

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall, Bishopstone
Thursday 8th November 2012 at 7.30 pm.

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : Major JHS Thompson (JHST) Chairman
Mrs L Williams (LHW), Vice Chairman
A Thorne (AJT)
G Brutton (GRB)
N Barter (NTB)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Mrs N Clarke
Mr R Clarke
Mr M Bundy
Mrs A Stutchbury
Mr N Mead
Cllr Jose Green
PC Pete Yung
PCSO Jenny Moss

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Lovering.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no additional declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

3. Approve Minutes of the Meeting on 13th September 2012.

AJT proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2012 be approved. This was seconded by GRB. The minutes were agreed.

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

Action Points completed since the last meeting and on-going are as noted in the list attached to these minutes.

LHW said that no further progress had been made with the idea of an improved footpath to Stoke Farthing to enable children to cycle to school. Discussion with the farmer concerned would continue shortly. A question was raised about whether, in fact, a footpath could be used as a cycle way and MRA undertook to check the position.

MRA said that action was needed in respect of the recreation ground toilet block and that this should be discussed under Item 8 - Finance Update.

It was noted that work on the Picnic Field stile and the field entrance opposite School

House was scheduled to begin in the week beginning 12 November. The drain in Pitts Lane had been repaired by Wiltshire Council, though there were on-going issues about the re-surfacing which residents were pursuing. Work to repair and restore the two wooden bus shelters in the village had been completed to the satisfaction of all. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council to Dave Bartlett (the contractor) and to Cllr Brutton for overseeing the work on behalf of the Council.

5. Public Question Time.

Mrs Stutchbury thanked the Council for the grant it had made to enable the Jubilee Village Photo Project to go ahead. More than 300 people had attended the public exhibition of the photos in the Village Hall and there was heavy demand for the printed album. It was agreed that this had been a very worthwhile project, which had added to the village archive. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council to Mrs Stutchbury for organizing the whole project.

Mr Bundy raised the matter of inconsiderate parking in the turning bay at the end of Whitlock Rise and in the road itself. He asked whether the Parish Council might raise this matter with Wiltshire Council as it appeared that one of their tenants might mainly be responsible. He was also concerned that the grit bin had not been re-filled. MRA said he would contact Wiltshire Council about these matters. Mr Bundy also expressed renewed concern about parking in the bus lay-by opposite Pitts Lane. This caused danger to passengers trying to stop and enter buses in the main roadway. It was agreed to have a campaign in STaB to try to discourage this parking.

6. Report by Cllr Jose Green

Cllr Jose Green said that she was pleased that Mr Michael Heseltine, in his recent report to the Government on how to stimulate growth in the economy had praised Wiltshire Council as a model of efficiency. County Hall had now re-opened in Trowbridge. Salisbury town centre had been awarded a Purple Flag as a safe and attractive shopping experience.

7. Report by PC Pete Jung

PC Yung provided an update on recent incidents in the area. A major success had been the arrest of poachers around the area of Chalk Pitt.

8. Chairman's announcements

JHST said that the problem of access to the Recreation Field for those involved in the soccer coaching on Saturday's and the matches and practice by Dinton U16s had been resolved. AJT said that he was concerned if cars were brought into the field after periods of heavy rain. It was agreed that the Clerk should remind users that they should park cars on the eastern side of the field, which was generally drier, and not bring them onto the field at all if there was a danger of cutting up the surface.

JHST expressed his personal view that the appointment of Police Commissioners was a misguided policy. However, he urged people to exercise their vote. He was concerned about the lack of information provided in connection with the election.

9. Parish Clerk's Report

Parish Plan

MRA said that a successful meeting to discuss a possible village plan had been held on 18th October. More than 35 people had attended. A full report of the meeting had been published in November's STaB and was available on the village website. The consensus seemed to be that it would be desirable to prepare a Parish Plan which would incorporate a Village Design Statement covering detailed planning policies for the village. Eight people had put their names forward for a working group. He hoped that further names would be added as a result of the appeal in STaB and a meeting would then be arranged.

Finances etc

MRA said that once outstanding invoices had been settled the balance of the Council's finances would be £6409. This compared with £8507 at this time in 2011. The lower figure was a result of support for the Jubilee celebrations and works to the bus shelters. In addition R2 money was available totaling £4366. It was against this background that consideration should be given to what might be done to refurbish the toilets on the Recreation Field. AJT said that he had asked the builder who had built the toilets originally to take a look at what might need to be done. It was agreed that an indication was needed of possible costs so that decisions could be taken on the way forward. If the work appeared affordable a specification could then be drawn up and tenders invited.

MRA said it was also necessary to give further consideration to the funding of the Saturday football coaching. It had been agreed at the last meeting to continue funding in the short term and to take stock at this meeting. Whilst the organizers had agreed to seek higher levels of parental contributions towards the costs it was likely that funding of around £150 a month would continue to be required from the Parish Council. Over 10 months this would result in a grant of more than that given to the PCC and the Village Hall combined. It was agreed that this was not affordable given the current small precept. It was likely that there would be strong pressure by the Government on local authorities not to increase precepts this year. Cllr Green suggested that an application might be made to the SWWAB for a grant under the Youth Projects scheme. MRA said he would discuss this with the organizers.

Bus Shelters

Three tenders had been received for the renovation of the two wooden bus shelters in the village. The tendering process had been overseen by GRB and, with the agreement of the Chairman, the lowest tender, of £1800 plus materials, from David Bartlett had been agreed. MRA asked that the Council formally approve the action taken and the first interim payment of £1223.38 which had been made in October. This was proposed by NTB, seconded by AJT and agreed.

Play Area Safety Inspection

MRA reported that the annual safety inspection of the children's play area had been completed. It raised no serious matters of concern but recommended action in relation to overhanging branches and broken down fences on the road frontage. There were a number of minor recommendations for maintenance and repairs. AJT said that he would arrange for action to be taken as required.

Current Invoices

MRA sought authority to pay the following invoices:

Community First £9.44 (Parish Plan Toolkit)
 Footballs Kool £147.00 (soccer coaching for October)
 D Bartlett £1371.22 (second payment on bus shelter works)
 Playsafety £75.60 (playground safety inspection)

NTB proposed that these payments be made, seconded by AJT. This was agreed.

9. Surfacing of footpath to The Croft

MRA said that an issue had arisen about the muddy surface of a short length of footpath between The Croft and the Village Hall car park. This path was heavily used by villagers. Ownership of the path was unclear. Residents in The Croft had suggested that the Council might purchase a bag of gravel which they, the residents, would undertake to spread. After a short discussion it was proposed by GRB that these materials be purchased. This was seconded by LHW and agreed.

10. Emergency Planning Arrangements in Bishopstone

MRA reported that Wiltshire Council had written to all Parish Council's requesting a copy of their Emergency Plan, and suggesting that one be put in place if it didn't already exist. In discussion it was considered that the risk of a major incident in Bishopstone was quite low. Some properties might be at risk of flooding in very serious conditions but this had been easily dealt with in the past. It was agreed that the Clerk should consider further when time permitted. It was not an immediate priority.

11. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider. MRA reported that Wiltshire Council had approved application S/2012/1221 – Orchard House: to enlarge existing wildlife pond and install timber pontoon.

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

GRB asked what the position was now on the new right of communities to have community assets listed so that, should they be put up for sale the community would have a right of first refusal. MRA said that he would investigate and report.

He also suggested that there should be a system of "e-mail alerts" in the village so that everyone with an e-mail box received reminders about events etc. MRA said that such a system was already in operation for booking for Village Hall events but that it had proved difficult to get people to give their e-mail addresses. It was agreed to raise this matter in STaB to see what level of interest there was, though it probably depended more on face to face contact.

LHW asked whether the arrangement whereby Parish Council meetings started at 7.30pm in Winter could be reconsidered. She declared an interest in being able to get her children to bed before coming to a meeting! It was agreed to change to an 8.00pm start through the year.

Date, location and time of next meeting

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th January 2013 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed as an accurate record:

.....

Chairman

Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 8th November 2012**

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Find replacement parts for post cappings on train in children's play area.	MRA/AJT	
Options for refurbishment of recreation ground toilet block to be identified for consideration. Estimate of likely costs to be obtained.	JHST/AJT/MRA	
Discuss with Highways Dept/Parish Steward and landowner maintenance of land by bridge in Faulstone Lane.	MRA	
Broadchalke Parish Council to be contacted to discuss the possibility of surfacing of the path from Crouchston to Stoke Farthing so that it could be used by school children as a cycle route. Whether the path could be used as a cycleway to be checked.	LHW/MRA	
Letter to be written to the relevant Housing Manager about ant-social behaviour in Whitlock Rise.	MRA	
Wiltshire Council to be reminded to fill grit bin in Whitlock Rise.	MRA	
Further item to be included in STaB re parking in the bus lay-by.	MRA	
Users of the Recreation Field to be reminded not to bring cars into the field if the surface is soft and might cut up.	MRA	
Application to be made for SWWAB Youth Project grant to fund Saturday morning soccer training in 2013.	MRA	
Follow up action to be taken on Playground Safety Report.	AJT	
Bag of gravel to be purchased for re-surfacing footpath to The Croft.	MRA	
Current position on right to acquire community assets to be determined.	MRA	
Possible "e-mail alert system" to be proposed in STaB.	MRA	