

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday 12th November 2012 at Bishopstone Village Hall

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

1. **Approved Apologies**
Douglas Stevens, Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair), Julian Cooke.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Public Question Time**
No members of the public were in attendance.
4. **Minutes of Last Meeting**
The Chair asked for a proposition that the minutes of the October meeting be accepted as a true record; the proposition was put forward by Cllr Crisp, 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:

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

The clearance work on the pond is to take place on 1st December 2012. Matt Orchard had informed the Chair of a mown path around the back of the pond on the left hand side in the past and it was agreed that it may be good to reinstate this at some stage in the future. Paving stones and a bench were suggested.

Action: Cllr Greenhalgh will contact all local interested parties.

Bus Stop Notice Board

Cllr McGuigan informed the meeting that he had been speaking with Peter Moss who runs a woodworking charity in Watchfield; he will provide a quote for a bespoke board, for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr McGuigan is to bring details to the next meeting.

Borough Councillor

The Chair explained that he had talked to Cllr Bennett and any outstanding issues had been picked up at the Locality meeting, which had taken place just before the October meeting; these had been reflected in the Parish Times. Cllr Bennett reminded Councillors that any suggestions they had for Grassroots grants should be with the Borough Council by early January. The awarding of the grants has to be carried out in public for complete transparency.

Solar Panels

The Chair and Cllr Thomas had not managed to meet and this item was carried forward.

Action: The Chair and Cllr Thomas are to liaise.

Ditch at Hinton Parva - Wooden Structure

As Cllr Cooke was not in attendance, Cllr Crisp explained that the bank had been extended. After a short discussion, it was agreed that no further work was needed.

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Kissing Gate

Further problems with the kissing gate had been reported to the Clerk; it was felt that a bar was missing from the gate.

Action: Cllr Thomas is to liaise with the Clerk. (Complete; no further action is required)

6. **Planning**

S/TIME/12/1462RM – Extension of Time to planning permission S/09/1483 for the erection of a single story front extension and 2 no dormers windows to front and 4 no dormer windows to rear, Berkleys, 4 Whatleys Orchard, Bishopstone. The SBC officer in charge had said there was no new documentation to be collected from SBC; the Clerk had retrieved the original plans from the archives as she felt these would prove useful to Councillors.

Councillors viewed the original plans and agreed that the extension of time should be given.

Late Receipt of Planning Notifications

No late applications had been received.

Conservation Area – Section 211 Notices:

NONE

GRANTED

No granted schedules had been received.

REFUSAL

No refusal schedules had been received.

7. **Reports from Borough Councillor**

Cllr Bennett reminded Councillors of the forthcoming elections for the Police and Crime Commissioners. Councillors were disappointed with the lack of information provided; Cllr Bennett stated that there had been a radio programme, but the Home Office had been the principal source of information. He provided Councillors with the statements for the six candidates for Wiltshire PCC and encouraged Councillors to vote and stated that the current Police Authority will disband in the week commencing 19 November 2012.

Cllr Bennett advised that the pre submission draft of the Local Plan has gone through Cabinet and through full Council and will be going out to consultation shortly; one of the accompanying maps was made available for discussion. The National Planning Policy Framework had identified gaps in the planning processes and other risks had become clear. Cllr Bennett advised Councillors that feedback should be given. Councillors were concerned that Bishopstone had apparently been grouped with larger villages such as Chiseldon and Wanborough as a “secondary rural settlement”. The Chair asked if there were any dates for public meetings; Cllr Bennett said that he would discuss the consultation timetable with planning officers and the Chair asked that he provide any information as soon as possible. The Chair also asked for a copy of the map which had been discussed.

Action: Cllr Bennett is to provide the Clerk with details ASAP and if possible a map of the area.

Cllr Bennett provided Councillors with a copy of the AONB leaflet; they held their first photographic competition this year, which has a £900 camera as the prize. There is to be a junior section next year.

Cllr Bennett stated that Wanborough Post Office will be closing soon and he discussed various options that are available. It was noted that the Rose and Crown at Ashbury have opened a Post Office with limited hours of business.

Hinton Parva’s septic tank problem was discussed. Cllr Bennett apologised for the length of time that this was taking, but SBC are still trying to establish whether any agreements for responsibility had been reached. He stated that the Environment Agency was not currently involved, which surprised him; at present, the legal process has taken over. Cllr Thompson stated that he would be happy to engage with SBC, if that would be helpful.

Cllr Bennett advised that there had been an article in the Western Daily Press stating that SBC were no longer included in the Government’s Rural Broadband initiative owing to funding issues. Wiltshire and Gloucestershire have been granted funding and are proceeding

and SBC is looking for alternatives. Cllr Greenhalgh informed Councillors that he has a meeting organised to discuss this next week.

A complaint had been received regarding the bonfire at the Royal Oak on 5 November. After a short discussion it was decided that the Chair would talk to the Royal Oak.

Action: The Chair is to talk to the Royal Oak. (Complete)

8. Reports from Sub Committees

Wanborough Working Party- SPD Eastern Villages

Cllr Bennett is to try to provide further information about the EV SPD; councillors were concerned about development near the boundary of the parish. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to get a map overlaid with the Parish boundary.

Action: Cllr Bennett agreed to try to provide a map with the necessary overlay.

It was agreed that details of the Local Plan should be put into the Parish Times when the consultation is announced, highlighting the issues and potential risks. It was also agreed that although Bishopstone had been working with Wanborough and SBC in discussing the EV SPD, the Parish Council would develop its own views on the matter.

Action: The Clerk is to keep this item on the agenda. (Complete)

AONB Forum

Cllr Crisp had attended an AONB Forum on behalf of the Parish Council; this had been helpful with regard to Neighbourhood Plans. The AONB have provided grants for Neighbourhood Plans, including £2,000 towards Aldbourne's.

Bishopstone Pond & Island – Maintenance Responsibilities

The Parish Council have not yet received a satisfactory answer from SBC. Councillors requested reassurance that any major incidents involving the northern edge of the Pond, the railings and the highway would be covered by insurance. The Chair stated that the Parish Council's insurers were aware that the Parish Council owned the pond and its proximity to the road. It was agreed that the Chair would talk to Cllr Bennett regarding the maintenance of the wall and other issues.

Action: The Chair is to talk to Cllr Bennett.

Action: The Clerk is to keep this item on the agenda. (Complete)

Village Website

Cllr Greenhalgh has made good progress on the website. He gave a demonstration to the meeting and recommended that the new website should go live shortly. The cost will be £7.80 to register the domain name, plus £4.99 per month for hosting and backing up the site, plus the cost of the mapping tool £11 per year as an ongoing cost. Cllr Thompson explained that there was an annual allowance for computer equipment included in the precept.

After discussion, the Chair asked for a proposition that the Parish Council should fund the website for the Parish and any revenue generated from the site should be the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The proposition was put forward by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Crisp and unanimously agreed.

Councillors thanked Cllr Greenhalgh for his work on the website.

The Chair advised that the only item he had for the Parish Times was a reminder about the village clean up day. Cllr Crisp suggested an article on the National Trust monthly clean up.

Action: Cllr Crisp is to supply the Clerk with an article for the Parish Times.

(Complete)

Local Broadband

Cllr Greenhalgh advised that this project had almost reached stalemate; the business case was marginal but might be acceptable if the PCC do not require an unreasonable amount for a

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licence for the mast on the Church tower. A meeting is to take place between Dave Titchener and Hitesh Patel of SBC and BT UK. Cllr Greenhalgh is awaiting a response from Cllr Stevens on behalf of the PCC. **(Complete)**.

Action: The Clerk is to keep this item on the agenda. (Complete)

Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Thomas informed the meeting that there was nothing further to discuss at this stage, more details will be given at the next meeting once the Local Plan has been issued; he is as yet undecided as to whether a Neighbourhood Plan will be necessary. He would like to read the consultation version of the Local Plan and then discuss this item in more detail. It was agreed the parishioners should be involved in thinking about their future and any Neighbourhood Plan would have to be in conformity with the Local Plan.

Action: The Clerk is to leave this item on the agenda. (Complete)

9. Supplement: Annex 1 - Part 1 - Draft Swindon Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft relating to Agenda Document for Cabinet, 17/10/2012 18:15

This item had been discussed at item 7.1.

10. Main Points

Solar Panels

This item was touched on briefly in item 5 and is to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk is to add this item to the next meeting. (Complete)

Grant to Bishopstone & Hinton Parva Village Halls for Christmas Tree Lights

At the last meeting it had been agreed in principle that the Parish Council would make a grant for Christmas lights to both Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Village Halls. The Chair had circulated an email from Sue Tremlyn requesting a £40 grant for Christmas tree lights.

The Chair asked for a proposition that the Parish Council make a grant of £40 to Bishopstone and Hinton Parva Village Halls for Christmas tree lights; the proposition was put forward by Cllr Crisp, seconded by Cllr Greenhalgh and unanimously agreed.

Road Sign – End of New Road

The road sign at the end of New Road has been dealt with.

New Town Lane - Drainage

The Chair reminded Councillors of the problem with the ditches and culvert in New Town Lane. It is understood that SBC will take responsibility for the culvert, but not the ditches, which are the responsibility of the land owner.

Action: The Chair is to speak with Henry Stoye. (Complete)

A Councillor reported that the sign at Hinton Springs needs repairing after being damaged.

Action: The Clerk is to report the broken sign to Streetsmart. (Complete)

Apple Trees for Island

A Councillor reminded those present that if an apple tree is to be planted for the Diamond Jubilee, now is the time of year to carry the planting out. The Chair felt some clearance work would be needed to plant the trees.

Action: The Chair is to talk to Cllr Stevens. (Complete)

Action: The Clerk is to let the Chair know how much was agreed to spend on the apple trees. (Complete)

11. Accounts to be Paid

There were no accounts to be paid that had not already been agreed against the precept. However, an invoice had been received from Stratton St Margaret for £12.00, after the agenda had been issued.

The Chair asked for a proposition that the Parish Council pay the invoice for the emptying of dog bins in Hinton Parva village halls. A short discussion took place; the proposition was put forward by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Crisp and unanimously agreed.

12. Correspondence

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

- SBC Draft Neighbourhood Planning Protocol Consultation & 'Are you fit for Planning?' Planning Aid Kit

Action: The Clerk is to re-send the original email to Councillors. (Complete)

13. Parishioners Feedback/ComplaintsRat Problem

A Councillor reported a serious rat problem on White Hill just past the 30mph sign by the gate.

Action: The Clerk is to report the problem to SBC. (Complete)

FSC Certificate

A Councillor asked whether the FSC certification for the new Iroko hardwood gates being installed for the traffic calming had been received. The Chair confirmed that SBC were going to try to source this from FSC sources. Councillors were in agreement that they would prefer to see the FSC timber being used. A Councillor requested that a vote be taken whether the Council will accept uncertified timber. 5 Councillors were in favour of accepting uncertified timber if necessary, 1 Councillor was against.

Action: The Chair is to follow up on the issue with Sam Turner. (Complete)

Wrought Iron Gate

A Councillor reported that a large black wrought iron gate has been erected in the hedge at the rear of Gale's Cottage, into the field. Cllr Thomas is to check the legislation.

Action: The Chair is to talk to Henry Stoye. (Complete).

Action: Cllr Thomas is to check the legislation.

Pot Holes in Oxon Place

The Chair advised Councillors of the email they had received concerning the repair of the pot holes.

Brambling Cottage

In the map that has been received, a Councillor felt that the bushes have grown out rather further than shown on the map.

Action: This is to be followed up at the site meeting with SBC. (Complete)

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 3 December 2012 at Hinton Parva Village Hall, starting at 19:30 pm.

Action: Apologies to the Clerk before the meeting.

Signed:

Date: