

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held in Bishopstone Village Hall**  
**Thursday 1st March 2012 at 7.30 pm.**

**MINUTES**

<b><u>Present</u></b> :	Parish Councillors :	J H Thompson (JHST), Chairman N T Barter (NTB) J Lovering (JL) A Thorne (AJT) G Brutton (GRB)
	Clerk	M Ash (MRA)
	Wiltshire Council	Cllr Mrs Jose Green
	Wiltshire Constabulary	PC P Jung
	Members of the public:	Mr R Barrett Mrs M Foster Mrs A Stutchbury Mr A Stutchbury Mrs J Bailey Mrs C Ash

**1. Election of Chairman**

Councillor Thompson was elected to chair the meeting (proposed by NRB and seconded by AJT).

**2. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Councillors L Williams and E Draper.

**3. Declaration of Interests:** None.

**4. Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd March 2011 were agreed to be an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising not included elsewhere on the agenda.

**6. Parish Council Report for 2011:**

The report by the Chairman is at Attachment 1.

## **7. Wiltshire Councillor Report:**

Cllr Jose Green said that there would be a 0 % increase in Council Tax this coming year. The Government's grant wasn't as bad as expected, although Wiltshire receives £96 less per head of population than the English rural average. Wiltshire Council is investing in services for the elderly (£200m in helping elderly people to continue to live at home). Wiltshire has 14% higher than the national average in terms of residents over 65 yrs and the number of over 85 year olds will be 20% above the national average by 2015. It is also investing in Rural Broadband [Wiltshire has been chosen as a Government pilot] and in creating new jobs to assist the local economy.

The change in refuse collection arrangements has been controversial but 195 local authorities out of 348 operate alternate weekly collections across England. Wiltshire will implement its scheme mid March, plus a free green waste collection for those who apply for it. The intention is to reach a 50% recycling level by 2014.

98 Wiltshire Council office buildings are being reduced to 4 "hubs". The Community Area Transport Group is proving to be very successful. The crossing at the White Hart came out of this budget, as did the extra grit bin. Funding is to be increased by 40%.

The Sure Start children's centres (including new ones in Wilton and Tisbury) are to remain open across Wiltshire as are the Libraries and Mobile units with help from over 600 volunteers. 2 new libraries are to be opened and there is a commitment to keep all Youth Clubs open. A new initiative is to introduce free swimming for the under 16's [and possibly over 60's] in the school holidays.

The revised Core Strategy was out for consultation and there would be a meeting to discuss this in Wilton on 15th March. The ongoing building programme across Wiltshire is creating more Affordable Homes [40% of new build developments]. This has produced 648 units in 2011 and 430 so far this year. An Empty Homes Officer is now in post with the task of bringing over 5,000 empty properties in Wiltshire back into use.

## **8. Neighbourhood Police Report :**

PC Pete Jung said that 2011 had been a relatively crime free year. There were only 7 reports of offences having been committed. The most serious had been the theft of lead from the church roof and of metal sheep hurdles from Throop. This reflected the rise in metal thefts generally. He reported that PCSO Sam Spacey was leaving the area, having become a member of the regular force, and would be replaced by PCSO Jenny Moss.

## **9. Village Hall Management Committee Report :**

Cllr Barter said that the Village Hall has now been renovated and the car park will soon be re-surfaced as well. This would not have been possible without the tremendous support we get from everybody: all our volunteers, financial supporters and the Parish Council. He thought that we now have something to be proud of in the village, and the

usage of the hall is showing a big increase already. He appealed for the whole village to support the fayres, film nights etc. to keep on improving OUR hall.

#### **10. Parochial Church Council Report :**

Cllr Barter said that in this past year Bishopstone Church and P.C.C. have been very active under the guidance of Reverend Jenny Taylor, Deric Bailey and Margaret Barter as Churchwardens and Nick Gooch as Treasurer. Prior to the Quinquennial Review, David Leaver has taken over the Chairmanship of the Friends of Bishopstone Church. The Church is well maintained outside by working parties and by teams of cleaners inside. The services continue as before. In October, unfortunately, it was observed that the lead had disappeared from the Vestry Roof, another statistic of lead thefts. This has now been replaced and an alarm system has been installed which hopefully will deter further thefts. The Carol Service, in the Village Hall, was very successful, with 140 people attending. Financially the Church is on an even keel, with the very welcome help from the Parish Council, thus keeping the two Churchyards well cut. We record our very grateful thanks to the former editor of STAB, Margaret Shepherd, who had edited it for 17 years. But this did leave a big hole. Fortunately Nick Mead stepped into the breach and STAB is continuing with grateful thanks to the Parish Council for their continuing grant.

#### **11. The Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity Fund Report :**

Mr Reg Barrett gave a report from the Trustees. This is at Attachment 2.

#### **12. Bishopstone Fete Committee Report and 13. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration**

These items were taken together. Marion Foster said that the Fete Committee had decided not to have a fete this year but, instead, to have an event to mark the Diamond Jubilee (the "Party in the Park") and a "Santa Trail" for children at Christmas. The Party in the Park would take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, starting at 5.00pm, so as to avoid clashes with events being held elsewhere that day. Entry would be free. There would be a band (with staging and sound systems), a Carnival Club display, talent show, pay bar, Pimms tent, hog roast, an inflatable assault course for children and "Sumo" wrestling for adults. The evening will conclude with a fireworks display. Funding was through Fete Committee funds, donations from businesses and landowners. The Parish Council would hopefully agree to provide funding at its meeting later in the evening and a bid would be made to the South West Wiltshire Board.

#### **14. Questions from Parishoners and the Public :**

Mrs Stutchbury said that another proposal to mark the Diamond Jubilee was to create a photo-record of the village. Villagers would take photographs of their family outside their house on one of the days over the Jubilee weekend. These would be collected together to form a commemorative archive of the village as it existed in June 2012 to be added to the existing archive of village photographs. She suggested that the Parish Council might consider meeting the costs associated with printing and displaying the photographs. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider this matter once some cost estimates had been produced.

**15. Date of Next Meeting :**

The next Parish meeting would be on 14th March 2013.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

.....Chairman

.....Date

**Attachment 1****BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011 – 2012**

Over the last year, since March 2011, we have managed to undertake several projects to the benefit of the village:

**Elections:** We had successful elections for new Councillors in May, which have given us for the first time for many years, a full Council of 7 members. Their enthusiasm is terrific, and I thank you all for your support. Acknowledgement is also due to the Clerk for all the preparatory work he did with Wilshire Council, to ensure the elections went so well. We also welcomed our new Parish Clerk, and thank him for his excellent support and help.

**Picnic Field:** In June, WC agreed to the PC request that no further action is taken with the application to have this field declared a 'village green'. Since then, the owner has decided to put the field up for sale.

**Village Survey:** The village and hall survey was conducted towards the end of last year, and has come up with much interesting information. Much of this will be used by the PC when further consideration is given to making some form of village plan. An excellent debrief of the results of the survey was given in January, which can be seen on the website.

**New Website:** A thorough revision of the website was made last year, and we now have a site that is something to be proud of. It is readily accessible to everyone on net, and gives excellent and up-to-date news about the village. It is recommended to everyone to use it, as it is becoming the main means of passing information around the village. However, STAB has just arrived on the mat ... it also is most important to us all. Thanks to the new editor for a refreshed and vitalised magazine. It is very encouraging to see so many more articles of interest in the new edition.

**Village Fete:** Another very successful fete was held last year, despite very dodgy weather! Congratulations are again due to the organising committee for such enthusiasm and success. The PC held a stand for the first time at this event, which provoked much interest from those attending. It was well worth the effort of the Clerk, for which we are very grateful.

**Projects:** We have managed to do several concrete things for the village over the last year, which include:

- Completion of the road crossing from the village to the play area.
- Putting a bench in the play area, and buying and erecting goal nets for the football. We only leave one net up, as the other was stolen soon after it was put up! We do have a replacement set kept in secret, for use whenever a match is next played on our pitch!
- Replacing street names in the village.
- Actively tackling drainage problems in Croucheston and Pitts Lane. We are sorry that these have taken so long to get around to, and that they remain an active issue. However, we are hopeful of final success this year.

- Training courses for new Parish Clerk

**WC Youth Credits Scheme:** This is a scheme sponsored by WC to encourage youngsters to get out and about doing useful work for local communities, for which they gain 'credits' for their club or group. These can be spent by a seaside visit, the cinema or paint-balling, for example. Cllr W has managed to arrange visits from teams of youngsters last year, to clear some of the overgrown byways, the churchyard at ST, and erect a stile opposite Pitts Lane. We are very grateful for this, and look forward to hosting more visits from the team in the coming year.

**Financial Donations:** We have continued to support financially the VH, the magazine, the PCC and the CVSC. These donations are considered each year, and future funding will depend on the WC precept and other financial constraints and expenses.

**Planning:** We have considered many planning applications and commented on these to WC. More than that we cannot do, and we must hope that our comments are considered with care in each case. All applications and PC comments now appear on the website for your information. Villagers are most welcome to write direct to WC with comments on planning applications, but can also raise their worries with cllrs. The PC comments on every case received.

**Looking Forward:** We look forward to the next year, and hope to see a very successful celebration of the QDJ, with the 'Proms in the Park' on the Jubilee Field (recreation field), a special church service of stridently patriotic hymns and songs, street parties in 2 or 3 parts of the village, and the lighting of our beacon, one of many in the Valley. Other activities will come along as well to ensure this is a weekend in 2012 to be remembered! The Olympic Flame passes through Wilton and we will support that by a presence in the cheering crowd!

We also have various practical projects we hope to see through this year:

- Village Plan or Design Strategy.
- Extend 40 mph limit westwards.
- Introduce speed limits on internal village roads.
- Road marking in Croucheston.
- Drainage repairs in Croucheston and Pitts Lane.
- Rebuild toilet in Jubilee Field.
- Encourage growth of sports teams.
- Introduce and encourage activities for the younger people.

Thank you, and we all look forward to a happy and successful year ahead.

**Attachment 2****The Reverend. Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity for Bishopstone.**  
**Reg No 201494.**

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on the 14th February 2012.

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 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ. The value of the shares on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 was £10,332.70 ( 2010 £ 10,962.94) equivalent to 950.57 pence per share.

The shares had fallen in value at the above date by 57.98 pence per share or 5.75% as compared with the corresponding value at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 which showed an increase of 62.21 pence per share.

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 2011 we made five grants totalling £349.15 and received income from dividends of £483.18. 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 was £1662.10.

All the Trustees have agreed to remain in post for the ensuing year although as I am the appointed representative of the Parish Council I require your confirmation that you wish me to continue in this capacity.

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