

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in the Village Hall, Bishopstone  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm.**

**MINUTES**

**Present** : Parish Councillors : Major JHS Thompson (JHST) Chairman  
A Thorne (AJT)  
N Barter (NTB)  
G Brutton (GRB)  
J Gibbon (JG)  
Mrs A Smith (AS)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

**Also present:** R Stockton  
Mrs P Stockton  
Mrs M Furnston  
C Goodfellow  
Ms S Duff  
M Bundy  
V Rowe  
Ms S Porter  
Ms H Holdsworth  
Mrs C Ash

**1. Election of Chairman 2015/16**

Major Thompson said he was willing to stand for the post of Chairman of the Parish Council for a further year. There being no other candidates Major Thompson was duly elected.

**2. Election of Vice Chairman 2015/16**

Cllr Ali Thorne said that he was willing to stand for the post of Vice Chairman for a further year. There being no other candidates Cllr Thorne was duly elected.

**3. Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

Cllrs Thompson and Thorne signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

**4. Re-appointment of Community Response Group**

As the CRG is formally a sub-committee of the Council it was necessary to re-appoint Mr Stockton as the Emergency Co-ordinator and other members of the CRG. This was proposed by NTB, seconded by JG and approved.

## **5. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Tatner and from Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green and PC Pete Jung.

## **6. Declarations of interest**

There were none.

## **7. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

No matters of accuracy were raised in relation to the minutes of the meeting on 12th March 2015. GRB proposed that they be approved; this was seconded by NTB and agreed.

## **8. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan.**

MRA said that most matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting were covered by items on the agenda for this meeting. On Action Plan items it was agreed to delete that on cleaning of the train as the re-painting was likely to happen at the end of May/beginning of June. The item on "pressure selling" had been completed with warnings posted in STaB.

## **9. Public Question Time.**

Mr Bundy reported that no progress had been made with regard to the problem with the surfacing of the Whitlock Rise car park, or with the fencing. MRA said that he had undertakings from Wiltshire Council with regard to both these matters and would contact them again.

Concern was expressed about the fence to the west of the new basketball court. This had an exposed strand of barbed wire which children could run into or catch themselves on in trying to retrieve a ball. AJT said that it was proposed to erect a chain link and net fence behind the court to prevent balls going into the adjacent field. In the meantime he would see if anything could be done to make the existing fence safe.

Ms Holdsworth raised the matter of the proposal to introduce vehicular passing places in Faulston Lane. Her views are recorded in the relevant agenda item below.

## **10. Chairman's Items**

JHST said that he had attended the Annual Local Highways Service Briefing, which involved officers from Wiltshire Council and from Balfour Beatty and Atkins. The main message was that there was a big job in keeping up with highways maintenance in the county and few resources with which to do it. The problem of the lack of response from Balfour Beatty was mentioned. It was clear that when a problem was reported to Wiltshire Council they considered they had dealt with it when they passed it to their contractor. Balfour Beatty can then take as long as they

wished to respond to the matter, with no obligation to keep anyone informed as to the timetable.

JHST said he had reported several cases of fly-tipping to Wiltshire Council. With regard to the asbestos sheets left all along Mill Lane the council had merely marked them with red "hazard" tape and it was now down to Balfour Beatty to clear them. It was unclear when this would be done. Several piles of garden waste had, however, been removed from Shaftesbury Drove at Hare Warren.

JHST invited Roger Stockton (RS) to report on Emergency Planning. RS said that the additional materials for dealing with flooding (sand, sand bags, signs etc) had now been received and two stores had been established – one at Throope and one at Faulston. These were under the control of the two flood wardens, the EP Co-ordinator and the Clerk. He emphasised, once again, that these were for use for wider community protection purposes and that individual owners remained responsible for protecting their own property.

Despite being with Wiltshire Council for 9 months the Bishopstone Flood Plan remained to be approved. RS said that he had pressed them for a response. Similarly, although the drainage ditch on the land at the east end of Netton St had now been cleared, Wiltshire Council had yet to clear their small section or to clear the gullies in Netton Street. MRA said he would chase again on this.

## **11. Speeding in the village.**

### Community Speed Watch

MRA said that after much negotiation approval had been given to the establishment of a CSW team in the village. The team was being led by Cllr Gibbon. JG said that he had been encouraged by additional volunteers coming forward during the evening and he now felt that he had a team, though additional volunteers would be welcome. Training now needed to be undertaken. The task involved not only the noting of the numbers of cars speeding in the 30mph section of the C12 but a fairly rigorous process of recording and transmitting data to the police authority. The aim was not simply to catch offenders but, by the presence of the team at the roadside, encourage a wider compliance with the speed limit. He hoped that it might be possible to become operational by the time of the Chalke Valley History Festival, when there would be increased traffic flows along the High Road.

### 20mph speed limits

MRA presented the slides he had used at the recent SWWAB meeting to obtain approval for studies to be done on the introduction of 20mph limits on the village back roads. In the end the Board had agreed that Fovant and Quidhampton were the priorities for 2015/16. He said that the Council might want to consider later in the year whether to mount a case for studies to be done in 2016/17. However, he said it was now clear that a simple scheme, involving the erection of limit signs, would only be introduced if mean speeds were already below 25mph. If existing mean speeds were higher than this a scheme would only be introduced if it included engineering work (chicanes, speed bumps etc) to slow traffic down and, if that was done, there would be a need for street lighting. Apart from the issue of whether such a scheme

would be viable, given the resources available, the Council might also wish to consider whether lighting would be welcome in the village.

It was pointed out that other villages had erected their own informal signs asking vehicles to slow down, particularly in areas where children might be walking or playing. MRA said that only Wiltshire Council, as highways authority, had the power to erect traffic signs. If informal signs were erected it was likely that WC would remove them. There was also the issue of liability if an accident arose because a driver was distracted or hit any obstacle established to mount a sign. However, Councillors asked the Clerk to investigate the options and report back.

## **12. Projects**

MRA thanked AJT and GRB for overseeing the laying of the basketball practice court surface and erection of the post and board. AJT said that children in the village were already making use of the new facilities. MRA said that as soon as he received the invoice he would arrange for the formal approval of the R2 team so that the monies could be paid.

MRA said that the contractor engaged to refurbish and repaint the play train would begin work at the end of May/beginning of June.

MRA said that he had consulted the Mothers and Toddlers Group about the additional “play tower” equipment they would prefer. He displayed two options, each of which had a price of circa £5k. With VAT, delivery and the provision of suitable surfacing, the project might cost £7.5k. He proposed that further consideration of this project should await the expected new R2 contribution arising from the development at Faulston Barns. This was unlikely to be available until the Autumn.

As regards the proposal to erect a bus shelter opposite Meadow View, MRA said that the first step would be to raise this project as a “community issue” with SWWAB. They had two roles – the first was to take expert advice from the highways engineers as to the feasibility of the project (including, for example, whether it would be necessary to build a proper bus bay, whether there was sufficient space etc). The second element was to consider funding. MRA displayed a possible design, which would cost circa £5000, plus the cost of a concrete base, delivery, erection etc. A total cost of around £8000 could require a 50% contribution from the parish council. It would be possible to afford this from the reserve if the toddler play equipment was paid for out of R2 funds.

After discussion it was agreed that final decisions on the additional toddlers play equipment should await the arrival of additional R2 funds and that a “community issue” be raised with SWWAB on the bus shelter to at least get a technical report on feasibility and costs. In the meantime it was also agreed to discuss with local craftsmen whether a bespoke wooden bus shelter might be built at less cost.

## **13. Annual Accounts**

MRA said that he had circulated paper BPC(01)15 (copy attached to these minutes) setting out the end year 2014/15 accounts and the proposed Annual Return to the external auditors. The key tables were also displayed at the meeting. The Council’s

accounts had now been cleared by the internal auditors, Atkinsons. The paper also set out the matters it was intended to display on the village website under the new Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

He recommended that:

- (a) the Annual Report be approved for submission to the external auditors
- (b) the proposals for publication under the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities be approved
- (c) Atkinsons be re-appointed as the Council's internal auditors.

AJT proposed that these recommendations be approved. This was seconded by GRB and agreed.

#### **14. Parish Clerk's report**

MRA said that:

- (i) The Council had asked, in its response to consultation on the Faulston Barns development, that there should be a condition requiring occupants of the barns to use Harvest/Faulston Lanes as the main means of access to the site. However, that had not been included in the planning permission granted by Wiltshire Council. Separately, he had asked the developer that arrangements should at least be made for construction traffic to use that route. The developers had now said that they were prepared to agree arrangements with the Parish Council. He recommended that the developers be advised that it was the Council's wish that no traffic should enter or leave the site along Mill Lane and that the developers adopt a voluntary protocol with their contractor's drivers to drive with care and attention along Harvest and Faulston Lanes. This was agreed.
- (ii) MRA said that, following representations made by Mr Long at an earlier meeting, a proposal that there should be vehicle passing places in Faulston and Mill Lanes had been passed to the SWWAB. They, in turn, had asked the Parish Council for proposed locations. MRA displayed a map and photographs of possible sites, one in Faulston Lane and one in Mill Lane. GRB said that he felt it would be wrong to create formal passing places in Mill Lane as this would only encourage greater traffic use. There were already informal passing places which could be used in emergency. MRA said that it was also doubtful if one was needed in Faulston Lane given that the entrance to the barns would be significantly increased in size when the new development took place, with long visibility splays. This could function as a passing place. There was also the entrance to the cottages. Earlier in the meeting Ms Holdsworth had indicated her strong objection to the establishment of passing places in these lanes for similar reasons as GRB. It was decided, on reflection, to leave things as they are and to not pursue the request to the SWWAB.
- (iii) MRA said that all the tenants of the Garden Plots in The Styles wished to renew their lease and that invoices for the rents had been sent out.

(iv) MRA said that it had earlier been suggested that the Parish Council might make a small grant to the Mothers and Toddlers Group. Requests for support had now also been received from the Bobby Van Trust and the Chris Brown Day Centre, both of which the Parish Council had supported in the past. He said that if a grant of £100 were made to the Mothers and Toddlers Group and £50 to each of the other organisations this would take up all the budgeted funds for donations in 2015/16. NTB proposed that these grants be made. This was seconded by GRB and approved.

**15. Planning Matters**

MRA said that there were no current applications requiring discussion.

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

Ms Porter raised the state of the land beside the footpath from The Styles to Pitts Lane. Trees had been cleared by the land owner but the site had been left in a bad state, with strands of barbed wire intruding into the footpath. JHST said he would consider what, if anything, could be done about this and would respond to the letter received from Ms Porter.

**17. Date, location and time of next meeting.**

The next meeting of Bishopstone Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 9th July 2015 beginning at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

---

Signed as an accurate record:

.....

Chairman

.....

Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**ACTION PLAN**

<b>WHAT ACTION</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b> ✓
Survey of toilets to be undertaken and estimate of likely costs to be obtained.	MRA	
Seek views on whether and how to commemorate WW1 locally through an article in a future STaB.	MRA	
Trustees of Faulston Estate to be asked again to confirm responsibility for drain clearance.	MRA	
Establishment of CSW in Bishopstone to be discussed with Wiltshire Police Authority.	MRA	
Need for further publicity about “pressure selling”.	GRB	✓
Possible grant to Mothers and Toddlers Group.	MRA	✓
WC to be reminded of work required at Whitlock Rise car park.	MRA	
Fence behind the new basketball court to be made safe.	AJT	
Gully emptying in Netton Street – WC to be chased.	MRA	
Provision of informal “slow down” signs to be investigated.	MRA	
Proposals for bus shelter to be put to SWWAB for technical appraisal.	MRA	
Response to be sent to letter re land adjoining the path between The Styles and Pitts Lane.	JHST	