

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at 7:30 p.m.  
on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
at Bishopstone Village Hall**

**Those Present:** Ian Thompson (Chair), Lesley Drewett (Clerk), Ian Thomas (Vice Chair), Nigel Crisp, Douglas Stevens, Val Brodin, Stuart McGuigan, Andy Greenhalgh, Julian Cooke, Cllr Andrew Bennett.

The Chair explained that as Thames Water, and a member of the public were in attendance, he would deal with this part of the meeting before starting the formal meeting in order that members of the public in attendance could participate. The following was discussed and agreed with Thames Water:

**Meeting date 5/01/15****Problem Statement**

Raw sewage continues to escape at regular intervals, flooding properties around The Forty in Bishopstone, Wiltshire.

**Exec Summary**

The commitment to complete works by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 has been downgraded to an “aspiration” to complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

Thameswater internal approval has been granted on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2014

Start date still not known, but should be available by 13<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Attendees**

Denise Kinsella & Tim Beech Thames water

Jackie Anderson – Residents

Andrew Bennett – Swindon Borough Council

Bishopstone Parish Council

**Updates**

Internal approval has been gained within Thameswater to carry out works

Optimise will be the contractor and should be on-site in next two weeks to survey job

New pipe will be now be 300mm diameter as there is no-model for the catchment.

Longer term project to survey catchment area has also been approved by Thameswater and

Eight2O will commence 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 on a six month survey activity

**Actions**

Completed

Thames water to engage with Eight20 to commence on-going investigative work.

Eight20 will commence wider survey work on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015

Thames water to supply number of properties paying / not paying for surface water drainage.

154 properties out of 170 are paying Thameswater for surface water drainage.

**Dropped**

Thames water to supply pipe size modelling calculations that include surface water drainage.

Thameswater cannot supply these calculations. However a basic attempt at them has been

completed by a councillor after the meeting by using the guidelines in the building regs (H3).

These show that just 12 average sized roofs connected to the existing infrastructure would exceed the maximum capacity and result in flooding. From the action above it may be the case that 156 properties are connected !

**Carried forward**

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Thames water to advise if/how completion date can be brought forward to February. (Tim Beech)

Thames water to advise on works start date and project plan (Tim Beech)

Bishopstone PC and Swindon Borough Council to fast track road closure requests when submitted by TW

### **New Actions**

Thameswater to invite a representative from Optimise to the next meeting

Next meeting 2<sup>th</sup> Feb

The Chair gave his thanks to Denise and Tim for attending and opened the meeting at 7:55 pm.

#### **1. Approved Apologies**

Tom Green.

#### **2. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor McGuigan declared a non prejudicial interest in item 10.8, the payment to his son for the defibrillator training. Councillor Thompson declared a prejudicial interest in item 10.10 honorarium for stand in Clerk.

#### **3. Public Question Time**

One member of the public was in attendance, but the matters had been covered previously and they left the meeting.

#### **4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

#### **5. Matters Arising**

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

##### Churchyard Maintenance Contract

The Chair explained that the correspondence shows a 3 year contract with the first year being 2013-2014. The Parish Council are therefore coming up to the end of the second year. The Parish Council would therefore be looking to get some competing quotes during November 2015 for a new contract to start in 2016.

##### Permissive footpath - installation of dog bin

Cllr Stevens still has to install the dog bin.

##### Archiving

The archiving of the documents in the village hall archive room has been delayed and the item has been carried forward to the next meeting.

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

#### **6. Planning**

No planning applications had been received when the agenda had been issued.

##### **Late Receipt of Planning Notifications**

No late planning applications had been received after the agenda had been issued.

##### **PENDING DETERMINATION**

- **S/PRIOR/14/1955SASM** – Prior approval notification for the change of use from Agricultural building to 1 residential dwelling (class C3) – Upper Farm, Hinton Parva Lane, Hinton Parva. Councillors had no objections.

##### **GRANTED**

- **S/14/1824HC** – Erection of a single storey rear and first floor side extensions and a dormer window – Badgerswood, Hatchet Hill, Hinton Parva

- **S/14/1814HC** – erection of a single storey rear extension, extension of pitched roof, replacement double garage & associated works – Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone

The following GRANTED schedule had been received after the agenda had been issued. It had been sent to Councillors via email before the meeting.

- **S/14/1911HC** – Construction of new vehicular access- Land at White Hill, Hinton Parva. Cllrs noted that the access would be permitted for agricultural purposes only.

#### **REFUSAL**

No refusal schedules had been received.

The only other item discussed was the extension at Hill Manor House which has been raised with SBC in order to follow due process. The Ward Councillor suggested that the Clerk should seek the opinion of Andrew Lord the AONB officer.

**Action: Andrew is to provide the Clerk with Andrew Lord's email address. (Complete)**

**Action: The Clerk is to notify Andrew Lord. (Complete)**

The Chair is to monitor and keep Councillors informed of progress at the chalet, Hinton Parva. He informed them of progress to date.

#### **7. Reports from Ward Councillor**

The Chair welcomed Cllr Bennett to the meeting. He explained that SBC had been virtually inactive for the past few months and that activity had been dominated by preparations for the next elections in May. He suggested there could be an opportunity for the village hall to be used by the current MP to address parishioners at an open session. Cllrs advised Andrew that the Royal Oak were already organising a "Hustings" event with landlord Tim Finney as the MC.

He advised those present that he was supportive of the application that had been submitted for some funds for Hinton Parva Village Hall.

Cllrs advised Andrew that Arkells now owned the True Heart. Cllrs were anticipating that there would be a consultation to explain intentions for the site.

#### **8. Reports from Sub Committees**

##### Precept

Cllr Crisp had sent the spreadsheet to the Clerk and Cllrs via email before the meeting suggesting a zero increase in the parish council tax. The detailed budget had been discussed at the December meeting. A precept of £12,075 was consequently approved by those present.

**Action: The Clerk is to send the figures to SBC. (Complete)**

#### **9. Main Points**

##### Sewage – Thames Water Report

This item had been covered prior to the meeting.

##### Eastern Villages Expansion

Cllr Green was not in attendance, but a lot of correspondence from the Vale Consortium had been forwarded to Cllrs via email. A Cllr asked whether the Parish Council should be responding to the documentation but the view of those present was that this should be treated as "for information" at this stage until some definitive proposals were brought forward. The Parish Council would continue to maintain a "watching brief" and that Cllr Green would be requested to advise as appropriate.

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

##### Defibrillator

Cllr McGuigan explained that there were some papers to sign and he was meeting with the representative from the ambulance service the following week. A Cllr commented on the

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excellent training and asked that Cllr McGuigan give his son a big thank you for his time. Lots of good feedback had been received. The event had been very successful.

#### Football Pitch Revival

Cllr Thomas advised that support for the maintenance of the land had been withdrawn. Therefore the project has had to be abandoned.

#### Village Information Boards

The information board is in position.

#### True Heart

This item had been discussed briefly at item 7.

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

#### Work to the Dingle

Cllr Thomas advised Cllrs that there had been no further update. He believed that work was still scheduled for March. Cllr Thomas is to monitor progress.

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

#### Article 4 Direction

Cllr Thomas explained that the document is going out to consultation although he was uncertain why a consultation had to take place. He had been told originally that as long as this had been published in our newsletter, it would constitute adequate consultation provided there were no adverse comments (which there had not been).

**Action: Cllr Thomas is to liaise with Dave Dewart of SBC. (Complete)**

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

#### Rural Broadband

Cllr Greenhalgh explained that no further information had been received to date. Cllr Greenhalgh is to keep a watching brief.

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

#### Community Speedwatch

The Chair explained that he had suggested two locations to SBC where the required traffic speed surveys should be carried out. Once the surveys had been completed, speedwatch training could be arranged. A discussion took place around the suggested locations and Cllrs were of the view that the Bishopstone survey should be carried out by the school/village hall. The Chair is to explain to the relevant SBC officer that Cllrs are concerned about the speed of traffic through the village, particularly at certain times in the day when there is school-related activity. He also reminded Cllrs that he was still waiting for some contact details to be provided for volunteers. Cllrs agreed to help with these.

**Action: The Chair is to contact SBC to change the site details for Bishopstone (complete).**

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

#### Extension of Lengthman Contract

The Chair explained that the Lengthman's contract stated that it would be extended to a 5 year duration if Cllrs considered at the 2-year point that the work was being carried out to the necessary standard. Cllrs considered that Lee Wells was doing a good job and had been proactive in attending Parish Council meetings to check on satisfaction with the work. Cllr Greenhalgh proposed that the Lengthman's contract be affirmed for a further 3 years to 2018. This was seconded by Cllr McGuigan and unanimously agreed.

**Action: The Clerk is to notify the Lengthman that the contract has been extended to 2018. (Complete)**

#### Passing Places

Cllr McGuigan had brought along a map with six suggested passing places, some of which were existing field entrances.

**Action: Cllr Thomas and Greenhalgh are to liaise to agree these are in the optimum position. (Complete)**

**Action: The Clerk is to notify Helen Browning of the suggestions before sending them on to SBC. (Complete)**

Emptying of Dog Bins

The Clerk had received notification from Stratton St Margaret Parish Council that the emptying of the dog bin in Hinton Parva will cease on 27 March 2014.

**Action: The Clerk is to contact SBC to request their help with collections. (Complete)**

**10. Accounts to be Paid**

The cheques shown in Appendix 1 were presented for approval.

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

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

Honorarium for Stand In Clerk

The Clerk had been unavailable to take the minutes at the December meeting owing to illness and Karin Thompson had kindly offered to carry out this service. The Chair explained that if the Council were minded to recompense Karin for the 4 hours work she undertook on behalf of the Clerk it would be more appropriate to do this as an honorarium in the interests of simplifying responsibility for declaration to HMRC. However, he did not take place in any discussions.

Cllr Greenhalgh proposed that the sum of £30.00 be paid to Karin Thompson for her help at the meeting, seconded by Cllr Cooke and unanimously agreed. Councillor Greenhalgh went on to say what an excellent job she had done in helping to keep the Council business running. The Clerk also wished to give her thanks to Karin for helping.

**11. Correspondence**

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

**12. Parishioners Feedback/Complaints**

Wall at Church Walk

A Cllr reported that there had been complaints with regard to the state of the wall at Church Walk.

**Action: The Clerk is to contact Louise Spain at Strutt & Parker. (Complete)**

Section of Ridgeway

A Cllr reported that a section of the Ridgeway had been badly eroded 400 yards east of Ridgeway Farm. There had been an accident with a horse rider when the horse's hoof had caught in the plastic webbing where the surface is ripped. Cllrs were of the view that the damage had been caused by farm tractors.

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

Body Horse Hill

A Cllr reported that a crane and a van had gone over the side of the hill on the left hand side of the road when travelling toward Bishopstone, in the dip in the vicinity of the pedestrian gate.

The road is falling away and if two cars meet at this point in the road, the vehicles are in a very dangerous position. Their wheels cannot be put anywhere near the verge edge without risk of going down the bank, as there is a sheer drop. Cllrs considered that if the road could not be shored up or reinforcements put in place, there should at least be some bollards to highlight the problem.

**Action: The Clerk is to write to SBC. (Complete)**

Ornamental Ducks

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A Cllr had received a suggestion from a parishioner that some ornamental ducks should be provided for the pond. Cllrs did not consider that this was necessarily achievable in practice.

#### Investment in Cress Beds

A Cllr asked whether there was any potential for the Parish Council to invest in restoring the cress beds and the old footpath. Those present thought this was an excellent idea, but thought it may be church land.

**Action: Cllr Thomas is to investigate this further.**

#### Sewage Treatment Plant

A Cllr reported that the land at the sewage treatment plant in Hinton Parva is covered in weeds and suggested that some trees be planted to tidy up the area.

**Action: The Clerk is to write to George Reade with the suggestion. (Complete)**

#### Permissive Path

A Cllr reported that a slab had been placed in the ground where the permissive footpath joins the Ridgeway, which had made conditions much better.

**Action: Cllr Stevens is to pass on his thanks to the landowner.**

The Clerk noted that the April meeting fell on Easter Monday and the May AGM fell on the bank holiday Monday.

**Action: The Clerk is to move both meetings to the following weeks. (Complete)**

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 2 February 2015, at Hinton Parva Village Hall at 19:30 pm.

**Action: Apologies to the Clerk before the meeting.**