

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall, Bishopstone
Thursday 9th November 2017 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : J Gibbon (JG) (Chairman)
N Barter (NTB)
G Brutton (GRB)
Mrs A Smith (AS)
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
Mr M Bundy
Mr R Abbott
Mrs P Abbott
Mr J Steedman
Mr A Prior
Mr N Legh
Mrs C Ash

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Thorne and Foster.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 14th September 2017

MRA said that he had received comments from Councillors on a first draft of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2017. A revised draft had been circulated before the meeting. PE proposed that the minutes be approved; this was seconded by GRB and agreed.

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

MRA reported that:

- **Road Signs for Mill Lane.** The Community Area Transport Group had agreed to progress the proposal for “Narrow road, no passing places” signs for Faulston/Mill Lanes. It is hoped that these will be put in place early in the new year.
- **High Road Footpath.** Work to provide the informal path for pedestrians beside the High Road between Meadow View and Whitlock Rise would begin soon.
- **Mobile Phone Mast.** John Glen MP was continuing to put pressure on the mobile phone operators to get the new mobile phone mast working.
- **High Road Drains.** Wiltshire’s contractors Atkins had been asked to clear the drains along the High Road.

Other matters were covered by items later in the agenda.

5. Public Question Time.

Mr Bundy raised the continuing problem of car parking in Whitlock Rise. Cars are being parked on the footway, which causes an obstruction to pedestrians. Whilst the condition of the tenant’s car park remained a problem, this was where tenants should park their cars. All residents, including private owner residents, should be reminded of the need for them to find adequate parking arrangements for their vehicles which does not involve obstruction of footpaths or the highway. It was decided to make further representations to Wiltshire Council on these matters.

6. Report form Wiltshire Councillor Jose Green

CLlr Jose Green presented a report to the meeting. A copy is attached to these minutes.

7. Chairman’s Items

There were none.

8. Speeding in the Village

The Chairman reported that the Community Speed Watch Team had recently completed their 100th session beside the High Road. 31,127 car movements had been observed and 765 vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit reported to the police. The Speed Indicator Device began operations in October and was being used facing traffic from both east and west directions. It seemed to be having some effect in slowing drivers down.

He noted a suggestion that had come forward that “30mph limit” stickers be attached to wheelie bins left by the roadside. He said it was laudable that residents were keen to help, however there were disadvantages with this proposal. The bins are only to be left out for limited periods (otherwise Wiltshire Council takes action) so there is limited effect. The practice is not encouraged by the highways department because the signs do not conform to the regulations for formal speed limit signs and other authorities had found that the police opposed the practice because motorists caught speeding could claim in their defence that they were confused by the signs. There is also the question of the effect on the appearance of the village. It was decided that the Parish Council would not support this idea.

9. WW1 Commemoration Tree Planting

Further consideration was given to the proposals, put forward by Wiltshire Council, for a tree to be planted in 2018 to represent each soldier from Wiltshire killed in WW1. The proposals included planting an arboretum on Salisbury Plain and for parishes to plant trees in their area in memory of soldiers from the parish. Planting trees in the village raised issues of siting and future management. PE said that he felt that a large arboretum gave a more effective representation of the scale of the slaughter in WW1. Following discussion it was decided to support the idea of an arboretum/forest on Salisbury Plain but not to proceed with planting within the village.

10. Finance Update and Precept 2018/19

MRA presented the key points from a paper he had circulated to Councillors (attached to these minutes) setting out the current financial position and options for the increase in the Precept for 2018/19. Two Supplementary Tables (also attached) were presented at the meeting. The first of these showed the effect of different percentage increases in the precept, based on the revised tax base figures circulated by Wiltshire Council. The second showed comparable Band D Charge, precept and previous year increases for neighbouring villages. MRA said that the balance of the reserves were likely to be about £11,000 at the end of the financial year.

It was noted that the level of the Band D charge in Bishopstone had increased by 15% in each of the last two years. It was suggested that a smaller increase of 5% might be more appropriate for 2018/19. MRA said that a 5% increase would result in a precept of approximately £7,700. Taken with the reserves this should provide sufficient headroom for further projects to improve the village.

PE proposed that an increase of 5% be adopted for the Parish Precept in 2018/19. This was seconded by NTB and approved.

11. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that a resident had raised with him and the Emergency Planning Officer (Roger Stockton) a theory that work carried out to strengthen Faulston Bridges in the 1980s had reduced the flow rate of the river through the bridges and this may have contributed to the flooding that occurred in Netton Street in 2014. MRA said that considerable work had been carried out since 2014 to clear drains and ditches and to mitigate the effect of any flood threat. Nevertheless, he had referred the matter to Wiltshire Council, as Highways Authority. He summarised the response now received which showed that the work undertaken in 1986 had actually improved the flow rate through the bridges. Further work was being undertaken by the Environment Agency to develop a Catchment Management Plan for the River Ebble which will identify whether any further action is required.

MRA said that changes would need to be made to the Council's Data Protection Policy to implement the EU General Data Protection Regulation, which would come into force in May 2018. He was obtaining further information on what would be required and would report further in due course.

MRA presented Clerk's expenses of £303.60 (details in the table attached to these minutes). NTB proposed that these be paid. This was seconded by PE and agreed.

12. Planning Matters

MRA said that a response was awaited from Wiltshire Council with regard to concerns raised about the resurfacing of the drive to Croucheston Farm.

GRB said he was concerned that where domestic gardens had been extended to include adjacent farmland or other non-residential land without consent, it might make it more difficult for the authorities to resist future housing development of that land. MRA said that housing development in the village was governed by the policy in Wiltshire’s Core Strategy that only allowed infilling of small sites between existing houses (subject to meeting certain criteria). In his view, as things stood, the current use of that land, eg whether it was domestic garden or agricultural land, was irrelevant. GRB said that we should look to the longer term when planning policies might change and not allow rights to become established through “existing use”. It was agreed that advice would be obtained from Wiltshire Council on these matters.

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

Mr Prior presented the Council with a letter, for forwarding to Mole Valley Farmers, from residents in the immediate vicinity of the Croucheston Mill site setting out their views about future development. It was agreed that it would be made clear that this had not been considered by the Council and therefore did not represent its views. It was pointed out that in reaching any view on the redevelopment of Croucheston Mill the Parish Council will wish to consult more widely in the village. This would best be done once some outline proposals have been received from MVF.

Mr Prior also raised the issue of the security and safety of the Croucheston Mill buildings and the overgrown nature of the site adjacent to the road. It was agreed to take up with MVF the need for the existing buildings to be made secure and for vegetation encroaching on the road to be cut back.

14. Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Bishopstone Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

.....
Chairman
.....
Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 9th November 2017**

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
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	
Wiltshire Council to be requested to clear the drains along the High Road.	MRA	✓
Clearance to be sought for provision of signs for Faulston/Mill Lanes.	MRA	✓
Car parking problems in Whitlock Rise to be taken up with Wiltshire Council housing department.	MRA	
Wiltshire Council to be consulted on domestic garden extensions and their possible future use for development.	MRA	
MVF to be contacted about the security of Crouchston Mill and the need to cut back vegetation encroaching on the road.	MRA	