

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 7:30 p.m.
on Monday 1 July 2013
at Hinton Parva Village Hall**

Those Present: Ian Thompson (Vice Chair), Lesley Drewett (Clerk), Nigel Crisp, Stuart McGuigan, Ian Thomas, Andrew Greenhalgh, Cllr. Andrew Bennett.

1. True Heart Planning Application – Ian Sullivan

Councillor Ian Thompson took the Chair in the absence of Councillor Jenkins; he then opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees representing the owner of the True Heart. He explained that he would like to keep this item outside of the formal agenda and asked those present to introduce themselves. They were; Peter Lawson, a Planning Consultant from Bristol, and Ian Sullivan, an Architect from Swindon.

The Planning consultant explained that he had been brought in to take a fresh look at the site and to attempt to move the application forward in a positive way. His firm had looked at the history and considered that the main issues with the last application were the loss of the existing facility and the form of proposed development to the rear of the site.

He handed out 2 documents; one was a heritage report of the building site and the second was a set of plans which he then took the Councillors through. The basic concept of the revised proposal was to retain some business premises on a reduced scale, part of the existing building converted for residential purposes and two additional residential units in the car park area.

Councillors considered that whilst the proposal was an improvement on the previous submission, the key issue remained that there was no evidence that the owners had consistently attempted to openly market the pub as a going concern for a reasonable period. The Parish Council view remained that there was scope for the True Heart to be a viable business and that there was strong support amongst parishioners. The Planning Inspector had considered that there was scope in the village for 2 pubs and this had been one of the main reasons for the refusal

Mr Lawson took the point in relation to appropriate marketing and said that he would report back to the Parish Council accordingly.

The Chair felt there had been a helpful exchange of views and asked what the representative's next steps would be. Mr. Lawson stated that he would investigate the question of marketing and assured Councillors that he would not submit a new planning application if he found that councillors' views of inadequate marketing could be substantiated.

Councillors agreed that this was not an appropriate time to critique the revised proposal in any detail.

SEPTIC TANK

Brian Skeffington and Gerry O'Connor from Swindon Borough Council had tried to contact the Clerk during the day to inform her that they would be attending the meeting that evening to provide an update. As this item was not on the agenda it was decided to deal with this item outside of the meeting proper.

Although survey work had been carried out to establish which properties were connected, an outstanding issue remained whether any storm water drainage was connected to the system. In order to develop a viable long-term solution, it would be necessary to undertake further survey work and this would mean gaining access to individual properties. However, what was clear was that the existing tank and associated run-off would need to be replaced and that this would

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incur significant cost. In the meantime, regular emptying of the tank by mobile tanker was continuing.

In order to make progress, SBC intend to arrange a meeting for affected residents in the Village Hall. It was agreed that a meeting w/c 22nd July would be arranged and that the Chair would advise SBC on the availability of the Hall. Recognising that not all residents would be likely to be able to attend, SBC officers stated that they would then seek to make individual contact with non-attendees. **(Action: Cllr Thompson to suggest suitable meeting dates. Complete – suggestion is 24th July)**

2. Approved Apologies

Simon Jenkins (Chair), Julian Cooke, Douglas Stevens.

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Cllr. Stuart McGuigan duly signed his Declaration of Office.

Action: The Clerk is to send the signed form to the Monitoring Officer. (Complete)

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Chair asked for a proposition that the minutes of the June meeting be accepted as a true record; the proposition was put forward by Councillor Thomas, and unanimously agreed. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising

All actions from the previous meeting had been completed except for the following:

Western Gateway

The Gardening Club secretary has informed Councillor Thomas that they cannot take on the maintenance of the Western Gateway.

School Transport

This item was to be covered later in the meeting.

Lengthman's Contract

This item was to be covered later in the meeting.

Kim Steele – Forest School Leader

Councillor Bennett informed the Clerk that he did not have any contact details for Kim Steele.

Action: The Clerk is to forward the email address to Councillor Bennett. (Complete)

Action: Cllr Bennett is to arrange a meeting for Kim Steele with Jonathan Wilshaw.

Reports from Borough Councillor

The questionnaires for the mobile library are now available. This item was to be covered later in the meeting and the Chair explained that at that point a decision should be made as to whether the Parish Council wanted to form a view on the subject and make representation accordingly or simply to note that the consultation is in progress.

Fly Tipping Signs

Councillor Thomas felt that the existing posts in New Town Lane/Bourton could be utilised. It was reported that what appeared to be asbestos had been fly-tipped on the Ridgeway. It was open to question whether another warning sign may be useful in this location.

Action: Councillor Greenhalgh is to email Councillor Bennett with details of where the asbestos has been tipped. (Complete)

Action: Councillor Bennett is to follow up on this with SBC.

Football Pitch

This action was carried forward.

Action: Councillors Thomas and Greenhalgh are to provide an article for the Parish Times; parishioners will be asked to register their interest on the website. (Complete)

Yellow Spray on the roads in Bishopstone

The Clerk had reported this to SBC and had received a response promising some action. Councillor Bennett is to meet with James Garrard on 10th July 2013 with a Wanborough matter.

Action: The Clerk is to ask for the works to be carried out ASAP and copy James Garrard and Councillor Bennett in on the email. A reminder regarding the road condition at Body Horse Hill should also be included in the mail. (Complete)

Community Speed Watch

It was noted that another training session had been arranged for 13/7/13 and that confirmation of attendance was requested by SBC officers by 9/7/13.

Stile on the Ridgeway

Councillor Greenhalgh informed Councillors that the landowner had kindly adjusted the stile for dogs. Councillors expressed their gratitude.

6. Public Question Time

Several members of the public had attended hear and take part in the discussions on the school transport problem. This item was to be discussed at item 10.2, but it was brought forward to this part of the meeting for open discussion.

The Chair suspended the formal meeting and invited parishioners to speak.

A Councillor briefed those present on the recent meeting with SBC. Key points were:

1. There were 60 or 70 people at the meeting.
2. No one was in favour of the change.
3. SBC acknowledged that no financial analysis had been done.
4. It was accepted that 2 buses would cost more than 1.
5. In that situation, if one bus was under-utilised, a taxi might be used as an alternative.
6. Changed arrangements would result in an increase in car usage from the villages.
7. Ridgeway was preferred by parents as opposed to Dorcan.
8. It was recognised that Swindon BC needed protection from potential future escalation of transport costs as Academies could determine their own "catchment area" and the current basis of transport policy is "catchment".
9. It was considered that the SBC questionnaire had been skewed towards gaining the answer the Borough wanted.

There was a general discussion from which the following points emerged:

1. It is recommended that all affected persons should respond individually as the Parish council's response would carry no more weight than that of any individual.
2. The Newsletter had promoted this and encouraged everyone to respond.
3. It would be helpful for residents to attend the SBC Cabinet discussion to make their views known. The Cabinet meeting is scheduled for 24th July in the Civic Offices. At 5.30pm there is an open session for 30minutes in the Council Chamber to enable residents to talk directly to Cabinet members. People should be encouraged to attend
4. The Hinton Village Hall has an e-mail circulation list; this could be used to remind residents of the importance of responding individually. The Chair undertook to send an email accordingly.

Councillor Bennett was then asked to comment. He said:

1. Councillor Foley has been very pro-active and has had discussions with Paddy Bradley therefore the meeting on the 10th July would discuss some of the issues brought forward at the meeting held at Wanborough School.
2. Although this was prior to the closure of the consultation process, the meeting would look at alternative suggestions.

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3. He understands how alternatives put forward at the Wanborough meeting could be implemented. SBC are genuinely looking at how the alternatives could be put into a plan.
Action: A comprehensive response from the Parish Council will be prepared. Note: Councillor Crisp has agreed to do this. (Complete)
Action: Councillor Thompson is to send a prompt to Hinton Parva parishioners through the village hall circulation list. (Complete).

The parishioners then left the meeting and Councillor Thompson re-convened the meeting.

7. Planning

No planning applications had been received.

Late Receipt of Planning Notifications

No late planning applications had been received.

GRANTED

No granted schedules had been received.

REFUSAL

No refusal schedules had been received.

8. Reports from Borough Councillor

Cllr Bennett reminded Councillors of the Locality meeting which is to be held on 10th July 2013. He hoped there would be some representation for the villages. He then asked if anyone had any feedback for the Police Commissioner as he now sits on the Police and Crime panel.

A Councillor queried whether the Parish Council would get to see a summarised version of the feedback that had been submitted regarding Redlands and the Local Plan. Councillor Bennett explained that it should become available on the SBC website in the future. Before the inspection, a list of the topics and the days they will be discussed will be provided. There is also a library of documents at Steam where the inspection will be held.

Councillor Thompson thanked Councillor Bennett for his time and help with the septic tank issue.

9. Reports from Sub Committees

There were no reports from sub committees.

10. Main Points

Lengthman Duties

The documentation had been sent to Councillors via email before the meeting. The requirements had been provided to the current contractors serving Ashbury and Wanborough. Stratton Parish Council had also indicated their intention to quote and one other person had responded via Councillor Stevens. The closing date was queried and the Chair confirmed that the deadline for responses is mid July.

Councillor Crisp asked for the Hinton village green (opposite the church) to be added to the schedule of requirements.

School Transport

This item had been discussed under item 6.

Parish Online Renewal

Councillor Greenhalgh proposed that the subscription of £10 be renewed; this was seconded by Councillor McGuigan and unanimously agreed.

Action: The Clerk is to confirm that the Parish Council will be renewing the subscription. (Complete)

Action: Councillor Crisp is to formalise the licence from the OS to use the data.

Broadband

Two contractors (Cotswold Wireless and CPS) are committed to launching the service, both having been suitably accredited. Councillor Greenhalgh had sent an email requesting an update two days prior to the meeting and no response had been received.

Action: The Clerk was asked to keep this item on the next agenda. (Complete)

Football Pitch

Action: The Clerk was asked to keep this item on the next agenda. (Complete)

Mobile Library Service

The Chair asked whether the Parish Council should respond giving a collective view on the consultation but expressed the view that the council was not in a position to propose viable alternative forms of service delivery. Residents making direct use of the service were in the best position to comment as the questionnaires were available in the library van.

Councillors were concerned that the library provided a valuable social service to the elderly. The Chair felt that any feedback from the Parish Council should be constructive suggestions to what any alternative service should look like. He urged Councillors to read the consultation documents that had been forwarded by the Clerk. An article had been put into the last Parish Times to encourage parishioners to respond. One option might be for individual village hall management committees to consider whether book stocks could be held in the village halls.

Action: Councillor Thompson is to alert the respective Village Hall Management Committees to the various options in the questionnaire and the consultation.

Action: The Clerk is to send Bishopstone Village Hall's contact email details to the Chair. (Complete)

11. Accounts to be Paid

The following cheques were presented for approval:

- L D Drewett £72.99
- Stuart McGuigan £196.37

The above expenses were approved for payment by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Greenhalgh and agreed unanimously by those present.

The Clerk and Councillors thanked Councillor McGuigan for installing the new notice board.

12. Correspondence

The Chair asked if Councillors wished to view any of the other correspondence. None did.

13. Parishioners Feedback/ComplaintsRubbish Dumping

This item had been dealt with by Councillor Jenkins before the meeting.

Maintenance around the Pond

A parishioner had complained about the standard of maintenance around the pond which they felt was inadequate. It was agreed that the areas of concern were not within the Lengthman's responsibility. Councillor McGuigan would respond to the parishioner saying that the Parish Council will review the condition of the railings.

Action: Councillor McGuigan is to inspect the railings and report back his findings.

New School Governor

A Councillor reported that there will be a new school Governor at Bishopstone CofE Primary School in September. They have asked if the Parish Council can revisit the parking issue on the corner of Cues Lane. It was agreed to give the Parish Council's support.

Action: The Clerk is to follow this up with the school next term.

Dogs Wandering within the Parish

A Councillor reported that there are dogs wandering and defecating throughout the Parish, a small dog has also been attacked. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the owner of the dogs.

Action: The Clerk is to follow up the way to contact the parishioner with the Chair. (Complete)

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**Action: The Clerk is to put the old article regarding dogs fouling in the Parish Times.
(Complete)**

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting, will take place on Monday 5 August 2013 at Bishopstone Village Hall, starting at 19:30 pm.

Action: Apologies to the Clerk before the meeting.