

no significant improvement to the service there. MRA agreed to discuss further with Roger Stockton and to take the matter up with BT.

On the Action Plan MRA said that a number of matters remained outstanding. However, a meeting had been held with the developer of Faulston Barns and Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer to discuss the bridleway to the south of the barns. The small adjustment in alignment that had been made was temporary to allow safety fencing to be erected while large plant was being used on the site. The original alignment of the bridleway would be re-established soon and the track would be re-surfaced. The ROW officer confirmed that no consent would have been required for the temporary re-alignment.

The issue of the "dark skies" policy had been taken up with officers of the AONB. They had confirmed that there are no controls over outside lighting installations. However, MRA said that he would ensure that the developer of Faulston Barns was aware of the policy.

5. Public Question Time.

No matters were raised by members of the public at this point in the meeting.

6. Bishopstone Plan Implementation

A copy of a background note, circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, is attached to these minutes.

MRA said that there had been no volunteers for the proposed Plan Implementation Group. It was suggested that this matter should be raised again in STaB and that the Clerk should do a direct email to as many people as possible in the village seeking recruits. It would be impossible to make progress without the wider support of the village.

AS proposed that the above action be taken and that the recommendations in para 4 of the paper be accepted. This was seconded by JG and agreed.

7. Passenger Transport Consultation

A copy of a background note, circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, is attached to these minutes.

The draft letter to Wiltshire Council in response to the consultation document on possible cuts to the bus service was discussed. It was pointed out that college students were not catered for by the school bus service, so this was an additional group of users who would suffer if the bus service was reduced. The letter should be amended to reflect this point. JG proposed that the letter be sent, as amended. This was seconded by GRB and agreed.

8. Chairman's Items

JHST said that he was very grateful to all who had taken part in the litter pick as part of the "Clean for the Queen" on 5th March. An amazing amount of rubbish had been collected. It would be desirable to repeat the exercise at regular intervals. It was regrettable that some new litter had already appeared since the clean up. It was suggested that a quick "tidy up" might be done prior to the 11th June.

JHST said that he was pleased that preparations were well advanced for the Bish Bash event on 11th June. The church would be holding a special service on Sunday 12th June, possibly with some sort of reception. Given what was planned there was probably no need for the Parish Council to consider any further events. However, he wondered whether the Parish Council should contribute to the costs of the Bish Bash event. AJT said that sufficient funds were available to cover costs for the event so this would not be necessary. *[Post meeting note: a proposal that the Parish Council might cover the cost of hire of a skip for rubbish collection will be considered at the meeting on 12th May.]*

9. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that the installation of the new toddlers Play Tower had been held up by Wiltshire Council's failure to request the developer contribution in respect of Faulston Barns. This was now progressing and it was hoped that work would begin either just before or just after Easter.

The Community Speed Watch had been a success in getting drivers to slow down in the village. However, it was a very small team and more volunteers are needed. This will be mentioned again in STaB. Volunteers should contact John Gibbon.

Following the failure of the Government's "not spot" initiative to improve mobile phone coverage, discussions had taken place with John Glen MP about the possibility of a further Government scheme that would support mast provision where local communities brought forward sites that had been agreed with landowners. MR said that he would monitor developments on this and report in due course.

MRA presented an invoice for Clerk's expenses totalling £118.76. Two points arose from the discussions at the Annual Parish Meeting, held earlier. These were the proposal to bid for a grant from SSE for additional emergency equipment and the need to re-appoint Mr Reg Barratt as the Parish Council's representative on the Rev Augustus Montgomery Coal Charity. JG proposed that all three matters be approved, this was seconded by AJT and agreed.

10. Planning Matters

There were none.

11. Questions or statements from Councillors and any further questions from members of the public.

Nick Mead raised the question as to whether consideration had been given to the provision of a heart defibrillator in the village. Many other villages now had these. It was agreed to investigate the cost and the availability of grants.

Mike Bundy raised the problem of some of the front gardens in Whitlock Rise. One house, now a private property, had fenced the front garden as a run for chickens and ducks. This was unsightly and might be a health hazard. The occupants of No 19 had demolished the front wall and constructed a "run in". He asked whether this was allowed. The front garden of this property continued to be filled with building and gardening supplies and equipment.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Wiltshire Council on these matters and also take them up at the next Housing Liaison Meeting if needed.

12. Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Bishopstone Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 12th May 2016 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 10th March 2016
ACTION PLAN**

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Trustees of Faulston Estate to be asked again to confirm responsibility for drain clearance.	MRA	
Catch fence to be erected behind the new basketball court.	AJT	
Farmer and landowner to be contacted re potential siting of a SID.	MRA	
BT to be contacted about poor broadband speeds in Whitlock Rise.	MRA	
Investigate diversion of bridleway at Faulston Barns.	MRA	✓
Investigate whether there are any controls over new lighting in the village as part of the AONB Dark Skies policy.	MRA	✓
Articles be inserted in the February edition of STaB on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishopstone Plan • Bishopstone Emergency Plan • The “Clean for the Queen” campaign • The bus service consultation 	MRA	✓
BT to be approached re broadband speeds in Whitlock Rise.	MRA	
Further appeal to be made for volunteers for Plan Implementation Group.	MRA	
Letter to be sent to Wiltshire Council regarding the bus service consultation.	MRA/JHST	
Further appeal for CSW volunteers in STaB	MRA	
Costs and grants for a defibrillator to be investigated.	MRA	
Bid to be made to SSE for grant for emergency equipment.	MRA	
Issue of front gardens in Whitlock Rise to be raised with Wiltshire Council.	MRA	

AGENDA ITEM 6 – BISHOPSTONE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

1. On 14th January the Council agreed to consider how to take forward the various actions in the Bishopstone Plan at the March meeting and, in the meantime, to begin the process by setting up a separate “Implementation Group” by inviting participants in a notice in STaB.

2. The attached schedule lists all of the “Actions” in the plan. Of these, 33 involve the Parish Council. These are colour coded as follows:

- the 18 Actions shaded in **green** are ones where action is either already underway or the action will be achieved through the normal course of business (eg. when commenting on planning applications). It is suggested that no further action is required on these at the present time. The Notes column on the right explains the position.
- the 15 Actions shaded **blue** are the actions requiring some form of new initiative. The Notes column on the right sets out how matters might be taken forward, timing etc.

3. The Plan indicated who should have responsibility for taking the various actions forward. Those shaded **grey** were considered suitable for consideration first by a separate Implementation Group. A notice was included in February’s STaB asking for volunteers to consider how to take forward the group of Actions concerning Area Helpers/Volunteering. No responses were received. The Parish Council will therefore wish to consider whether there are any other steps that can be taken to encourage people to come forward to help with implementation of the Bishopstone Plan.

4. There are two main groups of Actions coloured blue (new initiatives) that are allocated exclusively to the Parish Council for implementation. These are those concerned with:

- (i) **the preparation of a Village Design Statement (VDS).** A separate note on what that involves is attached. However, as the content is prescribed, it may not take too long to prepare. It had been originally intended to include a VDS within the Bishopstone Plan itself. A draft section on Croucheston was prepared at the time and this is included in the attachments to illustrate what a VDS might look like. It would be necessary to prepare similar chapters for other parts of the village.
- (ii) **implementing the Housing Needs Survey** requirement for affordable housing in Bishopstone. This is difficult to take forward at the present time because of the significant changes being made by the Government to the affordable housing sector. For example, the right to buy for housing association tenants means that houses will no longer be held as affordable rent in perpetuity, exception sites in villages will now be available for Starter Homes (housing for sale) so landowners may not in future make sites available for affordable rent and the rent reduction policy has almost brought house building by housing associations to a halt. The

implications of these, and other, changes will become clearer later in the year. It is suggested that the Parish Council return to this issue then.

5. Councillors are asked to:

- (a) consider what action to take as regards the setting up of an Implementation Group (para 3);**
- (b) agree the recommendations in para 4.**

Mike Ash
Clerk

AGENDA ITEM 8 – PASSENGER TRANSPORT CONSULTATION

1. At the meeting of the Council on 14th January I reported that Wiltshire Council had published a consultation document on its review of Passenger Transport Services. This document is available from the council's website (<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>) and hard copies are available on buses, in libraries and in council hubs. The response to the consultation is via an on-line electronic questionnaire or by submitting completed questionnaires by post.

2. It was agreed at the last meeting to include a notice about this consultation in STaB, urging villagers to respond. This was included in the February edition. The notice made the following main points:

- Wiltshire Council has to make a further £120m of cuts by 2017
- the Council currently spends £5.1m a year subsidising bus services
- the largest proportion of spend (42% of the total) is on regular rural services, such as the No 29 through Bishopstone
- overall it is proposed to cut the bus budget by £2.5m per annum

3. The questionnaire puts forward six options (with annual saving):

1. Withdraw funding for all supported evening services (£639,000)
2. Withdraw funding for all supported Sunday and Bank Holiday services (£165,000)
3. Reduce the hourly services Mon-Fri to a two hourly service on the strategic bus network (£430,000)
4. **Reduce rural bus services to 2-3 buses a day on regular routes (£1.9 million)**
5. Reduce town services to 2-3 buses a day on regular routes (£460,000)
6. Withdraw all funding for Council-supported services (£5.1 million)

4. These options are not mutually exclusive and the likely outcome is some combination of 1-5. The consultation also invites respondents to indicate if they think that council tax should be raised to pay for the continuing subsidization of bus services. So far as Bishopstone is concerned the important option is Option 4. Currently (Mon-Fri) there are 7 bus journeys in each direction. This would be reduced to 2-3 a day. The document adds "As the savings would depend on using one bus and driver to operate two routes, journeys would not necessarily be conveniently timed".

5. Whilst the main means of responding to the questionnaire is on-line, it is also open to the Parish Council to write setting out its views. The consultation closes on 4th April and decisions will be taken in June 2016. As Councillors may have seen there has been extensive publicity about these proposals, with The Journal newspaper running a campaign to oppose the cuts.

6. The survey of bus users in the village carried out via STaB and the website in November produced 21 responses and indicated that:

- there are 31 journeys a week, plus 12 at least monthly and 15 less frequently
- mainly into Salisbury but the hospital was the destination of 30% of trips

- midweek and Saturday were busiest days
- only two journeys to work
- shopping and medical related (hospital, doctor etc) were main purposes.

However, data is also available from the 2011 Census. This indicated that 10 workers in the village used the bus as a means of reaching their place of work.

7. So bus usage in the village is limited to a few, but for those it is an essential service with little alternative. Councillors may agree that retaining a reasonable service is necessary to the life of the village, and, indeed to all the villages in the Chalke Valley. Attached is a draft letter of response to the consultation for consideration at the meeting.

8. This matter may well come up for discussion in the Annual Parish Meeting which precedes the Parish Council meeting. In which case any additional points made in that meeting can be incorporated in the response.

Mike Ash
Clerk