

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held using Zoom Video Conferencing  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 6.00pm.**

**MINUTES**

<b><u>Present</u></b> :	Parish Councillors :	J Gibbon (JG) Chairman A Thorne (AJT) Vice Chairman N Barter (NTB) P Edwards (PE) Mrs M Tatner (MT)
	Parish Clerk:	M R Ash (MRA)
<b><u>Also present:</u></b>	Cllr Jose Green Mr R Stockton	

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Brutton and Smith.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the meetings on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020.**

PE proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July 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 Children's Pay Area had re-opened on the basis agreed at the last meeting. Other matters were covered by items on the agenda.

**5. Public Forum**

Cllr Jose Green gave a short report on Wiltshire Council matters. She drew attention to the organizational changes taking place, with a reversion to having only one Chief Executive.

**6. Chairman's Items**

The Chairman said that whilst Bishopstone had been very lucky so far as regards incidence of the Coronavirus it is important not to let our guard slip. There was a serious risk of a second wave this winter as more people returned to work, to schools etc. There were indications of complacency in the wider South Wiltshire community because infection rates locally had been

low, with people failing to observe social distancing and face covering rules. However, the situation could change rapidly. It was therefore agreed to retain the emergency support arrangements that were put in place for the lockdown. It was noted that the village owes a huge debt to the volunteers who continue to act as Area Co-ordinators, Prescription Collection Drivers etc. Reminders of the need to keep to the rules would be included in STaB, on the village website and the WhatsApp Network group.

## **7. Next Recreation/Play Project**

MRA said that he had circulated a paper on options for future investment in the Children's Play Area which would ensure that the remaining s106/R2 developer contributions would be utilized. It was important to make progress with this project as soon as possible in order to ensure that the expenditure was incurred before the March 2021 deadline. Options included additional items for the Play Trail, an extension of the Children's Play Area to include new equipment such as a Clamber Stack and provision of exercise equipment for older children and adults. It was considered that limited use would be made of adult exercise equipment and that the focus should perhaps be on provision for a slightly older children's age group from that catered for by current provision. A project that made use of both the R2 monies and some of the existing reserve would be appropriate. Given the need to expedite this project it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate detailed proposals for agreement in writing.

## **8. Financial Regulations – approval of revisions**

MRA said that he had circulated to Councillors a draft revision of the Council's Financial Regulations to include changes concerning electronic banking arrangements previously agreed. PE had raised certain issues and a further revise had been circulated. It was this version of the document that was now put forward for approval. PE confirmed that the revised version met the points he had raised. He therefore proposed that the new version be adopted, this was seconded by NTB and approved.

## **9. Approval of grants 2020**

It was proposed that the following grants be made to village organisations:

£450 Bishopstone Parochial Church Council (graveyard maintenance) – proposed by NTB, seconded by MT;

£450 STaB (parish magazine) – proposed by MT and seconded by AJT;

£350 Bishopstone Village Hall Management Committee – proposed by PE and seconded by AJT;

£250 Chalke Valley Sports Centre – proposed by PE and seconded by AJT.

All four motions were approved.

MRA reported that a request had been received for the Parish Council to provide financial support for a new edition of the Church Guide leaflet for St John the Baptist church. This leaflet, which provides information on the structure and contents of this Grade 1 Listed Building, had proved very popular with visitors to our village. He indicated that this expenditure could be incurred using s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as it will be of benefit both to the local community and more widely.

JG proposed the following motion:

That the Council, in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area and of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: £435 for a leaflet guide to the Parish Church.

This was seconded by NTB and approved.

## **10. Parish Clerk's Report**

### Superfast Broadband

MRA presented a report on the work undertaken so far on examining ways of achieving Superfast Broadband availability to properties in the two-thirds of the village (served by the Broad Chalke exchange) where it is not currently available. Around 70 households in the village had indicated an interest in receiving this service. JG said that Superfast Broadband will revolutionise both domestic and commercial communications in the next five years and we should invest in the future. The next step would be a submission to Openreach of proposals for a Community Fibre Partnership. Openreach will then carry out a survey and produce an estimate of costs. Funding, per property, is available from the Government's Gigabit Voucher Scheme. However, until costs had been assessed it was not known whether these would be covered by that scheme. If there is a funding gap work would be required to determine how best to fill it. Final decisions on whether to go ahead with the project will only be taken when all these matters have been fully considered and those who registered an interest have been consulted as necessary. People who have not registered will not be included in this upgrade scheme.

### Fence in Faulston Lane

MRA said that the roadside fence, made up of metal poles and chain link, beside the small area of land with the public seat by Faulston Bridge, was in disrepair. Some sections were missing. There had been an incident of a car being parked on the land. He therefore proposed that the fence be replaced with a wooden post and rail fence that would be more appropriate to the setting. A quotation for this work of £500 had been received from Wessex Contract Services. This was within the limit for which competitive quotes were required. WCS had provided a very good service in the past. PE proposed that this quotation be accepted, this was seconded by NTB and approved.

## **9. Questions or statements from Councillors.**

There were none.

### **Date, location and time of next meeting.**

MRA proposed that the 12 November 2020 at 7.00pm be retained for the next meeting of the Council. Decisions would be taken nearer the time as to whether this would be an actual or virtual meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

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Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday 3rd September 2020**

**ACTION PLAN**

<b>WHAT ACTION</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b> ✓
Campaign to promote greater volunteering in the village.	PE	
Proposals for use of s106 reserves to be brought forward.	MRA	✓
Revised Financial Regulations to be brought forward for approval.	MRA	✓
Children's Play Area to be re-opened in w/b 27 <sup>th</sup> July.	MRA/PE	✓
Detailed proposals for new play equipment to be brought forward.	MRA	