal of time has been spent in discussion with the management of Salisbury Football Club ladies team about their proposal to play their "home" games on our pitch. Following discussions the Parish Council agreed to support this project, which will see a proper use made of our football pitch, will bring much needed business to the pub and ultimately provide opportunities for young people in the village to be involved. For this to happen there needs to be some acceptable form of changing room for the teams. The short

term proposal is to erect temporary changing rooms, the cost of which will be borne by SLFC. The Council has secured quotes for the re-establishment of water and electricity supplies to the old pavilion site, costs that it will meet, and Wiltshire Council has provided positive pre-planning application advice. The key next step is for SFCL to secure funding for the purchase of the temporary changing facilities. If anyone has a spare £10k on them please see me afterwards. It is still hoped to get this project up and running in time for next season.

Alongside that project the Council is currently considering how to refurbish the Children's Play Area, with the introduction of new equipment.

Finally, the Council has successfully renegotiated with Wiltshire Council the lease of the land in The Style which is then sub-let for allotments to villagers and has renewed the registration of the pub as a Community Asset, safeguarding the position should the owners, Enterprise Inns, seek to dispose of it.

The Council wishes to thank Roger Stockton for all his work in establishing, and maintaining, the Emergency Planning arrangements in the village. Thanks are also due to all our Councillors for the time and effort they put in. Special thanks are due to Marion Foster for her contribution during her time on the Council, before her retirement in November.

Annex B

St John the Baptist Church Bishopstone.
Report for Annual Parish Meeting

Over the last 12 months we have had great pleasure in welcoming both worshippers and visitors to our beautiful church. We have had some very well attended and memorable services, especially on big occasions such as the Remembrance Service, or Harvest Festival.

Last year we saw the completion of the repair and restoration of the West window in the church. The window was removed in February and was taken to the Cathedral glaziers department where it was re-lead and cleaned. It was replaced in May and is now watertight, and beautifully clear. The work was funded from the collection made in memory of Jo Sexton, and also a collection made at a concert given to celebrate a significant birthday of Norman Barter. We would like to express our grateful thanks to both families, for their generosity.

In May 2018, we also received a wonderful new Church guide. This was put together by Anne Stutchbury and Mike Ash using information and photographs from the Church Recording. It was produced under the auspices of the National Decorative and Fine Arts Society, (NADFAS), now known as the Arts Society. With permission from the Arts Society, we have been allowed to sell copies of the guide in aid of Church funds. The guide is a work of art in itself and has been much admired by regular members of the congregation as well as visitors. We do have a few copies left if anyone would like to buy one for a donation of £12.

In April repairs were made to the grass verge on either side of the lych gate, and grass seed was put down. We would like to thank everyone for respecting this as a no parking area which has meant that the area has remained in reasonable condition over the winter.

Upkeep of the church and churchyard is a never-ending job, and we remain very grateful for all the volunteers who help with so many tasks such as helping to cut hedges, cleaning, or flower arranging. We also need to thank those who brave the roof of our church, and clean out the gutters, or check the integrity of the lead. In addition we would like to thank Nick Mead for all his hard work as Editor of STaB over many years, and we would like to thank and welcome the new team who have taken over.

We also wish to thank the Parish council for its very generous financial support towards both the cost of the upkeep of the churchyard and the cost of producing our Parish magazine (STaB).

Annex C

Wiltshire Council Annual Report. March/ April 2019.

It is now 10 years since Wiltshire Council (WC) became Unitary. Previously, it was Salisbury District Council who was the main point of contact for the services they provided. Now argued, it has been replaced by greater efficiency and joined up thinking (which in turn leads to savings and less bureaucracy) remains a matter of opinion!! 350 services are still provided by WC with social services being the greatest demand and rising as the population grows older, the number of vulnerable children that require looking after also increases year on year.

It is always a pleasure to present my annual report to the Parishes within the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division, I shall endeavour to keep it short but with a caveat that I am always available to answer any queries you might have.

I'm sure many of you have noticed how much publicity Salisbury is receiving post the novichok incident; with high profile visits from Royalty to Politicians it all forms part of the Salisbury recovery programme which will bring tourists to visit and stay in and around the City. There are many events planned for this coming year but over the last year some very many memorable occasions took place.

Wiltshire Council has approved a 3% increase in the Council Tax (CT) for this coming year. This is the level of increase permitted without having to hold a referendum, every year it is a constant challenge to make savings at every opportunity sometimes at a cost to staff , providers and users. I accept that CT can be the biggest burden a household is required to find and it would appear, that as residents in rural areas, we do not receive the numerous services and easy access to facilities that others have; I must emphasise though, a balanced budget is imperative and that has been achieved again this year , also, it is the first time that WC hasn't been reliant on the Government's grant to achieve it.

There was a full and lengthy debate on Climate Change at Full Council last month revolving around what further measures can be taken to make the County progress towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This subject was partly brought about by the actions school students highlighted by going on strike and highlighted by the occasional very warm days in February thankfully followed by typical March weather. Last month I mentioned the investment WC is making by replacing the **street lighting to LED bulbs**, this coming year there will be many other measures introduced to reduce our carbon footprint, a few examples are pressing for **new eco ' built housing,** promote **car share,** encourage **electric cars by installing more charging points, address air quality and at every opportunity to educate and promote greater levels of reduce, recycle, and reusing our household waste.**

Every year I attempt to tell you what might be of the greatest interest to you rather than what might be the most relevant to the 14 parishes I represent. Looking to the future you might be aware of the proposals the **Local Government Boundary Commission of England** (LGBCE) have suggested in their review of the Wiltshire Divisions ; although I didn't receive any direct representation from anyone about the consultation, WC has. The LGBCE accepts that Wiltshire Council retains the 98 Councillors but some boundaries will change so that each Division has an equitable number of electors, therefore there is a possibility that Coombe Bissett and Homington will come into Fovant and Chalke Valley and Compton Chamberlayne and Tollard Royal would move into Neighbouring Divisions as would part of Netherhampton into Harnham. We must wait to hear what the final outcome will be which will then come into effect in 2021. Whatever the proposals it is Parliament that confirms the final outcome not WC.

Highways; always the greatest concern to most remains a high priority. **The Speed Indication Scheme (SID's)** the Area Board partly financed last year have proven to be popular, successful and effective. **The 20mph speed limits remain popular and a further 2 villages** will be chosen again this coming year in our area if the Parish requests it. A further £8 million from Government will be spent on

improving the highways and street scene across Wiltshire, this is an additional sum above the £21m spent year on year in maintaining our roads, we must be sure the workmanship and quality is upheld.

The Centenary of WW1 was commemorated with the planting of 10,000 trees across Wiltshire. Not the tallest specimens but a lasting memorial to remember those 10,000 Wiltshire men who died during those war years. Again, I compliment the efforts of those who reinstated the Badges at Fovant, Sutton Mandeville and Compton Chamberlayne. The Armistice Day service on Compton Down was very moving.

Anyone reading my reports regularly will know I often mention the plight of the Syrian Refugees, It has been recently agreed that Wiltshire will take 10 vulnerable, unaccompanied children per year over the next 10 years dependent on having foster homes in place.

98% of Wiltshire's school children have been offered places in their preferred secondary schools. 93% were their parents first choice..up 1% . 4% attend their 2nd choice and 1% their 3rd, in total 4981 applications were received, (up 174 from the previous year) out of this figure 102 parents did not get an offer of their preferred school which is disappointing. Obviously, they have the right to appeal.

WC has a 'smoke free ' policy in place on Council owned property. The 3 main Hubs have introduced it already which prohibits smoking in the grounds. Vaping is permitted by the public and staff outside but requested to do so away from the entrances of the buildings.

On a personal level I have remained Chair of the Area Board and vice chair of the Licensing Committee, I sit on the Southern Area Planning Committee, the School Transport Appeals Panel and the Environment Select, plus other commitments. I'm always happy to support grant applications and there have been a number of successful ones in my Division over the last year. My priority has always been to listen and hopefully help those who approach me with an understanding that by working together we can do our utmost to ensure the fairest and best outcomes for all.

Thank you.

José Green.
Fovant and Chalke Valley Division.