

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall, Bishopstone
Thursday 9th July 2015 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : Major JHS Thompson (JHST) Chairman
 A Thorne (AJT)
 G Brutton (GRB)
 S Tatner (ST)

 Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: R Stockton
 PCSO Nicola Clarke
 Mrs M Furmston
 C Goodfellow
 M Bundy
 Mrs J Goodfellow
 R Goodfellow
 J Gulliver
 Mrs M Gulliver
 Ms V Middleton-Smith
 Ms P Pidgeon
 N Legh
 Mrs C Ash

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Barter, Cllr Gibbon and from Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 14th May 2015

No matters of accuracy were raised in relation to the minutes of the meeting on 14th May 2015. AJT proposed that they be approved; this was seconded by GRB and agreed.

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

MRA said that matters arising from the minutes, and some Action Plan items, were covered by the agenda for this meeting. On other Action Plan items the following matters were

considered:

(i) MRA said that he had written to Wiltshire Council again about the car park and fence at Whitlock Rise car park. He had received a totally unsatisfactory response which indicated that action was unlikely because Whitlock Rise now contained only three council tenants. It was pointed out that the car park was also used by occupants of the homes fronting the C12 and that increased the number of tenants to seven. MRA said that the number of tenants was, in any case, irrelevant. Wiltshire Council had a duty to maintain land in their ownership in a reasonable state of repair and security. He undertook to respond and to write to Cllr Jose Green on the matter.

(ii) AJT reported that he could obtain fencing for the area behind the new basketball court for £220+vat. Voluntary labour would be needed for its erection. GRB proposed that the expenditure be incurred. This was seconded by ST and approved.

(iii) Roger Stockton reported on the work so far undertaken by Wiltshire Council to deal with the flooding problem in Netton Street. The vactor had been used to clear the drain that ran the length of the street, but this had only been partially successful and a blockage had been identified. This would require investigation using a camera. The short section of open ditch in front of Ebble Bank had been cleared by hand. A broken drain cover would need to be replaced. It was clear that Wiltshire Council engineers did not wish to pursue any other proposals for changing the drainage arrangements in the street. It was made clear at a meeting of the Operational Flood Working Group, which he attended, that Wiltshire's priorities were to deal with flooding that could give rise to traffic problems on classified roads or internal damage to properties. Netton Street would come pretty low on that list. MRA said that, nevertheless, he had pressed Wiltshire Council to expedite the camera survey and to let the Parish Council know when that was to happen.

MRA said that the response he had received gave no undertaking as to how quickly the work would be completed. It also refused the request for prior notification. It had expressed concern about the presence of members of the public last time, which constituted a health and safety hazard in relation to the use of the vactor. This had resulted in the team withdrawing early. However, he said that he would continue to press the case for action to be expedited at every opportunity.

(iv) MRA advised that the Parish Council could not formally erect "slow down" signs in Harvest Lane, but if private individuals undertook to erect signs on their property, that was a matter for them. GRB said he felt some action was necessary. He would pursue the matter separately.

(v) MRA said that he had asked the SWWAB for a technical appraisal of whether it was feasible to erect a bus shelter at the stop opposite Meadow View. A highways officer had visited the site and had indicated that this was a feasible project. The matter would now be considered at the next meeting of the CATG. In general discussion there was opposition from members of the public to this proposal as a potential waste of money given the number of people using this bus stop. MRA said that final decisions on whether to go ahead had yet to be made. He would attend the CATG meeting and report back to the meeting in September when Councillors could decide whether to proceed.

(vi) MRA said that he had written to the owner of the land beside the footpath from The Styles to Pitts Lane regarding the state of the site and future intentions. A reply is awaited.

5. PCSO Report

JHST welcomed the new PCSO, Nicola Clarke, to our area. PCSO Clarke highlighted the continuing problem of thefts from vehicles, with recent examples in Bishopstone and adjoining villages. She stressed again the importance of not leaving hand bags etc where they can be seen inside parked vehicles. There had been an incident of a “rogue trader” preying on an older householder in the village. The culprit was known to the police and matters are proceeding. PCSO Clarke reminded everyone of need for continued vigilance of those who were out and about in the village.

6. Public Question Time.

The main matters raised were:

- (a) the problem of groups of cyclists using the C12 and riding two, or sometimes, three, abreast. This blocked motorists and caused them to swerve across the carriageway. Encouraged by the “Cycle Wiltshire” event there were now many more cyclists using the route through the valley. However, it was unclear what steps could be taken to combat this problem.
- (b) visibility along the C12 for cars emerging from Whitlock Rise was not good. It was agreed to ask Wiltshire Council for a junction warning sign, similar to the one recently erected for Flamstone Street. The Council would also be asked to cut back foliage that is obscuring the 30mph limit signs.
- (c) there were visibility problems along the C12 due to the overhanging trees opposite the entrance to Pitts Lane. These also impact on the bus shelter. It was agreed to ask the relevant landowner if these could be trimmed back.
- (d) concern was expressed about the movement, mainly at night, of large tractors and trailers along the C12. The trailers did not have side-lights and were a hazard to motorists. AJT said that there was no legal requirement for trailers to be lit. A number of farms further up the valley were now in a single contract and the vehicles referred to were probably those belonging to the contractor. They work at night. AJT said that he would have a word with the farmers concerned to see if anything could be done.
- (e) whilst the western half of the village now had high speed broadband, BT had indicated that it might be some time before the eastern part was covered. Roger Stockton said that this part of the village was served by the Coombe Bissett exchange. Coombe Bissett itself was now “live’ but it might be some time before the fibre optic cable was extended to Stratford Tony and Bishopstone. The timetable was in the hands of BT. They prioritized in relation to the size of the demand. However, there was no doubt that the service will be provided in due course.

Mention was also made of the work now going on to identify a location for a new mobile phone mast to improve mobile communication in the village.

- (f) concern was raised about the impact of the Faulston Barns construction traffic on Harvest and Faulston Lanes. It was suggested that Mill Lane should also be used. It was pointed out that Mill Lane was long and narrow with no formal passing places. It would be totally unsuitable for construction traffic. This issue had been fully discussed at the time of the planning application and it was the clear view of the council that the best option was to use Harvest Lane and Faulston Lane. However, this was subject to securing assurances from the developers as to adequate signage in the village. MRA said that he had now had discussions with the developers. They are preparing a construction plan, including traffic arrangements and the signage proposals will be sent to the Parish Council for comment. [see also Item 11 below.]
- (g) Mrs Goodfellow raised the continuing problem of dog mess on footpaths and pavements. JHST said he would cover this under his agenda item.

7. Chairman's Items

JHST said that he had written to Cllr Jane Scott, the leader of Wiltshire Council, to complain about the failure of the Council to deal adequately with the asbestos that had been dumped in Mill Lane. It had taken the Council two months to get this hazardous material removed and this was not good enough. The letter also set out concerns about the increase in fly-tipping in the Parish more generally, and asked whether the policies of Wiltshire Council in respect of charging for green bins and closure of the recycling centre on certain days wasn't going to make matters worse. He read sections of his letter (copy attached to these minutes).

There were continuing problems associated with dog ownership in the village. He had seen two young people taking a dog into the Recreation Field, oblivious of the large sign prohibiting this. There continued to be a problem of owners not picking up after their pets, the matter Mrs Goodfellow had raised, and of owners allowing dogs to run off their leash in public areas. It was indicated that there had also been incidents of dogs worrying livestock. It was agreed to produce a notice about all of these issues for September's edition of STaB.

JHST drew attention to Police Federation concern over the reduction in budget and necessary economies in the county, which might impact on Neighbourhood Policing. There was a danger that we will be left with no police presence, apart from a distant response team who do not know the area. He had spoken to the PCC last Thursday about it, and he had assured me there would be no reduction in neighbourhood policing. However, JHST felt that he would say that. JHST pointed out that the Police Federation have a website where you can go to register concern over this reduction in rural policing

8. Community Speed Watch

In the absence of Cllr Gibbon, MRA read out a report he had provided. This indicated that:

- the team is growing and 4 more people have applied for training;

- approval for the Bishopstone CSW scheme had been given and the site will be on the C12/Whitlock Rise junction;
- it is hoped that the remainder of the team will be trained on 5 September, operations will start soon thereafter;
- the speed indicator device is shared with 3 other villages and rotates on the basis of each user having it for a week;
- Coome Bissett have offered Cllr Gibbon the chance to join their team during one of their operations to get some practical experience.

9. Emergency Planning

Roger Stockton said that the flooding emergency stores were now in place. He suggested that when the Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme submission was made it should include a request for 200 more polypropylene sand bags. AJT said that it would be prudent to order another salt bag, which he would store. No progress seemed to have been made as regards the availability of the “spinner” to spread the salt, despite the fact that he had attended training and a snow plan had been submitted. MRA undertook to check what was happening with the SWWAB.

We would shortly receive a copy of the LIDAR study, undertaken by the Environment Agency, of the system of water meadows in the valley. This would indicate the feasibility of using the old water meadows along Mill Lane as a “sump” should we have a similar flooding problem as in 2014. This would require some works to rectify the banks that cattle had broken through and to replace control systems. In a general discussion a question was raised as to the effectiveness of such a strategy. It was agreed to hold a discussion about this on site at a future date.

10. Parish Clerk’s Report

MRA said that he had yet to receive notification of clearance of the accounts for 2014/15 by the external auditors. There had been a delay due to one part of the submission being incomplete. The council had met the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and expenditure information was now available on the village website.

The grant of R2 money from Wiltshire Council had been received and the invoice for the laying of the basketball court paid.

The contractor selected to undertake the task of refurbishing the play train in the Recreation Field had written this week withdrawing from the project due to staff shortages. His had been the only quotation received for the work when it had been put out to tender earlier in the year. AJT said that he would make inquiries of a contact to see whether he would be prepared to undertake the work.

MRA said that he had circulated the illustrations shown at the last meeting of a possible “play tower” to the Mothers and Toddlers Group. They had indicated that this was the sort of provision they had in mind. MRA said that the R2 money from the Faulston Barns development should become available in September and he would bring firm project proposals forward for the September meeting.

MRA alerted Councillors to a pre-consultation being carried out by Wiltshire Council on reductions of expenditure on transport services. There was a need to reduce spending on passenger transport by £2.5 million over the next few years, equivalent to 60% of the budget for supporting transport services in 2015/16. The bus service along the Chalke Valley (the service from Salisbury to Shaftesbury) was one of those supported by grant and it was possible that proposals would be brought forward to cut frequency, reduce hours etc. Stakeholders, such as Parish Councils, were being asked for comments on possible options ahead of a consultation on firm proposals early next year. MRA said that he would attend a briefing meeting being held on 15 July and would report further.

11. Planning Matters

MRA said that there were no current applications requiring discussion. Preliminary work had begun at Faulston Barns with the securing of the site and some tidying up. Construction proper would begin in September and last some 15 months to December 2016. He had been in contact with the developers to establish lines of communication should any issues arise. As indicated above, the developers are preparing a construction plan that will include routes for construction traffic and signage. The Parish Council will be consulted on this. He said that relations with the developers were good and that they seemed determined to avoid any problems arising as a result of their work in the village. He would produce a note on what was happening at Faulston Barns for September's STaB.

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

The Chairman, Major Thompson, said that he was giving notice that, for health reasons, he would be stepping down at the end of the Council's year next May, both as Chairman and as a Councillor. He felt that it was, in any case, time for someone else to take over the Chairman's role. By giving notice now he hoped to encourage discussions to be had regarding the filling of both roles well in advance of his departure.

17. Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Bishopstone Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 10th September 2015 beginning at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 9th July 2015
ACTION PLAN**

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Survey of toilets to be undertaken and estimate of likely costs to be obtained (deferred).	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	✓
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	
Gully emptying in Netton Street – WC to be chased.	MRA	
Proposals for bus shelter to be put to SWWAB for technical appraisal. Done – further discussion in September.	MRA	
Response to be sent to letter re land adjoining the path between The Styles and Pitts Lane.	JHST	✓
Case to be put to SWWAB for a junction warning sign for Whitlock Rise.	MRA	
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.	AJT	
Notice about responsible dog ownership in the village to be included in September's STaB.	MRA	
Check what is happening about salt spreading "spinners".	MRA	
Decorator to be contacted about refurbishment of play train.	AJT	
Note on Faulston Barns development commencement to be put in September's STaB.	MRA	