

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held using Zoom Video Conferencing
Thursday 14th January 2021 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: Mr R Stockton
Mr H Williams
Mrs C Ash
Mrs P Abbott
Mr R Abbott

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 meeting on 12th November 2020.

GRB proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 12th November 2020 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by AJT and agreed.

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

MRA reported that the work to provide a new fence in Faulston Lane had again been delayed but would begin soon. AJT confirmed that he had received a delivery of road grit from Wiltshire Council. Otherwise all matters in the Action Plan were covered by items on the agenda.

5. Chairman's Items

The Chairman reminded the meeting that elections were due on 6th May 2021. MRA said that a statement had been made by the Government the day before indicating that these elections will go ahead, but the matter would be kept under review. All Councillors indicated that they were

mindful to stand again, subject to any younger villagers coming forward and willing to serve. MRA said that he would include a notice about the election in the forthcoming edition of STaB.

6. Superfast Broadband.

Roger Stockton presented a report on the scheme to bring Superfast Broadband services to the western end of the village. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Roger indicated that he would now be stepping back from active involvement in the project. A small team of volunteers had been recruited who would now take the project forward. The Chairman thanked Roger for all the work he had done on this issue.

7. Public Forum and Tree Planting in the Village.

Consideration was given to the issue raised by Harry Williams at the meeting in November concerning the need to encourage more tree planting in the village. It was recognised that the Government has set a target of establishing 30,000 ha of new woodland in England by 2025 as part of its strategy to combat climate change. At a more local scale, there has been a net loss of trees in the village over the last few years as a result of infection (eg Ash die-back), and the fact that many trees have reached maturity and become dangerous. Tree planting could have a role to play in mitigating the threat of flooding from the River Ebbles. AJT said that under the Government's revised arrangements to encourage "greening" by farmers, new areas of woodland are already being planted in the village. Roger Stockton said that the poplar trees in The Wilderness by Faulston Bridge were coming to the end of their life and perhaps Faulston Estate could be approached to suggest replacement planting. Harry Williams suggested that willow trees should be planted along the river. It was agreed to consider further options for tree planting in the unused corner of the Recreation Field and to mount a campaign to encourage replacement tree planting more widely in the village.

No other matters were raised.

8. Emergency Planning.

Roger Stockton said he was completing an update of the Village Emergency Plan preparatory to handing over to a new Emergency Planning Officer. The question of who would take over from him was being pursued. Michael Pratt had agreed to take over from Chris Sexton as the Flood Warden (East). The emergency equipment had been tested and additional items purchased.

On Covid-19 he said that two families in the village were now self-isolating following positive tests. A large number of those over 80 years old had now received the vaccine.

Cllr Gibbon thanked Roger for all that he had done over the years to put in place emergency response arrangements in the village.

9. Parish Clerk's Report

MRA said that the work to install the new Play Area equipment was scheduled for early March, but this would depend on the situation at that time. He and Cllr Thorne had met Dan Williams of OPSW and agreed the locations for the new Clamber Stack and Group Swing.

He had raised the issue of the bus stop on the north side of the High Road opposite Church Lane at the Community Area Transport Group. There was only a very small pavement surface by this bus stop and travellers standing there are at risk of spray from the road. Extending the paved area back from the road is difficult given the slope and the lack of space in the highway land. If wooden piles were put in the most that could be gained is about 50cm. Such works would also be expensive. AJT said that the stop was mainly used by school children and they were now being picked up at the field gate further along the road, where they could stand further back. It was agreed that no further action was possible.

MRA said that, following consultation with Councillors, it seemed sensible to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for early March. It was difficult to hold larger meetings such as this remotely. A note about this would be included in February's STaB.

MRA presented a short report on the meeting of the South West Area Board that had taken place the night before. Issues raised had been:

- whether static speed cameras should be reinstated in Wiltshire. This was unlikely due to continued funding difficulties.
- the Police and Crime Commissioner precept for 2021/22 was proposed to be increased by £15 a year for a Band D property. This would enable the recruitment of a further 48 officers.
- the problem of fly tipping, particularly when this extended onto private land, eg in farm gateways. Wiltshire Council would not clear this material as it had no right of entry and because it would set a costly precedent to take responsibility in place of landowners.
- there was a presentation about the Census on 21st March.

On the Census he said that it was intended that all returns should be made on-line. Instructions, with access codes for the return, will be delivered through the post. Inevitably there will be those who will have difficulty with these arrangements and it will be important for families and friends to help where needed. Help will also be available over the telephone and it will be possible to opt to submit a paper version of the questionnaire.

MRA presented invoices for:

Parish Online Mapping (Annual Subscription)	£36.00
Village Hall Hire	£55.00
Clerk's Expenses	£150.87

AJT proposed that these payments be made, this was seconded by MT and agreed.

10. Questions or statements from Councillors.

No matters were raised.

14. Date, location and time of next meeting.

MRA said that the next meeting would be on 11th March 2021 at 7.00pm using Zoom video conferencing.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 14th January 2021****ACTION PLAN**

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Campaign to promote greater volunteering in the village.	PE	
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	✓

BISHOPSTONE SUPERFAST BROADBAND PROJECT

WHAT DID WE DO?

In October's STaB we reported on progress with the Community Fibre Partnership Openreach Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) scheme to introduce faster broadband to the western end of the village. The eastern end of the village is already served by FTTP.

We had requested property owners to contact us if they wished to participate in the scheme. Some 71 properties registered an interest, 10 of which were classified in our application as businesses.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

In the days before Christmas we had a response from Openreach proposing a FTTP project in the village. The budgetary cost of such a scheme would be £76,283.00.

As reported previously, grants are available of £1500 for a private property and £3500 for a business to help meet the costs of CFP projects. Therefore, in theory, if all the properties that have registered an interest sign up, the grant scheme will cover the budgetary cost of the project.

NOW WHAT?

Our current perception is that the budgetary estimate is likely to increase as Openreach carry out more detailed ground surveys. With this in mind we request that anyone who has not registered an interest in the scheme and would now like to be included should contact the Parish Clerk, with details of their name, address and phone number as soon as possible. This will allow us to amend our input to the Community Grant Scheme and have more funding available.

All those who have registered an interest will be contacted in the near future to seek their agreement to formally take up the offer of inclusion in the scheme.

ARE THERE ANY COMMITMENTS IF I SIGN UP?

If you do take up the offer there is an obligation to sign up to a download speed of a minimum of twice that currently received by the property. So a household or business currently receiving 40Mbps would be required to sign up to a download rate of 80Mbps for a period of 12 months from installation.

The average speed throughout the village is 35-40Mbps, with higher speeds of about 80Mbps and speeds of only 12-15Mbps in outlying areas.

COST?

The cost to participants of the faster service will depend on who your supplier is, and the speed selected. In next month's STaB we hope to have some cost comparisons for upgrading from the four suppliers in this area - BT, Sky, Virgin and TalkTalk.

WHY WOULD I WANT A FASTER SPEED?

As we have found out during Covid lockdowns we are evermore dependent on fast broadband speeds, be it for conference calls, downloading of data, films or games, internet services such as Netflix, SkyQ, Ring door bell, Xbox or security cameras.

FTTP delivers faster speeds that can be guaranteed, no loss of speed at peak times (e.g. homework time).

Unfortunately it is also a fact of life today that data fills the available space. Programmes are becoming exponentially more complex, with more detail, clarity and content. This alone is an excellent reason to sign up.

The differences between FTTC (our current system) and FTTP can be found at: www.OpenreachADSL/FTTC/FTTP explained.

HOW DISRUPTIVE WILL INSTALLATION BE?

The new fibre for FTTP is usually delivered via existing poles and ducts and will come using the current route.

WHAT NEXT?

We can still add properties to the scheme - however please be quick. Once we have a Final Offer from Openreach that will be a confirmed price and when a contract is signed, in our case this is expected to be by the Parish Council who would be the Legal Entity (LE), the price is fixed irrespective of whether it costs Openreach more than expected.

PROJECT TEAM

A small project team is being put together who will take this project forward. The team will contact those who have registered an interest to set out next steps.