

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday 7th January 2013 at Bishopstone Village Hall

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

1. Approved Apologies

Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair).

A member of the public was in attendance and the Chair explained that he would have to stop the meeting if the parishioner wished to speak, but she confirmed that she had just come to listen to the dialogue surrounding the Local Plan.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest. All dispensation forms had been completed, signed and returned to the Clerk. Councillor Crisp arrived slightly late and confirmed with the Chair that he did not have any interests to declare.

Dispensations

The Chair explained that a Dispensations Form has to be signed by each Councillor in order that they can comment on the precept.

3. Public Question Time

There was one member of the public in attendance.

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 Chair noted that the meeting had been held in Hinton Parva and not Bishopstone as shown on the minutes. With this manual alteration to the minutes, 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 Thomas, and unanimously agreed. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

The Chair asked for a proposition that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 27th December 2012 meeting be accepted as a true record. This meeting had been arranged in order to meet the deadlines of the two planning applications received. A proposition was put forward by Cllr Greenhalgh, 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:

Bus Stop Notice Board

Councillor McGuigan's contact is still thinking about making the notice board. He will carry on progressing the purchasing of a new notice board.

Action: Cllr McGuigan is to progress.

Report from Borough Councillor – Locality Meeting

Bishopstone Village Hall Contacts

Action: Cllr Tapper is to contact the Chairs of local groups connected to the Bishopstone Village Hall.

Signed:

Date:

Bids

Councillor Thomas and Councillor Greenhalgh had not met as it had been confirmed by Annie Ellis of SBC that the cost for the work at the Dingle is estimated at between £6,000 and £10,000, as the grants were for a maximum of £500 it was felt doubtful that we would qualify.

The Borough Councillor reminded those present that there were other grants available. As part of the footpath is now dangerous it was decided to contact Jackie Moyles with regard to the Health and Safety of this.

Action: Councillor Thomas is to contact Jackie Moyles.

Village Website

The Clerk and Councillor Greenhalgh had not liaised with regard to the general updating of the website. At present, Councillor Greenhalgh is continuing with the updating.

Broadband

The Borough Councillor reported on the recent report on Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire's bid for super broadband. He confirmed that Swindon had dropped out of the bidding after it had been offered less than 40%. Currently there is a separate discussion taking place between BT and the Borough. However, Hitesh Patel, the director responsible, will be leaving at the end of March and Jim Cateman may take over the role. Councillors felt this project would be very slow moving.

Polytubs of Concrete

Cllr Stevens confirmed that these covered taps into the field.

Rubbish on New Road/Bourton Road

A Councillor reported that the following items had still not been removed: concrete blocks, tyres and phone books which had been fly tipped in New Road/Bourton Road; also at Lower Farm, there was a toilet pan. The black bags had been removed.

Action: The Clerk is to notify Streetsmart that the fly tipping had not been removed. (Complete)

Ditch in Hinton Parva

This matter had been resolved.

Lost footpath sign

The hedge to the side of Greystones, Hinton Parva is overhanging the footpath.

Action: Cllr Cooke is to speak with the owner of the property.

Ridgeway - Nell Hill

Councillor Stevens had spoken to the owners of the bonfire and rubbish at Nell Hill and had been told that they would be happy for anyone to move anything close to the Ridgeway to the back of the area. He advised Councillors to take care as they could be accused of fly tipping.

Brambling Cottage

A letter had been sent to Gwillam Lloyd. A helpful and positive site meeting had taken place and Cllr Thomas wanted to ascertain whether Councillors would be happy for Highways to remove the hedge if it was proven that this was not within the cottage's boundary.

The Chair had already approached the owner of the cottage regarding the path. Since then a chestnut paling fence has been noticed, which was the original boundary, this would not show on the deeds. It was agreed to wait for a response from SBC.

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

6. **Planning**

No planning applications had been received for consideration.

Late Receipt of Planning Notifications

No late applications had been received.

Conservation Area – Section 211 Notices:

NONE

GRANTED

The following granted schedule had been received after the agenda had been issued.

- **S/12/0659RM** - Erection of a horse walker & provision of lighting to existing manège (retrospective) – Menehall, Russley Park, Baydon
- **S/12/1678RO** – Erection of a front porch – 5 Povey’s Place, Bishopstone

REFUSAL

No refusal schedules had been received.

7. Reports from Borough Councillor

With regard to drains, Councillor Bennett advised those present that if someone purchased a barn for development there would be no civil development costs provided at all, which does raise concerns.

He then went on to talk about the issues surrounding the Local Plan. A host of meetings have been considered and Dale Heenan, the Lead Member of Strategic Planning, is attending the meeting at Wanborough Village Hall on Monday 14th January 2013. Andrew had provided the Chair with an “East of Swindon Evidence Base Update” from SBC. Andrew felt that this would be the focus of discussions at the meeting.

Action: The Clerk is to scan the document and forward it to Councillors. (Complete)

Andrew then referred to the documents that relate to the Local Plan and explained that basic information is needed in responses to the Borough. The Chair explained that they had hoped to talk about the Eastern Villages rather than the Local Plan at the meeting, but Andrew was unsure how the Chair of Wanborough was going to run the meeting at this stage. However, his assumption is that the meeting would be almost entirely centred on the Eastern development. The Chair and several Councillors hope to attend the meeting. Andrew confirmed that Phil Smith, Core Strategy officer, will be attending the meeting.

The Chair felt that the maps did not relate to the large map provided by Councillor Bennett recently. Andrew explained that they do, he had just asked for different information on his map.

Andrew went on to report that Covingham Parish Council is looking at a 7½ ton restriction on the road (Merlin Way), from the bridge from Wanborough to the junction of A419, which may be raised at the meeting.

He then gave an update from the Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel. The newly appointed Police commissioner had attended the second meeting. On 10/1/2013 there is another confirmation meeting with the prospective Chief Constable.

Andrew is attending a meeting at the House of Commons with Robert Buckland and the junior Transport Minister for a discussion to outline the concerns that come through the Parish in relation to Junction 15 traffic filtering on and off the motorway. He went on to explain the problems are mainly in Chiseldon and Liddington. This had great relevance to the Local Plan and the Eastern Villages. A Councillor asked about the issue at Junction 15, which is a large problem exacerbated by development; infrastructure is already being debated and should be stated in individual views on the Local Plan, as volumes count. These comments will go before the Planning Inspectorate at the examination. Councillors were advised to make their points strongly.

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

The Chair checked whether the parishioner wished to talk, she did not, although she did ask the Borough Councillor some interesting questions. A long debate took place around the Local Plan.

Signed:

Date:

Andrew informed those present that Jackie Moyles had notified him and the Clerk that the damaged stile at Horpit reported in the Streetsmart hours is to be replaced with a metal kissing gate.

8. Reports from Sub Committees

Bishopstone Pond & Island – Maintenance Responsibilities

Councillor Bennett had met with Gwilliam Lloyd that day and Gwilliam is meeting with the heads of sections during the coming week. Tim Price is one of the heads he will meet with to discuss the length of time the Parish Council has been waiting for a response. The Chair explained that it is important to separate maintenance responsibilities for the Borough with any potential insurance liabilities from the insurers. The Chair is to forward a word draft for Councillors' feedback. Councillors felt the email draft already received from the Chair was on the right line. Councillors were happy with the revised Risk Assessment.

Action: The Chair is to send the Clerk a DRAFT letter for onward circulation to Councillors. (Complete)

The Chair informed Councillors that he had circulated the annual review of the Management Plan, which is for the school's information and confirmation that they wish to carry on using the allotments on the island. He asked for any queries. A Councillor asked whether the plan would benefit from listing regular tasks. Councillors were asked to look at the Risk Assessment, where tasks are listed and if they feel this should be incorporated into the Management Plan, they should contact the Chair.

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

Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Thomas stated that a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has to be in accordance with the Local Plan and that we need to see what protection the Local Plan might give us before deciding whether to produce a NP. He is currently awaiting a response from SBC (Phil Smith) with regard to what is the meaning of Rural Settlement Boundaries, which are shown in the maps at the back of the plan, as he cannot see any reference to these in the document.

Cllr Thomas reported that Blunsdon Parish Council have a meeting taking place that evening where they will decide who will be their Planning Representative. He has been in contact with the Wanborough and Chiseldon representatives to set up a meeting to determine their responses to the Local Plan, and the meeting will be scheduled once confirmation of the Blunsdon representative is received. The rural areas of the Borough (including Bishopstone and Hinton Parva) could be looking at just 7 dwellings per year over the next 15 years if Cllr Thomas's interpretation of the draft Local Plan is correct.

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

The Chair and the Clerk had received an email from the Bourton Clerk stating that the WVV Consortium is working on the Local Plan and they will provide some guidance before the deadline of 21/2/13.

Action: The Chair/Clerk is to circulate any information received. (Complete)

9. Precept

The Chair thanked Councillor Thompson for the documents he had circulated before the meeting. Councillor Thompson explained that the proposition he had put forward for consideration was either a stand still budget with the same precept as last year, which would automatically give a 3% increase in Council Tax, owing to the issue of people who had received Council Tax benefits, that would no longer be able to do so in the future. He explained that Council Tax bills in Swindon will go up by around 11%. Swindon will receive grants to mitigate this, but it is unlikely that the Parish will see any benefit from this.

The alternative is to stick with a 2% increase, which means a slight reduction in the precept on the assumption that the Borough will also go for 2% increase as above this they would need to go out to consultation. Ian therefore illustrated in his summary for us to piggyback onto the 2% increase, which in a Band D property across the Parish is 80p per year.

A long discussion took place regarding the two options. A proposition was put forward by Councillor Greenhalgh that the precept of £12,400, 0% precept be accepted for the year 2013/14; this proposition was seconded by Councillor Thomas. As this was not a unanimous decision a vote took place with 3 Councillors supporting a 0% increase of £12,400 and 4 Councillors supporting a 2% increase of £12,670. The 2% increase was therefore carried.

Action: The Clerk is to inform SBC of the Precept figure. (Complete)

10. Main Points

Local Plan (Wanborough Working Party)

This item had been discussed at item 7.

Solar Panels

This item was carried forward.

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

Hedge at Brambling Cottage

The Clerk had not received a response from the Borough.

Action: The Clerk is to chase SBC for a response. (Complete)

Apple Trees for Island

Councillor McGuigan had received a response and is able to purchase 2 trees for £40 or 3 trees for £60. Councillors decided that 2 trees should be purchased one for Bishopstone and one for Hinton Parva.

Councillor McGuigan presented an invoice for 3 trees, which was amended to 2 trees.

Action: The Clerk is to bring this invoice to the February meeting. (Complete)

11. Accounts to be Paid

The following cheques were presented for approval:

- L D Drewett £4.70
- A Greenhalgh £14.97

The above expenses were approved for payment by Councillor Cooke, seconded by Councillor Crisp and agreed unanimously.

12. Correspondence

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

13. Parishioners Feedback/Complaints

Western Gateway

Councillor Thomas had received complaints regarding the Western Gateway as this has been driven over twice. Parishioners have asked that it be planted with daffodils; also the road narrow sign is on the wrong side of the road coming from Swindon. SBC has been informed about themes, at present the Chair is waiting for comparative costs for granite sets or black tops from SBC. Councillor Tapper had commented with her apologies in an email to the Chair that the kerbs were too low and encouraged people to drive over them.

Action: The Chair is to talk to SBC with regard to things to come. (Complete)

Culvert at Hinton Springs

The Chair reminded Councillor Cooke of SBC's comments regarding the clearance of the ditches in this area. Councillors believed there were no ditches to be cleared as it was piped under the road.

Signed:

Date:

Large Litter Bin

The Clerk is to liaise with Swindon over the possibility of an anchored wheelie bin.

Action: The Clerk is to contact SBC. (Complete)

Road Maintenance at Oxon Place

The Clerk was asked to follow up on the progress of this.

Action: The Clerk is to contact SBC. (Complete)

New Town Lane

The ditches have still not been cleared.

Action: The Clerk is to contact Henry Stoye , copying in the Chair. (Complete)

Parish Times

The Clerk is to ask for an extension of the deadline owing to the meeting.

Action: The Clerk is to contact Mogs Boon. (Complete)

Action: Councillor Crisp is to send the Clerk the National Trust Working Party details. (Complete)

SBC - DRAFT Statement of Community Involvement in Planning Consultation

The Chair had forwarded a draft of the feedback provided by Councillor Thomas.

Councillors were happy for the feedback to be submitted.

Action: The Clerk is to feedback to SBC after the meeting. (Complete)

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 4 February 2013 at Hinton Parva Village Hall, starting at 19:30 pm.

Action: Apologies to the Clerk before the meeting.