

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held using Zoom Video Conferencing
Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7.00pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : J Gibbon (JG) Chairman
A Thorne (AJT) Vice Chairman
N Barter (NTB)
G Brutton (GRB)
P Edwards (PE)
Mrs M Tatner (MT)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Cllr Jose Green
Mr R Stockton
Mr N Legh
Mr H Williams
Mrs C Ash

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Smith.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meetings on 3rd September and 29th October 2020.

AJT proposed that the minutes of the meetings on 3rd September and 29th October 2020 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by NTB and agreed.

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

MRA reported that the work to provide a new fence in Faulston Lane would begin in the next couple of weeks. Otherwise all matters arising from the minutes and in the Action Plan were covered by items on the agenda.

5. Public Forum

Cllr Jose Green gave a short report on Wiltshire Council matters. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Harry Williams asked the Parish Council to consider promoting a programme of tree planting in the parish. He said that there was much material available from the Woodland Trust on the benefits of increasing tree cover and on the species of trees that could be planted. It was pointed out that this would mainly be a matter of influencing landowners to undertake tree planting schemes. This matter would be brought forward for consideration at a future meeting.

6. Chairman's Items

The Chairman said that, despite optimistic claims about the availability of a vaccine, it is likely that restrictions on social and other activities will continue well into 2021. The work of the Emergency Planning Group in providing support for the community in Bishopstone had been widely recognized as exemplary and such support will continue to be required for some months yet. In order to better manage what could be a rapidly changing situation a more integrated approach was required to the consideration of when to restart activities in the village, to that end he would be inviting both the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Management Committee to nominate representatives to join the EPG.

7. Play Area Additional Equipment

MRA said that he had circulated a paper to Councillors on 13th October setting out proposals for additional equipment for the Children's Play Area. It was the unanimous view that the Council should go ahead with the Clamber Stack and Group Swing and accept the quote from Outdoor Play South West. As a result he had submitted an application to Wiltshire Council to draw down the remaining £3,410 s106 developer contributions. This was approved on 27th October. All that remained was for the Council to confirm the selection of the quote from OPSW and formally approve the proposed expenditure. The figure quoted in the paper was £15,938. However, an updated quote had been obtained from OPSW for £15,848. It is this figure that needs approval at the meeting. AJT proposed that this expenditure be approved, this was seconded by PE and agreed.

8. Play Area – Safety Inspection

MRA said that a copy of this year's ROSPA safety report had been circulated to Councillors. There are no matters reported with a High or Medium risk score. There are a few "remedial tasks" suggested in relation to Low Risk issues. It was recommended that the frames of the swings be painted. No mention had been made of the state of the Basketball Court, which they have reported on previously. He had discussed this with Cllr Brutton and it was considered that a proper weed proof membrane should be installed with a new surface. He therefore proposed to get quotes for maintenance of the swing frames and for remedial work to the Basketball Court and report further. PE said that consideration should also be given to a wider weed killing operation in the area around the basketball court.

9. Emergency Planning

Roger Stockton presented an update on the Community Fibre Project and on Emergency Planning. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. MRA said that he would contact Wiltshire Council again about the need to ensure that the Faulston Estate took responsibility for clearing the drains in Faulston Lane. On the issue of grit for use in icy weather Wiltshire Council

had suspended the usual PEAS arrangements for securing additional supplies. However he would contact them to see what could be made available.

Roger Stockton said that he would like to be able to hand over responsibility as Emergency Planning Co-ordinator after he had completed a review of the Emergency Plan in the new year. It was agreed to consider possible successors over the next few weeks.

10. Policies for Approval

(i) Grants Policy

MRA said he had circulated, on 11th September, a draft paper on Grants Procedure. He had received no comments on these proposals. PE proposed the adoption of this policy, this was seconded by NTB and approved.

(ii) Complaints Procedure Policy

MRA said he had circulated a draft Complaints Policy on 27th September, setting out the procedures to be followed in the event of a complaint against the Parish Council. He had received no comments on that draft policy. GRB proposed that this policy be adopted, this was seconded by MT and approved.

11. Financial Update together with Precept and Budget for 2021/22 including proposed annual grants in 2021/22.

MRA presented a paper (copy attached to these minutes) providing an update on the Council's finances, a draft budget, including proposed grants to village organisations, for 2021/22 and options for the Precept for 2021/22. He emphasized that the financial position of the Parish Council was strong, even after the considerable investment in the Children's Play Area proposed for the last part of 2020/21. It was likely that the balance of the Council's accounts at March 2021 would be of the order of £22,000. This was a high figure to be carried forward as a reserve.

The draft budget presented for 2021/22 was on similar lines to that in the current year, with a total spend likely of £5,000 - £6,000. It was against that background that the Precept and Budget for 2021/22 needed to be considered. The options put forward in the paper ranged from a zero Precept in 2021/22 to a nil increase on the current year.

GRB pointed out that the strong financial position was partly a result of the additional funding (£10,000) received in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic and it was desirable for members of the community to receive a direct benefit from this. MRA said that some of this money could be regarded as contributing to the investment in the Play Area. However, GRB suggested that a Christmas seasonal gift could be given to those in particular need in the village. The difficulty of defining appropriate recipients, and the short timetable for implementing such a proposal, were discussed at some length. It was concluded that the most equitable arrangement would be to adopt one of the options set out in the paper for a reduced Precept in 2021/22, that way every property in the village would benefit from a reduced level of Council Tax in that year. This would be reported in STaB.

NTB proposed that the Precept for 2021/22 should be set at £5,000 which would be half the level compared to the current year, meaning that a Band D property will pay about £17.00 next year

compared with £34.00 in 2020/21. This proposal was seconded by PE and agreed.

PE proposed the adoption of the draft budget for 2021/22 set out in the paper, including the proposed grants to village organisations. This proposal was seconded by MT and agreed.

12. Parish Clerk’s Report

MRA said that the issue of speeding on the back roads in the village had again been raised. As a result he had requested Wiltshire Council to undertake metro counts at five locations in the village: Flamstone Street, Butt Lane, Harvest Lane, Faulston Lane and Church Lane. He would report further when this had been done.

Concerns had been raised about the bus stop on the north side of the High Road opposite Church Lane. There was only a very small pavement surface by this bus stop and travellers standing there are at risk of spray from the road. It was agreed that MRA would raise this matter as an issue at CATG to see whether the paved area could be extended to mitigate the problem.

MRA presented the account of £82.20 from Playsafety Limited for the ROSPA inspection of the Play Area. MT proposed that this expenditure be approved, this was seconded by NTB and agreed.

13. Questions or statements from Councillors.

A question was raised about the response to the consultation on the planning application concerning revisions to the proposals for a replacement dwelling at The Stables, Croucheston. In particular, the issue of the re-location of the sewage treatment plant to the north side of the site, where any malfunction could result in pollution of the river and road. MRA said that the response to Wiltshire Council would raise that as a matter of concern.

14. Date, location and time of next meeting.

MRA said that the next meeting would be on 14th January 2021 at 7.00pm. Decisions would be taken nearer the time as to whether this would be an actual or virtual meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 12th November 2020

ACTION PLAN

| WHAT ACTION | BY WHOM | COMPLETED ✓ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Campaign to promote greater volunteering in the village. | PE | |
| Submission to be made to Openreach on CFP. | MRA/RS | ✓ |
| Quotes to be obtained for works to the basketball court and swing frames. | MRA | |
| Salt/grit supplies to be obtained from Wiltshire Council | MRA | |
| Consideration to be given to future Emergency Planning Co-ordinator | All | |
| Report to be produced following metro counts on back lanes. | MRA | |
| Submission to be made to CATG re extended pavement at bus stop near Church Lane | MRA | |

REPORT BY WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR MRS JOSE GREEN

Needless to say Covid 19 has had a huge impact on how Wiltshire Council is operating at present. Many are home working but committees are still working well through Microsoft Teams and Zoom. Planning decisions are made with the public able to contribute to the decision process as usual. Full Council also works well with the voting protocol being very efficient. Last week a live stream was online for anyone wanting to hear the latest on the pandemic in Wiltshire.

The mobile library service has ceased whilst we are in this second lockdown but the Household Recycling Centres are open, hopefully the bin collections will be reliably emptied but if staff need to self isolate alternative staff need to step in at the last minute so there could be delays. 8,000 Wiltshire businesses have been supported by discretionary grants and recently the Government sent a further £600k to help provide long-term accommodation for rough sleepers.

There are currently 12,500 people across Wiltshire on unemployment payment with 2,400 under 24 years old, we must do our utmost to reduce this number and we must all be aware of the mental health of all ages as these unprecedented weeks continue. Free school lunches are still available for children. £168k came down from Government to support those in self-isolation. The most recent figures on this is that there have been 180 applications but only 40 were eligible.

Wiltshire Council is encouraging parents with a child of 2 years on or before 31st December 2020 to apply for 15 hours of free childcare for 38 weeks of the year. Childcare, known as Better2gether Funding for parents on income support, ie.for parents on Universal Credit or a child who has an education, health and care plan.

Wiltshire Council has responded to the Government's white paper on 'Planning for the Future', it was debated fully; like many others there are concerns about maintaining democracy when planning applications are submitted. It is also proposed to increase the housing numbers from 42 thousand to 56 thousand in Wiltshire , although there are some 1 million houses across the UK that have permission but remain unbuilt, there should be some tougher pressure placed on those developers to commence building sooner rather than 'land banking' as some are inclined to do.

The SWW Area Board met on the 11th November where some priorities were beginning to be identified for Councillors to address over the next 3-5 years. These priorities very much influence what projects are supported by grant applications. I hope as many people as possible will respond to the emails that will be circulated to all PC's, businesses and organisations asking for their opinions.

Finally, there are 24 Support Groups in our Area and our sincere thanks go out to those volunteers who have given of their time during this exceptional situation. As it still continues please contact me if you need any further information for help.

We are all in this together!
Keep safe.
Best wishes, José.

**EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER
NOTES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 12 NOV 20**

COMMUNITY FIBRE PROJECT.

We submitted our registration of 71 properties in the western end of the village on 14 Sep 20. Once submitted you cannot alter until later in the process, therefore some folk who did not meet the application deadline have not been included.

In doing application I was able to see the download speeds that each property currently have and they range from 80Mb/s in Flamstone Street to 15Mb/s at Faulston Barns.

Dealing with Openreach is not easy. There is no means of asking questions about methodology or any other general queries.

There are also discrepancies in the BT/Openreach detail in as much as a couple of properties are listed as not being connected to the Broad Chalke exchange - one is (apparently) connected to Amesbury and the other to Brockenhurst - so that perhaps gives you an indication of some of the complexities.

That said we received an acknowledgement of receipt of our application on 2 Nov and the discrepancies mentioned above were highlighted in an email reply also querying timescale of the process and whether there was anyway of asking questions about the process.

On 11 Nov they were emailed again updating the situation with regard to the property linked to the Amesbury exchange and the fact that BT were (again apparently) intending to reconnect to Broad Chalke.

Finally you may like to know that Stoke Farthing do have Superfast broadband that it FTTP. How did they get it is a mystery, other than the fact that they are possibly an isolated hamlet off the main line along the High Road from Broad Chalke. The full fibre line goes as far as Ronnie Butler's house, some 700m from Flamstone Street.

I have no idea when we will receive the cost estimate, I have no idea how much they will quote and there are a range of other questions that are unanswered.

Welcome to the standards of a major UK telecommunications company!

EMERGENCY PLANNING

PANDEMIC.

New lockdown restrictions wef 5 Nov through to 2 Dec. The rules are quite straightforward and stipulate:

Stay at home, except for specific purpose

Avoid meeting people you do not live with, except for specific purposes

Close certain businesses and venues

For those of you using the NHS Covid 19 App the SP5 area risk level has been designated as HIGH since last week

Definition of HIGH is that our local authority or a neighbouring local authority is using additional measures to those in the rest of England (eg lockdown) to reduce transmission of infection

because of the high levels of infection in the local area.

The guidance on the New National Restrictions from 5 November are on the Gov.UK website and I recommend that you as Parish Councillors look at them and be cognisant with them.

(General meetings for support groups is 15, funerals 30, linked ceremonial events 15 people, weddings 6 people.)

Of key concern to the EPG is the protection of our population. We can only do that by giving sensible advice and hoping that villagers use common sense.

Why? Bishopstone has a high proportion of elderly people and our aim is to protect them and the clinically vulnerable. No repeat of 1348!!

Clinically vulnerable are:

- 70 and over
- Under 70 with underlying health conditions - categorised simply by anyone under 70 who is instructed to have an annual flu jab on medical grounds
- Pregnant

There are also Clinically Extremely Vulnerable - people with specific serious health conditions. They really should not be going anywhere. Again we have several in this category.

FLOODING.

Winter approaches! Therefore it is time for ditch and drain clearance and river clearance by riparian owners. **STAB**

We have already had bouts of heavy rainfall. Almost twice the average in Oct 172mm v 92mm average.

0.20 m v 0.60m at Ebbesbourne Wake.
7m below flood level at Windwhistle.

Concerns

No action on the grips and ditches in Faulston Lane.

Wiltshire council holding a Flood Conference - organisational muddle.

SNOW AND ICE.

Salt?