

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 7:30 p.m.
on Monday 4th August 2014
at Hinton Parva Village Hall**

Those Present: Ian Thomas (Vice Chair), Lesley Drewett (Clerk), Nigel Crisp, Douglas Stevens, Val Brodin, Stuart McGuigan.

Cllr Thomas chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Thompson.

1. Approved Apologies

Ian Thompson (Chair), Andy Greenhalgh, Julian Cooke, Cllr Andrew Bennett.

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Crisp declared a non prejudicial interest in planning application S/14/1096SASM – Land Adjacent Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva and would not take part in any decision making.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

4. Matters Arising

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

Permissive footpath - installation of dog bin

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council had responded to the Clerk and are happy to install another bin.

[**Post meeting note:** another email has been received from the Clerk of Stratton St Margaret Parish Council stating that the Council will be reviewing its contract from next year with a view to withdrawing from collections to neighbouring parishes in the New Year.]

The owner is to trim the path after the straw is harvested.

Village Information Board

Cllr Greenhalgh had supplied a briefing note in his absence.

The board has been printed and looks good. The frame is assembled. Cllrs are waiting on the telegraph pole in order to install the information board.

Action: Cllr Stevens is to contact Cllr Cooke regarding the telegraph pole.

Action: Cllrs Greenhalgh, Stephens, Thomas and Cooke are to co-ordinate the installation of the sign.

Archiving

The archiving of the documents in the village hall archive room has been delayed owing to holidays.

Action: The Chair, Cllrs Crisp and Greenhalgh are to co-ordinate the disposal of documents.

Planning

S/14/0971RM - Erection of 1 no dwelling – Land off Short Drove, Hinton Parva.

The Clerk had been unable to copy the interested parishioners in on the Parish Council's letter as she had not received the email addresses. Cllrs noted that the application had been withdrawn on policy grounds.

Action: Cllr Brodin is to contact the parishioners for their email addresses.

Signed:

Date:

Football Pitch revival

This action had been delayed owing to holidays.

Action: Cllrs Thomas and Greenhalgh will meet to review the surface work to the pitch and report back with costs for the works to be carried out.

5. **Public Question Time**

There were three members of the public in attendance. The Chair closed the meeting for them to speak.

The parishioners had attended to express their objections to the planning application S/14/1096SASM – Land Adjacent Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva. Parishioners felt this was too large house on a small plot and the house was not in keeping with the village. There were also concerns around space for parking and turning. Parishioners were also concerned that the plot might be too small an area for a septic tank and its drainage system for foul water. Mature trees would have to be removed and would change the look and aesthetics of this part of the village which is within the Conservation Area. A previous application on the site had been refused.

The Chair explained to those present that having looked at the current Local Plan and the emerging Local Plan for Swindon the plot fell outside the Rural Settlement Boundary for Hinton Parva and that, as such, there ought to be an “in principle” objection to the application on Policy grounds. Any building outside of the Rural Settlement Boundary should be resisted owing to the risk of setting a precedent.

Councillors’ agreed to send in a similar letter to the one sent in response to the City Corner application, objecting to the application in principle, but with the added comments from those parishioners attending the meeting.

Parishioners thanked the Parish Council for their action.

The meeting was then re-opened.

6. **Co-option of Councillor**

The Clerk had received an application and CV for the position of Councillor from Mr Tom Green. Cllrs had received the documents before the meeting and after a short discussion it was agreed to invite Mr Green to join the Parish Council.

Action: The Clerk will notify Mr Green of his election on to the Council. (Complete)

Action: The Clerk is to send the relevant documentation to Mr Green. (Complete)

Action: The Clerk will add an article to the newsletter. (Complete)

7. **Planning**

- **S/14/0813/HC** – rebuild of boundary wall & erection of a chimney flue.
(Amendments to previous permission S/13/0198) – Vorty Stables,
The City, Bishopstone

- **S/14/0814/HC** – Amendment to S/LBC/12/0106 HC to increase chimney
& replace windows & erection of a boundary wall – Vorty Stables,
The City, Bishopstone

The Chair explained that he had spoken with the case officer regarding the chimney which had been added to the previous drawings when the previous planning application had been received and she had carried out a site visit as she felt the plans were not clear. As a result of the site visit, the chimney is still being proposed at its increased height, but the owners of the property have agreed to paint it matt black.

A Cllr asked what the planning rules were with regard to a chimney. The Chair explained that there are building regulations in place but that additions to listed buildings such as this would still require planning permission and listed building consent.

The Chair pointed out that some neighbours still have concerns with regard to the potential environmental effects from fumes and smoke from the heightened chimney.

Cllrs agreed that they had no objections to the chimney PROVIDED THAT the environmental health officer is happy that it will not adversely affect neighbouring properties. The Clerk is to respond to both applications in one letter.

Action: The Clerk is to send the letter to the Chair for his approval before sending it to SBC. (Complete)

- **S/14/1096SASM** – Land Adjacent Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva
This item had been discussed at item 5. The Chair re-stated that the basis of objection was primarily one of principle and that any compromise on this would set a precedent for other potential development outside the approved Rural Settlement Boundary. Cllrs agreed with the case as it had been discussed in item 5. The clerk is to write objecting to the application.

Action: Cllr Thomas is to draft a letter for Councillors approval. (Complete)

Action: Cllr Crisp is to email the Parish Councillors letter to parishioners for their information.

Action: The Clerk is to send a letter to SBC. (Complete)

Late Receipt of Planning Notifications

The following late planning notification had been received after the agenda had been issued. A letter had been received at short notice from SBC, which had not been forwarded to Cllrs. Cllr Crisp had asked that this be discussed at the meeting.

- **Outline application for employment development including B1b (research & Development/light industrial), B1c (light industrial), B2 (general industrial) & B8 (warehouse and distribution), new landscaping & junction to A420 (means of access not reserved) _ Eastern Villages South, and At & To The South Of A420 (Great Stall Middle), Swindon, Wilts**

This letter had been received from SBC; several Parish Councils have responded to the outline planning application. The Chair felt that SBC should refuse all applications within the Eastern Villages until the new Local Plan has been adopted due to the fact that it would be difficult (if not impossible) for SBC to put in place the necessary off-site infrastructure (primarily road and junction improvements) if development was allowed to come forward on a piecemeal basis like this. The Chair agreed to look at the application documents online and see what had been proposed in the way of off-site works and if there are to be no off-site highway improvements it was suggested that the Parish Council should object on the grounds of prematurity and that it should wait for the whole allocation to come forward with a properly organised infrastructure package. Cllrs agreed this would be a good response once the website had been checked.

Action: The Chair is to view the application on SBC’s website and draft a response to SBC. (Complete)

GRANTED

One granted schedule had been received.

- **S/14/0425/SASM** - Erection of 2no dwellings with associated parking, including rebuilding of existing barn – Land off Church Lane, Bishopstone

REFUSAL

No refusal schedules had been received.

8. Reports from Ward Councillor

Councillor Bennett had given his apologies before the meeting as he had another commitment.

9. Reports from Sub Committees

Finance Sub Committee

The Chair of the Finance Committee informed those present that there had been a request that the Parish Council change the accounting methodology from receipts and payments to income and expenditure. Owing to this change the Auditors have informed the Clerk that the 12/13 figures will also have to be amended. They believe that, for smaller parishes such as ours, it is best to remain on a receipts and payments accounting system.

Action: Cllr Crisp is to talk to the Chair. (Complete)

Action: The Clerk and Cllr Crisp are to meet with the internal auditor. (Complete)

There were no other reports from the sub committees.

10. Main Points

Football Pitch Revival

Signed:

Date:

This item had been discussed at item 4.5.

Action: Cllrs Thomas and Greenhalgh will inspect the field after the cut to check for remedial works.

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

Village Information Boards

This item was discussed at item 4.2.

True Heart

The Chair had received a call from the Evening Advertiser earlier that day with regard to the pub. He informed the newspaper that this item was to be discussed at the Parish Council meeting that night. As the pub is now listed as an Asset of Community Value the Borough Council solicitor had recently sent an email to the Parish Council informing them that the owner had received an offer from Arkells. The Chair suggested that the Parish Council would be unable to raise the funds necessary to compete with Arkells and questioned the logic for doing so in any event. After a long discussion it was eventually agreed to respond to the Borough solicitor stating that the Parish Council wished to reserve its right to respond up to the 6 week deadline (this is the time period allowed for a community body to decide whether it wishes to submit a competitive bid for the asset. If it decides to do so then a further period of 6 months is allowed for the community body to prepare its bid)

Action: The Clerk is to notify the solicitor. (Complete)

Work to the Dingle

The Chair had met with Simon Lymm the representative from SBC with regard to the extended budget secured by Annie Ellis. As well as the steps, there will be extra money, although Mr Lymm was unsure of the amount, for the additional work. The subsidence of the bank on both sides of the bridge had been inspected and it was decided to repair these if possible. If the increased budget will allow the two sections of path that are always wet in the winter will be improved using raised decking/boardwalks. Mr Lymm is to cost this additional work and revert to the Chair. SBC still hope to get the works done before the winter.

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

A Cllr reported that grass and vegetation cutting had been carried out by SBC at the Dingle and the back of the Church. The last time similar works had been carried out was 4 years previously.

Article 4 Direction

A report is being taken to SBC's Planning Committee meeting on 12th August 2014. If the Committee accept the Officer's recommendation there will be an Article 4 Direction in place within the Bishopstone Conservation Area. The Chair explained that this would mean that anyone wanting to install solar panels on an unlisted property within the Conservation Area would need to apply for planning permission.

11. Accounts to be Paid

The cheques at Appendix 1 were presented for approval:

The Clerks salary and timesheet had been sent to the Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee and Councillors for checking before the agenda had been issued.

The Chair asked that the Lengthman itemise future invoices.

Action: The Clerk is to ask the Lengthman to itemise future invoices for Cllrs information. (Complete)

The expenses were proposed for payment by Cllr McGuigan, seconded by Cllr Stevens and agreed unanimously by those present.

12. Correspondence

The Chair asked whether anyone wished to see any items of correspondence; none did.

Empowering Parish Council to sell electricity

As Cllr Greenhalgh had asked for this item to be discussed at the meeting, the Clerk was tasked to add it to the next agenda.

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

13. Parishioners Feedback/Complaints

Hatched Area at the School and Hinton Parva

Cllr Brodin reported that there has been a number of minor accidents occurring outside the village hall in Hinton Parva. The hatching outside the property known as Crossways and the stop lines at the junction outside Hinton Parva village hall are in need of re-painting. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a response from PC Rory Draper advising that accidents where there are no injuries do not get recorded.

Councillor Stevens reported that the hatching outside the school in Bishopstone and around the corner towards the flashing light also needed re-painting; the red studs are also missing.

Action: The Clerk is to ask SBC to come and re-paint the white lining and hatching. (Complete)

Traffic Speeds

Cllrs had concerns about the rat running through Bourton since the closing of the A420. PC Rory Draper had agreed to attend Hinton Parva with his speed camera and Cllrs asked that he attend between the hours of 7:30 am and 9:30 am and at 4:30 pm. The Clerk informed those present that Rory will be attending the November meeting. Unfortunately, he has other commitments on the September and October meeting dates. Cllr Brodin will liaise with Rory.

Action: Cllr Brodin will monitor the busiest times and contact Rory Draper.

Plantation off New Town Lane

The plantation is to be cut by Helen Browning following complaints from parishioners. Helen reminded the Clerk that the gate is still often left open and asked if an article could be included in the newsletter about the value of the woodland.

Action: The Clerk is to put an article into the newsletter (complete)

Lime Trees

Six of the lime trees on the Icknield Way are to be removed owing to disease. Cllrs felt that the Parish Council should insist on replacement trees, although it was believed that a different species would have to be planted in order to prevent re-infection.

The meeting closed at 8:58 pm.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 1st September 2014, at Bishopstone Village Hall at 19:30 pm.

Action: Apologies to the Clerk before the meeting.

Signed:

Date: