

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall, Bishopstone
Thursday 14th September 2017 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : A Thorne (AJT) (Vice Chairman)
N Barter (NTB)
G Brutton (GRB)
Mrs M Foster (MF)
P Edwards (PE)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Wiltshire Cllr Mrs J Green
Mr C Goodfellow
Mrs M Gulliver
Mr J Gulliver
Mrs J Goodfellow
Mr R Goodfellow
Mrs H Gibb
Mr M Pratt
Mrs B Turvey
Mrs R Dew
Dr O Chapple
Mrs S Wilde
Mrs J Bailey
Mr J Price
Ms H Holdsworth
Mrs M Barter
Mrs C Ash
Mr Geoffrey Stevens (Items 1 – 3 only)

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Gibbon and Smith.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Discussion on the future of Crouchston Mill site

Mr Geoffrey Stevens of Mole Valley Farmers said that MVF were again considering the future of the Crouchston Mill site. Unsuccessful applications for planning permission for housing had been made in the past. He said that in theory the site could be refurbished for commercial uses, but redevelopment for a small number of houses still seemed more appropriate. If nothing is

done there was a risk that the condition of the building might deteriorate further. The purpose of this discussion was to share ideas on the future use of the site. After which MFV would develop more detailed proposals for further discussion with the Parish Council.

Mike Ash reminded the meeting that the Bishopstone Plan had indicated that the long disused Mill was an eyesore and that the Parish Council should encourage such sites, like Faulston Barns, to be considered for housing use. However, it was open to question whether Wiltshire Council would consider this site consistent with their policy of only allowing “infilling”. Nevertheless, they had approved Faulston Barns.

In an open discussion a wide variety of views were expressed. Suggestions ranged from leaving the site as it is, as a relic of the agricultural past of the village, or reusing it for agricultural purposes to clearance and redevelopment for housing. Mr Stevens indicated that the probable cost of clearing the site would be approximately £100k. Concern was expressed about the possible traffic impacts on what are narrow country lanes, which are certainly not suitable for modern agricultural vehicles and machinery. Though some considered that traffic impacts would not be great if the development were restricted to two or three houses. Cllr Brutton expressed the view that a single house would more than fulfil MVF’s primary aim of covering its site clearance costs. There were issues to be considered in relation to flooding and sewage disposal. There was strong support for some smaller housing units, which might be more affordable to younger families. Alternatively, such houses might be attractive to older people from the village wanting to ‘downsize’, though the relative remoteness of the site from the bus service, village hall and pub was noted. A strong preference was expressed for the design of any new houses to be in keeping with the village vernacular. It was suggested that the footpath to Stoke Farthing, through the site, could be developed as a cycle path, to the school, sports centre etc at Broad Chalke. This would need the cooperation of other landowners, but the mill scheme could set the ball rolling.

Mr Stevens undertook to consider very carefully all the views that had been expressed and to develop some more detailed ideas for discussion in the future.

4. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 13th July 2017

There were no corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2017. AJT proposed that the minutes be approved; this was seconded by GRB and agreed.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan.

MRA said that following the discussion at the last meeting the Annual Report and Accounts had been approved by the external auditors without comment.

Three estimates had been received for the construction of an informal path along the highway verge on the south side of the High Road between Meadow View and Whitlock Rise. These ranged from more than £7,500 to just over £3,500. The Community Area Transport Group had indicated support for the project and an application for a 50% grant had been made to the South West Wiltshire Area Board. This will be considered in October. In the meantime it was necessary to formally approve Bishopstone’s share of the cost. This would be £1,813.50. MRA said that the balance of the Council’s accounts, after completion of purchase of the Speed Indicator Device,

would be £13,500, so the proposed expenditure was manageable. Approval to this expenditure was proposed by GRB, seconded by NTB and agreed.

Agreement had been reached with Broad Chalke and Bowerchalke Parish Councils to set up a consortium to own and operate a Speed Indicator Device (SID) as part of the project initiated by the South West Wiltshire Area Board. A grant of £1,500 had been received from SWWAB. Bishopstone's share of the remaining cost was £681.60. A battery operated SID, with solar panel charging, which will indicate the actual speed of vehicles, with accompanying "slow down" signal for drivers above the limit, had now been purchased and would be used in the 30mph limit area past Whitlock Rise. This would support the work of the Community Speed Watch team.

The cost of a new fence on the western boundary of the Recreation Field was being investigated.

There was nothing further to report as regards the issue of speeding on the A354. However, MRA said that he had been contacted by the SWWAB Area Manager about a problem of cars leaving the A354 and trying to use the drove roads, causing damage to parked vehicles. It was confirmed that no members of the Council had received information about this issue.

All other Action Plan points had been completed.

6. Public Question Time.

Mr Goodfellow said that the drains along the High Road were not operating effectively because they were blocked by stone chips washed off the road after the recent resurfacing. It was agreed to ask Wiltshire Council to arrange clearance.

The issue of the non-operation of the new mobile phone mast was again raised. AJT said that engineers visiting the site had indicated that there was an electrical fault that had to be remedied. MRA reported that he had been in touch with the company and they had been unable to indicate when the mast would become operational.

7. Report form Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green

Jose Green said that following the local elections there were 29 new Councillors in Wiltshire and much time was being spent on induction. She remained a member of the Southern Planning Committee and Chair of the Area Board. She said that whilst Wiltshire had no tower blocks like Grenfell Tower, the Fire Brigade were carrying out checks on cladding used on buildings such as hospitals (though this did not apply to Salisbury District Hospital which had no cladding). There was an initiative to draw attention to the problem of cyber crime, which resulted in losses to individuals and businesses of some £9.6m a year in Wiltshire. Consultations were underway on the future of the mobile library service, though no change was proposed in Bishopstone, on housing sites and on car parking fees. Churchfields Recycling Site would be closed 9 – 18 November for it to be re-configured by the new contractors.

8. Chairman's Items

There were none.

9. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that most of the issues he had proposed to raise had already been dealt with.

Wiltshire Council and the Woodland Trust had proposed a joint project to plant trees in 2019 to commemorate every soldier from Wiltshire killed in WW1. It is proposed to plant a central memorial woodland and to invite parishes to plant trees in their area. In Bishopstone this might mean planting 16 trees. These could be in groups (eg in the corners of the Recreation Field) or along a hedgerow at the side of the field. It was agreed to express an interest in this project but to wait for more information on species of trees etc before going further.

MRA said that in a discussion at the Community Area Transport Group it had become apparent that highway projects which were 100% funded by the Parish Council could now go ahead without having to become one of the CATG priority projects. This was a change from the position when the proposals for "single track road" warning signs for Mill Lane had been considered in 2016. He said he would take up with the Highway Engineers whether the signs could now be installed on the basis that the Parish Council would provide all the funding (a cost of £500).

10. Planning Matters

MRA reported that Wiltshire Council had approved the planning application for the extension of 12 Whitlock Rise. In doing so they had accepted that car parking would be provided on the communal Whitlock Rise car park, rather than on the property itself. This seemed to run counter to the position expressed by Housing Officers that the car park was solely for the use of Wiltshire Council tenants. Mrs Goodfellow had taken this matter up with the Housing Officers. It confirmed it would change the way the car park could be used for the future.

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

No further matters were raised.

12. Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Bishopstone Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 9th November 2017 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 14th September 2017
ACTION PLAN**

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Contractor who provided the basketball surface to be pressed to complete repairs.	MRA	✓
Provision of footpath beside the High Road between Meadow View and Whitlock Rise to be investigated.	MRA	✓
Representations re speeding on A354 to be taken up with Wiltshire Council if other parishes support.	MRA	
Cost of new fence on west side of Recreation Field to be investigated.	MRA	
Items to be included in September's STaB on planning permission for garden extensions and on the need to make use of the Chalke Valley Sports Centre.	MRA	✓
Wiltshire Council to be requested to clear the drains along the High Road.	MRA	
Clearance to be sought for provision of signs for Mill Lane if 100% funding provided.	MRA	