

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall, Bishopstone
Thursday 12th September 2013 at 8.00 pm.

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : Major JHS Thompson (JHST) Chairman
G Brutton (GRB)
N Barter (NTB)
A Thorne (AJT)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Mr M Bundy
Mr C Goodfellow
Mrs A Smith
Mr R Stockton
Mr S Tatner
Mrs C Ash
Mr R Greenwood (Items 1-3 only)
Mr G Macklin (Items 1-3 only)
Mr N Phillips (Items 1-3 only)

Cllr Jose Green (Wiltshire Council)
PCSO Jenny Moss

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Gibbon.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Planning Applications

(i) Faulston Barns

The Chairman welcomed Mr R Greenwood of Benchmark Planning who gave a short presentation on proposals for the redevelopment of Faulston Barns, Faulston Lane. He said that he was keen to have an open dialogue with the Parish Council about these proposals before a planning application was submitted. The proposals being developed were for the conversion of the barns to residential use. The barns were in a semi derelict state but the walls and roof timbers were in remarkably good condition and it was proposed to retain the footprint of the buildings, and as much of the existing fabric as possible. The floorspace was very large so a number of options were being considered, from one to seven units; the optimum was probably four or five. Access would be via the existing private road from Faulson Lane and

would not appear to present a problem. It was clear that the site was outside the built up area of the village but the Government was now encouraging the conversion of redundant farm buildings to new, including residential, uses.

It was made clear that the Council could not give a view on these proposals at this stage. However, there was a general feeling in favour of a use being found for these buildings which retained as much as possible of the existing character and fabric. Mr Greenwood undertook to provide further information in due course on these proposals once more detailed work had been undertaken.

(ii) Croucheston Farm

MRA reported that there had been no developments since the Council had submitted further representations on 19 August on the planning application to create ponds at Croucheston Farm. Cllr Green said that it was her understanding that Wiltshire Council Officers were minded to grant permission because the Environment Agency had not objected. MRA pointed out that the content of the latest letter from the EA hardly amounted to one of "no objection". They had said that the scheme could not be implemented satisfactorily with the proposed level of abstraction of water from the river and that permission would not be granted for a higher level of abstraction because that would have negative environmental consequences. It was made clear that in the absence of any clarity about how the scheme could be implemented and what the environmental consequences would be, the Council would maintain its objection to the proposals. Cllr Green said she would consider further and if necessary ask for the application to be decided by the South Area Planning Committee (*post meeting note: this has now been done*).

(iii) Bankside

There was a short discussion of the planning application to convert the existing storage building in front of Bankside, The Alley, into a residential annex. Whilst it was felt that the design could be improved it was decided not to object to this proposal, subject to a condition preventing the building becoming a separate dwelling.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting on 11th July 2013.

No matters of accuracy were raised in relation to the minutes of the meeting on 11th July 2013. AJT proposed that they be approved, this was seconded by GRB and agreed.

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

(i) Co-option of Councillors

MRA said that three people: Mrs Anita Smith, Mr Christopher Goodfellow and Mr Steve Tatner had put their names forward to fill the two vacancies on the Council. A ballot was conducted amongst the Councillors present and it was agreed that Mrs Smith and Mr Tatner should be co-opted. They will take their places at the next meeting. Mr Goodfellow was thanked for his interest.

(ii) Housing Needs Survey

MRA said that it was agreed at the last meeting, following the presentation by Ms StJohn-James of Wiltshire Council, that Councillors would look at examples of surveys done elsewhere and decide at this meeting whether to proceed. It was agreed that it was important to know the facts as to those in housing need in the village. AJT proposed that Wiltshire Council should be asked to undertake a survey, this was seconded by JHST and agreed.

(iii) Whitlock Rise Car Park

Mr Bundy said that the quality of the work undertaken by Wiltshire Council on renovating the car park was not acceptable. The lower third of the land had been left as a grassed area, which became a quagmire in winter, and the drains had been left blocked. MRA said that he had already taken up the matter of the drains with Wiltshire Council. There was also a matter of the broken down fence on the west side of the car park. It was known that Wiltshire Council was unwilling to do further work here and it was suggested that someone from the village with a digger should undertake the work. However, it was agreed that further representations would be made to Wiltshire Council first to get the surfacing extended and the fence replaced (*post meeting note: Wiltshire Council has agreed to extend the surface of the car park and to liaise with the adjacent landowner about work to the fence*). It was also agreed that BPC would write to all residents about not parking in the turning circle at the end of Whitlock Rise.

(iv) Bench refurbishment

MRA asked for approval to pay Mr Jon Kington for work he was undertaking to refurbish three public benches in the parish. This was proposed by NTB and seconded by GRB.

(v) Emergency Planning

It had been agreed that consideration would be given at this meeting to the need for an Emergency Plan – particularly in relation to flooding. MRA said that he had available Government guidance on the content of emergency plans. NRB volunteered to have a look at that and to recommend what needed to be done.

(vi) Action Plan

Whilst some items on the Action Plan list remained to be progressed (see AP attached to these minutes) AJT reported that action to clear overhanging branches at the bus stop were now in hand and MRA reported that arrangements were now being made for the village to use the additional Speed Indicator Device that had been made available in the SWWAB area.

MRA said that he had followed up the discussion at the last meeting about a possible Community Asset Transfer of ownership of the Garden Extensions in The Styles from Wiltshire Council to BPC, thus facilitating the letting of allotments. Whilst Wiltshire Council had initially indicated a positive response to this suggestion this had now been withdrawn. As the land is held for use for housing any disposal would

need to be at housing value rather than for a nominal sum. However, discussions are continuing as to whether it would be possible for BPC to lease the land and then sub-let to allotment holders. MRA would report further in due course.

6. Public Question Time.

Mr Bundy raised the matter of the amount of litter, including bottles and cans, that is being left in the Children's Play Area. It was agreed to include an item about this in October's edition of STaB and PCSO Moss said that she would also keep an eye on the use being made of that area.

7. Report from Cllr Jose Green and PCSO Jenny Moss

Cllr Green said that Wiltshire Council's business plan had been agreed. The next meeting of the SWWAB would be on 16 October and would be attended by Jane Scott, Council Leader. There is a new initiative to "de-clutter" road signs. Parish Councils are being asked to nominate signs for removal that are not needed.

PCSO Jenny Moss said that there was a continuing problem of burglaries from sheds and outbuildings. She could only urge that householders made sure that their premises are secure.

8. Chairman's Items

JHST did not raise any matters.

9. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that there had been a useful visit to the parish by Wiltshire Council's Highways and Street Scene Co-ordinator and priorities had been agreed for works to repair potholes, clear drains etc. It had also been agreed to request the provision of warning signs on the C12 of the junction with Flamstone St.

Under Wiltshire Council's new Highway and Streetscene contract parish councils are able to request that Wiltshire Council provides staff and equipment to assist in community improvement activity on "Community Days". Services provided during a Community Day might include: grass cutting, litter collection, graffiti removal, pothole filling, hedge cutting and other maintenance services. Under these arrangements a team provided by the contractors working for Wiltshire Council will work in partnership with local volunteer groups to deliver pre-defined tasks. The council can offer advice and provide litter picking equipment, personal protective equipment, bags, and fluorescent vests to aid community groups. The number of Community Days available are limited, with priority being given to community activities that offer the maximum benefit to their areas. It was agreed to include an item in STaB seeking volunteers to participate in a Community Day in Bishopstone.

MRA said that a letter had been received from the Chris Brown Day Centre seeking financial contributions from Parish Councils in lieu of a grant from Wiltshire Council that was being withdrawn due to cuts in services. The BPC budget made no provision for a grant to the CBDC this year but a small contribution of £100 could be afforded from the Donations budget. This was proposed by AJT, seconded by NRB

and agreed.

10. C12 Speed Review

MRA reported that the consultant's report on the review of speed limits on the C12 (Broad Chalke Road/High Road) had recommended no change with regard to the road west from the village. The only change they proposed related to the imposition of a 50mph limit (instead of the national limit of 60mph) on the stretch of road east from Portfield Rd to Coombe Bissett. The Parish Council had previously made clear to Wiltshire Council that the 30mph limit should start to the west of the White Hart, so covering the junction with Butt Lane, the new pedestrian crossing by the bus stop and the junctions with The Croft and Harvest Lane; and that the 40mph limit should start west of the Flamstone St junction.

It was agreed that the response to the consultation on the review should be to continue to press for these changes. It is clear that in reaching their conclusions the consultants placed overwhelming weight on the number of recorded (ie reported to the police) collisions involving injury and took no account of other factors such as the almost daily incidence of near misses, minor shunts etc which have costs and which reduce the quality of life for residents. Some of the data used by the consultants also appears to be incorrect. It was agreed to include an item in October's STaB asking for information on damage only accidents that could be included in the response to Wiltshire Council.

Mr Stockton raised the issue of speeding in Harvest Lane by commercial vehicles visiting Crouchston Farm. It was agreed to ask Wiltshire Council whether it would be possible to conduct a metro count in the lane.

11. Capital Projects/Use of R2 Money

MRA said that £4,366 of R2 money was available to spend on recreation facilities. This could include repair of the fencing on the Recreation Field, but not expenditure on reinstating the toilets. He had received representations from villagers for additional equipment to be provided in the Children's Play Area – particularly and enclosed space for young children and a basketball hoop for older children. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate options for play equipment and bring costed proposals to the next meeting. The chain link fencing fronting the road should be replaced and the Clerk was authorized to obtain quotes, make a claim from Wiltshire Council under the R2 policy based on the best price and to proceed as soon as possible. This was proposed by NTB, seconded by AJT and agreed.

MRA said that a proper survey by qualified engineers was required of the state of the toilets and related septic tank as a basis for costing of any works. It was agreed that MRA would arrange.

12. Approval of Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

MRA said that it was important that the Council had sound governance documents. He had circulated to Councillors revised and updated drafts of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. These would replace ones that dated back to 1998. If agreed these would be placed in the Parish Council section of the village website. There were no comments on the drafts and JHST proposed and NRB seconded their

adoption. This was agreed.

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

There were none.

14. Date, location and time of next meeting.

Following a short discussion it was agreed to return to the practice of starting Parish Council meetings at 7.30pm in the Winter. The next meeting is on Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 12th September 2013**

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Possible data protection issue to be considered before an "e-mail alert system" is proposed in STaB.	MRA	
Future of pub to be discussed with landlord.	MRA	
Branches on tree by bus stop to be trimmed.	AJT	✓
Meeting to be arranged re the siting of a SID.	MRA	✓
Wiltshire Council to be contacted re possible CAT of land in The Styles.	MRA	✓
Wiltshire Council to be asked to undertake a Housing Needs Survey	MRA	
Letter to be written to residents of Whitlock Rise about not parking in the turn round.	JHST	
Consideration of possible content of an Emergency Plan.	NTB	
Include in STaB item on litter in Children's Play Area.	MRA	
Include in STaB item on Community Days.	MRA	
Include item in STaB on the C12 Speed review seeking information to support response to consultation.	MRA	
Options for new recreation equipment to be investigated.	MRA	
Recreation Field fencing to be replaced using R2 money.	MRA	
Survey of toilets to be undertaken and estimate of likely costs to be obtained.	MRA	
Wiltshire Council to be asked to conduct a metro count in Harvest Lane.	MRA	