

needed to be done.

MRA said that there would be a Wiltshire Council Housing Liaison meeting in Bishopstone in February. He proposed to attend that meeting to raise, once again, the matter of the fence and car park at Whitlock Rise.

On the Action Plan MRA said that he had asked the SWWAB about the availability of smaller salt bags for use with the spinner. A reply was awaited.

The extension of high-speed broadband to the eastern end of the village was almost complete. However, Mrs Goodfellow reported that BT had said that residents on the High Road frontage of Whitlock Rise would get the high-speed service but that, for technical reasons, this would not be possible in the other part of the road. However, all residents should get an improvement over the position now. It was agreed to wait and see what was delivered once the connections had been made.

All other Action Plan items remained to be completed.

5. Public Question Time.

The main matters raised by members of the public were:

- (i) Mrs Furston complained about the speed of vehicles through the village and the danger they posed to pedestrians using the roadside footpaths. The Chairman said that he sympathized, but the matter had been raised innumerable times with Wiltshire Council and there was no prospect of any lowering of speed limits in the village. Mr Stockton said that he thought that the “informal” slow down signs in Harvest Lane were not sited in the best place. He agreed to discuss this outside the meeting with Cllr Brutton.
- (ii) The developers of Faulston Barns had diverted the bridleway on the south side of the development site into the adjoining field. It was unclear whether they had any authority to do that. MRA said he would investigate and report back.

6. Update from Cllr Jose Green

MRA said that Cllr Green was unable to be at the meeting. However, she had sent a report, which he briefly summarized. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

7. Bishopstone Plan and Implementation

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

MRA said that the Bishopstone Plan had now been finalized by the Steering Group and had been sent to the Parish Council under cover of a letter from the Chairman, Nick Gooch. The plan set out 45 “action points” and 33 of these were for the Parish council to take forward. The plan acknowledged that it would not be possible for the Parish Council to implement all of these and suggested that an Implementation Group (or groups) be set up to take things to the next stage. He proposed to bring forward implementation proposals for consideration

by the council at the meeting in March. However, he did propose that one group, to consider the proposals for a system of “Area Helpers” in the village, be set up as soon as possible and had circulated a proposed notice for inclusion in STaB and on the website seeking volunteers to serve on an implementation group.

MRA said that there was also a question about distribution of the final version of the plan. It was proposed to put it on the village website and for hard copies to be made available in the Village Hall and in the Church porch. However, it was not proposed to distribute copies to every household, particularly as the final version was not significantly different from the draft that had been circulated. It could be made available on request or at a charge of £3.00 per copy.

JHST said he wanted to put on record the thanks of the Parish Council to the Chairman, Secretary and members of the Steering Group for all the work that had been done in producing the plan. This should be included in the report of the meeting in STaB. He supported the recommendations regarding full consideration in March and the setting up of one implementation group in the meantime. He suggested that copies of the plan be made available to villagers on request without charge.

After a short discussion the way forward, as suggested by the Chairman, was proposed by GRB, seconded by NTB and agreed.

8. Bishopstone Village Emergency Plan and Emergency Register

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

The Emergency Planning Officer, Roger Stockton, said that the village Emergency Plan had been revised and extended to cover additional emergency situations. This reflected advice from Wiltshire Council. A copy of the plan, less restricted information, would be placed on the village website. However, it was desirable for everyone in the village to be aware of the membership of the Emergency Response Group and arrangements for communicating information about emergencies. It was therefore proposed to include an article about this in STaB, together with emergency contact numbers, a list of useful websites etc.

MRA said that it was desirable to set up an “Emergency Register” of elderly and vulnerable people in the village who might require priority assistance in the event of an emergency. This would be separate from the Emergency Plan, though related to it. The list would be confidential and inclusion would be voluntary. It was proposed that a note about this should also be included in STaB.

GRB proposed that the revised Emergency Plan be adopted and publicized as proposed and that an Emergency Register be set up. This was seconded by NTB and agreed.

9. Budget and Precept for 1016/17

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

MRA said that the circulated paper included a proposed budget for 2016/17. This was similar to the budget for 2015/16 but he had amalgamated some lines and reduced the budget to be closer to actual expenditure levels in recent years.

It had been agreed at the last meeting that, after several years without a significant increase in the precept, the time had come to make an increase given that Wiltshire Council is placing greater reliance on action by parish councils to deal with local issues and the fact that the system whereby the parish council received contributions from development in the village towards local amenities had now been ended by the Government. The paper set out the effects of increases of 5%-15% in terms of increased income and increase in the Council Tax of a Band D property.

Following discussion, AS proposed that the budget put forward be agreed and that the precept be increased to £6,300 per annum. This was seconded by GRB and approved.

10. Chairman's Items

JHST said that he was keen for the Parish Council to take part in the "Clean for the Queen" campaign, to clear up litter in time for The Queen's 90th birthday in April 2016. This will be taking place on the weekend on March 4–6. Wiltshire Council's South West Area Board would be making equipment (litter pickers, safety tabards etc) available to Parish Councils for this campaign. He proposed that the Parish Council should organize a "litter pick" in each section of the village as part of the campaign. A notice seeking volunteers should go in STaB.

It was suggested that any notice in STaB should urge all village residents to take greater care in ensuring that litter does not escape from their waste and recycling bins and that, whenever possible, they help by clearing up litter from public spaces outside their homes to help keep the village tidy.

11. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that the repairs of the Play Train had been completed but it had yet to be repainted. This would be done when the weather was dryer. The SWWAB grant for the new Play Tower had now been received and it was hoped that installation would be completed by March.

As expected, Wiltshire Council had published a consultation paper on the future of bus services. This document, which runs to more than 50 pages is available from the council's website and hard copies will be available on buses, in libraries and in council hubs.

The headline points in the consultation document were:

- 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

The document presented 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)

So far as Bishopstone was 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".

MRA said that it would be possible for the Parish Council to consider the document in detail at the next meeting as the close of consultation was 4th April. However, it is very clear that Wiltshire Council wanted to hear from individual users. It was therefore important that all those who care about retaining an adequate bus service in the village should respond to the consultation. He therefore proposed that a notice on this be included in STaB. Comments had to be submitted using an on-line electronic questionnaire. He proposed to offer, in the STaB notice, to print off copies of the questionnaire for those without internet access so that they could be returned by post

12. Planning Matters

There were none.

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

GRB raised the question as to whether, given the "Dark Skies" policy of the AONB, there was any means of controlling the installation of new light sources in the village. MRA said that he didn't think that there was but that he would investigate and report back.

ST said that he had received a letter about the work in the village to improve drainage and prevent flooding. It was suggested that he should pass that on to Mr Stockton.

The problem of dog waste on footpaths in the village was getting worse. It was agreed to include a further reminder about picking up dog mess in STaB. MRA undertook to let ST have some more of the warning signs.

14. Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Bishopstone Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 10th March 2016 following the Parish Meeting, which will begin at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 14th January 2016
ACTION PLAN**

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Trustees of Faulston Estate to be asked again to confirm responsibility for drain clearance.	MRA	
WC to be reminded of work required at Whitlock Rise car park. Correspondence on-going.	MRA	
Catch fence to be erected behind the new basketball court.	AJT	
Landowner to be asked to trim back trees overhanging bus shelter at Pitts Lane.		
Problem of lack of lights on farm vehicles using the C12 to be taken up with farmers concerned. Also they should be asked to avoid moving large vehicles and loads slowly in convoy.	AJT	
Farmer and landowner to be contacted re potential siting of a SID.	MRA	
Request to be submitted for provision of smaller bags of salt for spinner.	MRA	✓
BT to be asked to confirm that super fast broadband will be available to all in Whitlock Rise.	JG	✓
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	