

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall, Bishopstone
Thursday 9th January 2014 at 7.30 pm.

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : Major JHS Thompson (JHST) Chairman
 N Barter (NTB)
 A Thorne (AJT)
 J Gibbon (JG)
 S Tatner (ST)
 Mrs A Smith (AS)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Cllr Jose Green (Wiltshire Council)
 PC P Jung

J Kington	R Stockton	S Porter
T Steel	P Stockton	
C Goodfellow	D Wass	
R Brough	D Hallett	
N McCarthy	Lady Cobham	
J McCarthy	C Ash	
T Mills	M Bundy	

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Brutton.

2. Declarations of interest

All Councillors attending applied for a dispensation to discuss and vote on Item 11 on the Agenda – Budget and Precept for 2014/15. JHST proposed that the dispensations be granted. This was seconded by AJT and agreed.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting on 14th November 2013.

No matters of accuracy were raised in relation to the minutes of the meeting on 14th November 2013. AJT proposed that they be approved, this was seconded by JG and agreed.

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

All matters arising from the minutes were contained in the Action Plan. Whilst some items on the Action Plan list remained to be progressed (see AP attached to these minutes) good progress had been made with others. The only Action Plan point not covered elsewhere on the agenda was that to investigate the ownership of the

amenity land in Faulston Lane. MRA reported that he had written to the trustees of Faulston Estate and that a reply was awaited.

5. Public Question Time.

Several members of the public expressed concern about the preparedness of the Parish Council to deal with the flooding which had affected the village over Christmas and the New Year. No sand or sandbags were immediately available. Wiltshire Council had been slow to close roads that were flooded and vehicles driving through flood water had exacerbated flooding in property. Several properties had been flooded. The problem was not just flooding from the river, but groundwater springs and run off from the higher ground. The latter was a particular problem in Crouchston and, for the future, there would be a need to look at the adequacy of drains and drainage ditches. Trish Steel said she was disappointed by the lack of community spirit, with only a small number of, relatively elderly, people trying to help those affected by flooding. More rapid progress needed to be made with the preparation of a formal Emergency Plan for the village. Among other things the plan would need to identify dry storage for materials such as sand and a list of volunteers, and equipment, to deploy in any emergency. R Stockton volunteered to assist in the preparation of the plan.

MRA pointed out that the primary responsibility for preventing damage to property lay with homeowners. The Chairman had managed to get hold of some sandbags and sand fairly quickly, and since then, supplies had been made available at the Fishing Lodge in Bridge Lane. This supply had been refreshed twice since the emergency began. However, the provision of sand and sandbags was essentially for use by those unable to help themselves. The Parish Council had also pressed Wiltshire Council for roads to be closed where the flooding was worst. Work had begun on the preparation of a formal Emergency Plan but this needed to be accelerated. A separate meeting should be held to discuss this. *[Post meeting note: to be held on 10 February 2014.]*

C Goodfellow raised the matter of the timetables available at the bus stops. These were out of date. AS said that there was also a problem of erratic service, with some scheduled buses not running. MRA would write to the bus company about this.

6. Report from Cllr Jose Green

Cllr Green referred to forthcoming meetings about the South West Wiltshire Public Rights of Way Improvement Programme on 16 January and the SWW Area Board on 5 February, which would focus on youth projects.

“Spinners”, for attachment to 4x4 vehicles to spread road salt were being made available and it was agreed that Cllr Thorne would contact those concerned to see if one could be made available to use in Bishopstone. In discussion it was agreed to investigate the provision of additional grit bins. Wiltshire Council had failed to deliver the additional one tonne bag of grit for use in the village and MRA would chase them up.

A paper on 20mph speed limits had been agreed by Cabinet and was available on the Wiltshire Council website.

7. Chairman's Items

JHST said that his items had been covered in the discussion in Public Question Time.

8. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that there were two cheques to be signed:

- the £200 donation previously agreed to be paid to the group producing the Bishopstone Plan;
- a £10 contribution to the cost of the Remembrance Sunday wreath.

MRA also reported that he had spent £119.26 on sand and sand bags and a further invoice was awaited for £129.28. He asked that the Council approve this expenditure. It was also necessary, in due course, to compensate Mr R Brough and Mrs B Turvey who had donated materials as part of the initial response to the flooding.

NTB moved that these payments be made, and that approval in principle be given to the anticipated expenditure related to flooding that had been set out. This was seconded by JG and agreed.

MRA said that the application had been submitted for the White Hart pub to be included on the list of "assets of community value" under the Localism Act. This would mean that should the owners wish to dispose of the building for a use other than as a pub the community in Bishopstone would have 6 months to mount a bid to buy it. A decision by Wiltshire Council on whether to list the pub will be made by 7th February.

Funding had now been secured for a practice basketball court to be provided on the Recreation Field. This follows a request from a number of young people in the village. There will be a small area of hard surfacing together with a single basketball post, backboard, ring and net. The R2 money due to expire later in January had been reserved for this project. It would now be necessary to get quotes for the provision of a small area of hard surfacing. He would discuss with AJT where that would go.

The field in Church Lane/Mill Lane, variously known as the Picnic or Mac's Field, had been acquired by Mr Robert Jones, who lives in the village. He had indicated that the riverside will be reserved for fishing, but the rest of the meadow will remain available, as previously, to be enjoyed by the village. He hoped to encourage the wildflower content of the meadow. New guidelines on the use of the meadow are being agreed and will be made available on the village website.

Concern had been expressed by a villager about the number of vehicles, commercial and private, that were using the village back roads whilst lost. It was suggested that there should be additional signage on the main road making it clear that there was no through road. Following a short discussion it was agreed that additional signs

would not deter people who were being misdirected by sat-navs. It was also felt that additional signs were undesirable

9. Bishopstone Housing Needs Survey.

MRA said that the draft report of the Bishopstone Housing Needs Survey had been received from Wiltshire Council. A short paper (BPC/01/14 attached to these minutes), which summarised the results, had been circulated. There had been a very high response rate – with half the village returning forms. This is much more than such surveys usually achieve. The report set out a great deal of useful information about the village. 73% of respondents considered that additional housing was necessary in the village and Wiltshire Council's analysis of the data indicated that 10 new homes for rent or low cost/shared ownership are required for people with a local connection. Any comments that Councillors might have on the draft report would be forwarded to Wiltshire Council. The report would then be finalised. Normally the next step would be for registered providers (Housing Associations) to indicate an interest in taking forward a development in the village and to begin discussing potential sites with the Parish Council. However, the Bishopstone Plan group had been established to draft a community plan for the village. Future development in the village would be considered in that context and he recommended that the report be remitted to the group to be taken into account in drafting the plan.

In discussion it was indicated that every effort should be made to ensure that any housing provided for local needs remained available for that purpose. It was also desirable to discuss with farmers their needs for agricultural workers accommodation.

There were no drafting comments on the survey report. JG proposed that it be remitted to the Bishopstone Plan Steering Group, this was seconded by NTB and agreed.

10. Lease of the Garden Plots in The Styles

MRA said that a draft lease has been received from Wiltshire Council for the leasing of the "garden extensions" land in The Styles to the Parish Council so that it can be sub-let as garden plots to villagers. A short paper (BPC/02/14 – attached to these minutes) had been circulated summarising the position. Mr M Ricketts had now reviewed the draft and had advised that certain amendments should be proposed. These matters would be taken up with Wiltshire Council. It was hoped to resolve these quickly. MRA said that he would report to Councillors on Wiltshire's response. Subject to any further comments at that stage he asked that Councillors should authorize him to sign the lease on behalf of the Council. He also asked whether Councillors were content that he proceed as suggested in the paper as regards the approach to letting the plots.

JG proposed that the recommendations in paper BPC/02/14 be approved, this was seconded by JHST and agreed. JHST further proposed that a small gift be presented to Mr Rickett's, to thank him for his efforts on behalf of the Council. This was seconded by NTB and approved.

11. Budget and Precept for 2014/15

Paper BPC/03/14 (attached to these minutes) set out a report on expenditure in 2013/14, and a proposed budget and precept for 2014/15. MRA proposed, in accordance with the preliminary discussion at the meeting on 14th November, that the precept be set at the maximum level consistent with no increase in Council Tax at the Band D level. Taken together with the grant from Wiltshire Council this would produce income of £5470 for 2014/15. The paper set out a proposed budget for 2014/15 totalling £5450. This would mean small deductions in the amount of grants to some village organisations and budgets for maintenance etc more in line with actual expenditure in recent years.

AJT proposed that the recommendations set out in the paper be approved. This was seconded by JG and agreed.

12. Planning Matters

There were none.

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

Mr Kington raised the problem of getting Wiltshire Council’s Housing Services to deal with missing roof tiles to 5 The Styles. Rainwater was entering the property. It was agreed that MRA would take the matter up with the Repairs Manager.

14. Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of Bishopstone Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Thursday 13th March 2014 at 8.00pm. It will be preceded by the Annual Village Meeting at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 9th January 2014**

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	
Wiltshire Council to be requested to add the White Hart pub to the list of assets of community value.	MRA	✓
Notice to be included in STaB inviting expressions of interest in renting garden plots on land in The Styles.	MRA	✓
Letter to be written to residents of Whitlock Rise about not parking in the turn round.	JHST	
Options for new recreation equipment to be investigated.	MRA	✓
Survey of toilets to be undertaken and estimate of likely costs to be obtained.	MRA	
Highway damage at the corner of Faulston Lane to be pursued with Wiltshire Council.	MRA	✓
Ownership of the amenity land in Faulston Lane to be investigated.	MRA	
Draft Emergency Plan to be produced for agreement at a meeting convened for the purpose.	MRA	
Bus timetable and erratic running to be raised with Bus Company.	MRA	
Road salt spreading equipment to be investigated.	AJT	
Basketball project to be taken forward.	MRA	
New guidelines for Mac's Meadow to be posted on the village website.	MRA	
Comments on proposed Styles lease to be discussed with Wiltshire Council.	MRA	
Repairs to 5 The Styles to be taken up with Wiltshire Council.	MRA	