

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday 7th March 2016 at Hinton Parva Village Hall

Those Present: Ian Thompson (Chair), Val Brodin, Julian Cooke, Andy Greenhalgh, Stuart McGuigan, Douglas Stevens, Ian Thomas (Vice Chair), Cllr Andrew Bennett, Karin Thompson (minutes)

1. Approved Apologies

Nigel Crisp, Tom Green, Lesley Drewett (Clerk)

Note: In the Clerk's absence on sick leave, the minutes were taken by Karin Thompson

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest made

3. Public Question Time

One member of the public attended and asked a number of questions in relation to the proposed devolution of funding from SBC: who had priced the contract? Had the PC sought legal advice? What steps had been taken to secure best value, and to establish the basis on which the contract was priced? The Chair explained the context within which the discussion was being held and provided assurance that the PC routinely monitored both contract compliance and quality in relation to any contract. All contracts new and existing were subject to competitive tendering processes. The additional works covered by the proposed funding devolution would be added to the existing contract for "lengthman works" as an expedient measure but when the contract came up for renewal, the composite works would be subject to competitive tender. The parishioner expressed satisfaction with this response and stated that she was reassured that the PC was on top of the issues.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Chair asked for a proposition that the minutes of the February meeting be accepted as a true record. The proposition was put forward by Cllr Brodin 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:

Plantation

Cllr Thomas has spoken to Tim Finney and through him to Helen Browning, about the state of the Plantation.

Action: Cllr Thomas to continue to monitor

Hedgerows at the Forty

The Chair reported that the housing association (HAS) had responded to the Clerk's further contact, and she would continue to monitor the situation. It was noted that regulations to protect wildlife prohibited further hedge-trimming until September.

Action: To be carried forward as an outstanding issue.

Action: The Clerk is to monitor the situation.

New Funding Initiative

Cllr. Greenhalgh had not yet read the paperwork relating to the Enterprise Network (EAFRD)

Action: Cllr Greenhalgh to take a view as to whether this initiative would be beneficial for the parish and to report back accordingly.

Signed:

Date:

6. PCSO Rob Dentry – Policing Team

PCSO Rob Dentry was in attendance following a number of concerns that had been communicated to PC Rory Draper, the parish's community policeman. He reported that there had been a couple of recent local burglaries. He requested that a reminder to parishioners to lock cars, windows and doors be included in the Parish Times.

Cllrs raised parishioners' complaints that recent incidents of rural crime such as hare coursing and crops damaged by quad-bikes were not being followed up appropriately when reported. PCSO Dentry expressed surprise and assured Cllrs that the Police will respond if incidents are reported quickly: there is a Rural Crime Team and a helicopter that could be called in where appropriate. However, they are not received timely notifications. Incidents should be reported as quickly as possible by ringing 999. He also provided an email contact for the Rural crime Team:

PC Marc Jackson, Community Beat Manager: 1945@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Cllrs also raised local concerns about dangerous parking outside Bishopstone Primary School particularly in the morning school drop-off, which was a persistent issue despite messages from the school and in the Village Newsletter. The discussion focused on the difficulty of tackling this: a police presence might prevent the behaviour as a one-off without addressing the problem on other days, and other options such as employing a school crossing patrol person were not viable. PCSO Dentry suggested contacting SBC's Parking Manager, or the police lead: PC Rory Draper, Community Beat Manager: 1905@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Dentry welcomed the opportunity to attend the meeting, a view shared by Cllrs. The Chair issued a standing invitation to attend, with the aim of achieving at least a quarterly attendance.

Action: Clerk to send PCSO Dentry the schedule of dates and venues.

7. Planning

- **S/RES/15/1522** – Application for approval of reserved matters in relation to appearance, landscaping, layout & scale for phases 1-4 and 7 outline planning permission S/OUT/14/0253 – Employment development including B1b (research and development/light industrial), B1c (light industrial, B2 (general industrial) and B8 (warehouse and distribution), new landscaping and junction to A420 (means of access not reserved) – Eastern Villages South, Land At And to the South of the A420 (Great Stall Middle), Swindon, Wilts (**REVISED PLANS**) : No Comments
- **S/TC/16/0259/JROD** – Prior Approval for the removal of 1 200mm existing dish and the installation of 1 600mm new dish – Telecomms Mast, Foxhill, Wanborough
NO OBJECTIONS.

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

• Late Receipt of Planning Notifications

PENDING DETERMINATION

- **S/15/1520/NH** – Erection of a two storey rear extension – Garstons Mead, Church Lane, Bishopstone
- **S/15/0927/HC REVISED** – Erection of an extension of the Royal Oak PH to provide a restaurant area and 10 en-suite guestrooms & change of use of the True Heart PH (class4) to dwelling (Class 3) & associated works (Part demolition, extension & conversion of existing building) – Royal Oak & The True Heart, Cues Lane, Bishopstone
- **S/15/1701/RM** - Erection of 1 dwelling – Land off Short Drove, Hinton Parva
- **S/15/1940/HACO** – Demolition of conservatory & erection of a single storey in-fill extension & creation of a new terraced area – Sayers Bank, Cues Lane, Bishopstone
- **S/OUT/16/0021** – Outline planning application for the erection of up to 370 dwellings, a local convenience store, a primary school, open space, landscaping, on site infrastructure. Means of access not reserved – Redlands, Swindon

OTHER ISSUES

GRANTED

- NONE

REFUSAL

- NONE

8. Reports from Ward Councillor

Cllr Bennett was late arriving but his report has been left in this part of the minutes for continuity.

Cllr Bennett reported that the Redlands application was to be considered by SBC the following day (8th March) with an officer recommendation for approval. The concerns about the Wanborough village road and the impact of the development on access remained unaddressed. There is a judicial review pending in relation to the Berkeley Farm Development in Wroughton, the outcome of which may be applicable to the local situation.

He circulated a recent letter from Rory Stewart, DEFRA minister, stating that AONBs will continue to have protected status.

Cllr Bennett advised that SBC Locality budgets are to be withdrawn and it was not clear what money, if any, would be left. This had implications for meeting the option to fund the proposed passing places on New Road as it was likely that no funding would remain to cover this.

The Chair raised the ongoing issue of the shared septic tank in Hinton Parva. SBC had written to affected residents seeking contributions for ongoing emptying but, despite repeated requests, has not responded to requests to provide the current costs for maintaining the tank without which the issue cannot be progressed. Cllr Bennett was asked to follow this up with relevant officers.

Action: Cllr Bennett to pursue.

9. Reports from Sub Committees

There were no reports from sub committees.

10. Devolution of Funding from SBC

The Chair had clarified with SBC that £800 of the funds to be transferred from SBC related to the Council's Housing Revenue Account. This was sufficient to cover a monthly cut in the growing season and will be reimbursed by SBC following receipt of invoices from the Parish Council. Unlike other funding, this amount will not be phased out over three years and will also be indexed-linked at RPI. Cllrs commented that it might be helpful to produce a tick-list for the Lengthman to submit alongside his invoices to provide an audit trail.

The draft contract between SBC and the PC is now ready for signature subject to the removal of all references to specific timescales. Cllrs considered these inappropriate as in future it would be the PC who will be responsible for quality control. Section 12.2 also referred to a health and safety policy that the PC currently does not have. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas would edit the draft to reflect these concerns and that it would be sensible to develop a health and safety policy.

Actions:

(i) **Cllr Thomas to edit the draft contract and e-mail to the chair (complete)**

(ii) **The amended contract be signed by Chair and Vice-Chair and submitted to SBC :**

Action: Chair (complete)

(iii) **The Clerk to contact WALC/NALC to source a model H&S policy and include as a future agenda item. (complete)**

11. Main PointsGoRide

Cllr Greenhalgh reported on the ongoing discussions about the future of the Go-Ride bus service, and the likelihood that the service would cease to be viable if current subsidies are withdrawn. He will be attending meetings over the next fortnight with Dale Heenan, Swindon councillor lead and other affected Parish Councils and with key officers from West Berkshire Council to explore scope to maintain some local public transport. This could include establishing an alternative community bus service. Cllrs confirmed that a local bus service was a high priority for the Parish.

Action: Cllr Greenhalgh to attend meetings and report back.

Eastern Villages Expansion + Redlands response from Wanborough PC

Nothing to report in Cllr. Green's absence.

Action: To be carried forward as an outstanding issue.

Signed:

Date:

True Heart/Royal Oak

There had been no further progress on this item.

Action: To be carried forward as an outstanding issue.

Work to the Dingle

Cllr Stevens reported that this was still work in progress. The surface to the new path was not high quality and may become an issue over time. The steps to Cue Lane are still to be fitted, but have been ordered. The lead SBC officer, Derek Edgington, has provided effective support when concerns have been raised with him. Cllrs noted that these communication systems have been working well. It was agreed that the project be reviewed once the work had been completed.

Action: Clerk to include as an agenda item for the April meeting

Rural Broadband

Cllr Greenhalgh advised there was nothing to report

Action: To be carried forward as an outstanding issue.

Passing Places+ resurfacing works – New Road

The remedial work was still sub-standard. Cllr Greenhalgh has a meeting with SBC next week to progress these issues.

Action: Cllr Greenhalgh to report back following meeting.

Traveller on the Ridgeway

Cllr Thomas reported that when he raised the issue with Rob Selbourne he had not been certain that the land in question formed part of his farm. After discussion of potential sources of further information, it was agreed that the Cllrs would seek to clarify the legal position before going back to Rob Selbourne to request that he take the necessary action to move the traveller on.

Actions:

- (i) **Karin Thompson to circulate previous advice received from National Trails in relation to land ownership (complete)**
- (ii) **Cllr Stevens to follow up on the Green Lane Association website (<http://www.glass-uk.org>)s**
- (iii) **The Clerk to contact Amanda Luker, the Anti-Social Behaviour Investigator & Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer at SBC to seek her advice.**
- (iv) **To be carried forward as an outstanding issue**

Clean for the Queen Initiative

The Chair reported that turnout for this event had been disappointing and lower than for previous Village Clean-up Days, possibly because the date clashed with Mother's Day. In Hinton, seven volunteers had participated and in Bishopstone seven. Despite the low numbers, multiple bags of rubbish were collected. The Chair commented that SBC officers had been very helpful, with delivery of bags and other equipment and prompt collection of the filled bags.

Action: Clerk to pass on PC's appreciation to appropriate SBC officers. (complete)

12. Accounts to be Paid

The cheques shown in Appendix 1 of the Agenda 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 cheques were proposed for payment by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Brodin and agreed unanimously by those present.

13. Correspondence

The Chair asked whether anyone wished to see any items of correspondence; no-one did.

14. Parishioners Feedback/Complaints

The following concerns were raised:

Hinton Parva

The lane below the Mission was being eroded by flooding resulting from a blocked pipe. This was a recurrence of a previous problem and needed to be reported to SBC.

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

Bishopstone:

Concerns were expressed about the semi-derelict property on Oxon Path and whether there was a risk that steps would be taken which by-passed planning requirements. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to contact Liz Smith Gibbons, Senior Conservation Officer at SBC, to establish if an approach had been made to SBC from the owner (Mr Long) and to draw the concerns of the PC to her attention.

Action: The Clerk to contact Liz Smith Gibbons

There is a white pipe on the path by the school which is dripping water which if frozen could become unsafe. It was unclear to whom this might be reported.

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

A bollard has been removed at the junction between the Icknield Way and the footpath to the north of the school which is a potential trip hazard and should be reported to SBC.

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

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 4th April at Bishopstone Village Hall at 7:30 pm.

Apologies for this meeting were received from Cllrs Cooke, Greenhalgh and Thomas

Signed:

Date: