

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 7:30 p.m.
on Monday 8 April 2013
at Bishopstone Village Hall**

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

Apologies:

Julian Cooke, Karolyn Tapper, Andy Greenhalgh.

1. Inspector Joe Saunders & PC Rory Draper

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked inspector Saunders and PC Draper for attending. He then explained that public question time would be included in this item and the meeting would be stopped to allow the parishioner present to speak.

Inspector Saunders thanked Councillors for the invitation and gave a short resume of his recent career; he understood how important it was to speak with all Councils in his first few weeks in post, especially in areas that he may not visit on a regular basis. He stated that his team care about the areas that they police and the relationships that they form with communities can make lives better. He stated that there were reductions in crime and incident figures in the Ridgeway villages, as no incidents had been reported from the 2 villages in February, March and April. However, they can only report on what they are told about; he asked that if something is affecting the community, the Police should be informed – they wish to engage with the public as much as they can.

The Chair reminded Inspector Saunders that Russley Park was part of the Parish and asked whether they visited this area during routine patrols. PC Draper explained that they do and they have a lot of contact with their Baydon colleague, but there are very few problems there.

The Chair closed the meeting to include Public Question Time. The parishioner queried the speed of cars throughout the parish, which she said was a continuing problem. Inspector Saunders briefed the parishioner on the process for identifying where problems lie and what follows this.

The Chair then mentioned the Community Speed Watch initiative. A Councillor explained that several Councillors and other parishioners had put their names forward for the scheme, but some had been put off by the amount of information required, including NI number, which they felt was disproportionate to the activity. On enquiring, Councillors were told by SBC that this was a Police requirement.

PC Draper stated that this is a national initiative, supported by the Association of Chief Police Officers, and therefore there is very little flexibility locally, but it is coordinated by the Localities team, and he explained why the forms were important. He had been informed that the forms were destroyed after they have been checked and found to be satisfactory. Inspector Saunders could not understand why the NI number was needed and asked PC Draper to follow up on this.

Councillors asked for a definitive answer, in writing, that the forms will be destroyed once passed and not held on file. This should be sent to the Clerk.

The meeting was then re-opened.

As an action from the March meeting, a Councillor had asked PC Draper whether it would be legal to have a camera in operation to catch offenders fly tipping. PC Draper had advised that there should be a sign to show there is a camera in place otherwise public rights may be

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violated; he provided an example of signage that could be used - an A4 sign costs £30 and an A3 £40 approximately, excluding fixings. The Parish Council could commission these from Enterprise Signs, or they might be available from Richard Fisher Head of Waste at SBC, subject to budget. Cllr Bennett advised the Parish Council to contact Phil Thomas in Licensing (SBC) for help with where the signs should be placed. It was decided that a sign would be the best way forward owing to the cost, and that it would be useful to use White Hill as a pilot.

Action: Cllr Crisp is to re-design the sample provided for Councillors approval.

Action: Cllr Crisp is to contact Richard Fisher with regard to budget.

Action: Cllr Crisp is to liaise with Phil Thomas of SBC with regard to location.

The meeting was then closed to allow the parishioner to speak. She informed those present that she had with her a letter signed by a number of parishioners regarding irresponsible dog owners and the increasing amount of dog excrement found on footpaths and private drives/gardens. She referred to a recent article in the Village News; the Chair explained that the Village News is a very useful means of communicating with local people and also provides a vehicle for personal views to be expressed; the article in question did not represent the views of the Parish Council or the Parochial Church Council. Councillors were in support of the parishioner's views and it was agreed that an article should be placed in the Parish Times.

Inspector Saunders said legislation for dogs covered dangerous dogs and dogs dangerously out of control in public; it is currently under review. PC Draper advised the parishioner that the Dog Warden at SBC (Glyn Eamus) was the person to talk to with regard to stray dogs. He also said he was happy to put some resource in place to speak with dog owners, provide them with bags and stickers, or send an open letter to the community; if a particular dog can be identified as an offender, the enforcement team can get involved. The Chair said the Parish Council were happy to see Police in the villages.

Action: The Chair and PCC are to draft an article for the Parish Times. (Complete)

Inspector Saunders and PC Draper thanked the Parish Council for inviting them.

2. Approved Apologies

Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair), Julian Cooke, Andrew Greenhalgh.

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Question Time

This item had been covered in item 1.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Chair asked for a proposition that the minutes of the March 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.

6. Matters Arising

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

Report from Borough Councillor – Locality Meeting

Septic Tank

The septic tank problem is ongoing and no feedback had been received from SBC (Mr Skeffington). The Chair advised that orange plastic fencing had been erected, but it was not very secure.

Action: Cllr Bennett is to chase for feedback.

[Post Meeting note: Mr Skeffington has provided feedback which has been forwarded to Councillors and another email has been sent by the Clerk asking for a fuller explanation.]

Brambling Cottage

The Chair had spoken to the owner who is not keen to cut back the hedge to allow for a footpath. The owners had suggested that there is some tarmac underneath the verge on the south side of the road and they wondered whether the road could be realigned very slightly by clearing some of the verge to allow more space for a footpath on the north side.

Action: The Chair is to check the verge to see if it covers more tarmac. (Complete)

Action: The Chair is to draft a letter to SBC, a copy of which will be sent to the owners of the property. (Complete)

Stile at the Lynchetts

A Councillor asked if the stile into the Lynchetts could be altered to accommodate dogs.

Action: Cllr Greenhalgh is to contact the staff of the farmer.

This item is still outstanding and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Bishopstone Pond & Island – Maintenance Responsibilities

The Chair stated that it had been agreed to send a letter to Tim Price at SBC; this item was to be covered in item 9.

The True Heart

This item was discussed under Item 8.

Rural Broadband

This item was discussed under Item 8.

Fly Tipping on White Hill

Cllr Cooke has confirmed that the land is owned by his family, who will therefore be responsible for clearing it.

7. Planning

The following planning applications had been received:

- **S/13/0198HC** – Rebuild of boundary wall – Vorty Stables, The City, Bishopstone
- Councillors had no objections to the above planning application.

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

Late Receipt of Planning Notifications

The following plans had been received after the agenda had been issued:

- **S/13/0409HC** – **Hangar Park House, Hinton Parva Lane, Hinton Parva**

Councillors had no objections to the above planning application.

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

Conservation Area – Section 211 Notices:

NONE

GRANTED

No granted schedules had been received.

REFUSAL

No refusal schedules had been received.

8. Reports from Borough Councillor

This item was brought forward, but was left in this part of the minutes for consistency.

Cllr Bennett informed Councillors that pending confirmation on 11 April, the new Leader of the Conservative Group was to be Cllr David Renard; his deputy was to be Cllr Brian Mattock. There will still be 10 people in cabinet, but the portfolios are to be re-arranged. The most significant change is the return of Cllr Mike Bawden, with responsibility for Strategic Projects and Transformation. Cllr Heenan will be retaining Strategic Planning and Sustainability. There was to be a meeting about the Local Plan in Covingham that evening at which both Cllr Heenan and the Chair of Wanborough Parish Council will be speaking. Cllr Bennett went on to say that the fundamental issue is that if there was no Local Plan in place it would be open to developers to move in.

The Chair and the Chair of Wanborough Parish Council had a meeting with Cllr Rod Bluh several months ago. A response had been received from Cllr David Renard stating that, as a

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matter of urgency, a meeting was to be arranged with Cllr Bawden to discuss the issues around the Local Plan. The Chair has responded to the letter and will keep Councillors informed on progress.

A meeting had also been held with Robert Buckland MP on 5th April 2013 and Councillors had been briefed via email. A Councillor queried the allocation of houses for Redlands Farm – he understood this to be 30-50 houses but now it transpires that the change of the housing boundary may permit 500 houses or more. When he had spoken with the Chair of Wanborough Parish Council, he had said that there was no need to prejudice the whole Local Plan, rather include that before any development planning applications were submitted, a Development Brief should be put forward with a limitation of a maximum of 50 houses. A long discussion followed. The Chair informed Councillors that the next working group meeting on the Local Plan is to take place on 29th April 2013 in Hooper's Field.

CIL

A Councillor queried the charge being proposed in the recent letter. The charge proposed to be levied in the new development area of the Eastern villages is zero. Cllr Bennett felt it may not be fully applicable. He went on to explain the reasons around this. It was felt that there should be an explanation for this.

Rural Broadband

A Councillor asked whether there had been any progress on inviting Jim Caton and David Titcombe to a future Parish Council meeting to discuss the strategy. Cllr Bennett explained that the principles had changed and it was not clear how they proposed delivery.

Action: Cllr Bennett is to contact Jim Caton and David Titcombe of SBC to invite them to a future Parish Council meeting.

The Chair asked if it was an issue in that it is known that in the employment area for the Eastern villages, east of the A419, there is currently no provision for broadband. Cllr Bennett stated that this is another issue in the Local Plan. The Chair hoped Cllr Greenhalgh would provide an update on the situation in due course.

True Heart

Cllr Bennett asked whether any proposals were coming forward. Cllr Thomas informed him that he had been contacted by Ian Sullivan with some draft proposals; Councillors did not feel that they addressed the Inspector's comments in the recent appeal. He had invited Mr Sullivan to attend this meeting, but he had declined as he had to go back to his client. He has been invited to attend next month's meeting instead.

Action: Cllr Thomas is to forward the plans received to Cllr Bennett.

9. Reports from Sub Committees

Bishopstone Pond & Island – Maintenance Responsibilities

A draft letter had been forwarded to Councillors via email. Councillors were happy with the content.

Action: The Chair is to send the letter to the Clerk. (Complete)

Action: The Clerk was asked to put the letter on PC letterhead. (Complete)

Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Thomas reported that the second planning seminar was interesting in that it did not have as many attendees as the first one, which meant that more personal attention was received. The two main points of relevance that arose were:

- Bishopstone was a very easy case to deal with compared to the urban areas.
- Conversely, that led to the question whether a neighbourhood plan was needed; the cost would be a major factor.

Cllr Thomas felt that if Navigus could put together a plan for less than £2,000 he would be in favour of it. The Chair felt the body that would be most critical would be the Church Commissioners, as local land owners. Cllr Thomas went on to explain that if all the comments put forward on the Local Plan were adopted by the Borough, the only place for development would be within the village boundary. The Parish Council could then respond as and when applications come forward. The allocation in the Local Plan is limited to 100 houses in the rural villages, proportionate to the size of the village. With a Neighbourhood Plan, Councillors could look inside the red line and dictate to land owners where development should take place.

Councillors will decide whether to continue with a Neighbourhood Plan once Navigus has attended the meeting in May.

Grants

Cllr Crisp reminded Councillors of the Government Agency Grants of £7,000 to create Neighbourhood Plans. It was decided that if the Parish Council decide to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan, they would look at applying for a grant.

10. Main Points

Local Plan (Wanborough Working Party)

This item had been dealt with in item 8.

The True Heart

This item had been dealt with in item 8.3

Rural Speed Management

The Chair had circulated an email from Sam Turner at SBC regarding the points on the eastern side and it was decided not to take this further. A Councillor suggested asking the Gardening Club if they wish to adopt the western gateway. If the Gardening Club does not want to take charge of this area it will be grassed.

Action: Cllr Thomas is to talk to the Gardening Club.

Fly Tipping

This item had been dealt with in Item 1.

11. Accounts to be Paid

The following cheques were presented for approval:

- L D Drewett £4.99
- Glasdons £241.43

The Clerk asked for the Tree Tops invoice for £215 to be approved as it had been missed from the agenda and the work had been completed.

The cost of the lifebelt was queried and the Chair explained that approval to order it had been given by Councillors. The Chair is to obtain a post and it was decided to site it close to the water. **(Complete)**

The above expenses were approved for payment by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Thomas and agreed unanimously.

12. Correspondence

The Chair then asked if Councillors wished to view any of the other correspondence. The Chair queried the letter from Grant Thornton and the Clerk informed him that it was the Year End Accounts request. These had been completed and the internal auditor had been contacted. The accounts will be presented at the next meeting for ratification.

The Parish Council had received the annual letter from Community First for the insurance renewal in early June. The Chair explained that the insurers would have to be notified that according to SBC the Parish Council is now liable for third party public liability in respect of the highway and railings on the north side of the pond. He will make it known that there is still residual doubt about the pipe work that runs under the pond which belongs to the Church Commissioners.

Action: The Chair is to draft a letter for Councillors approval once the letter to Tim Price has been sent. (Complete)

13. Parishioners Feedback/Complaints

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Development at Tommy's Barn

A parishioner had informed Cllr Stevens of his concern over the track providing access from Church Lane through the development to the field behind his property. The Chair recalls being told that the track was to be shifted to the top of the site, adjacent to The Old Farm House, to provide access to the field. Prebendal Farm has improved the gateway into the paddock adjacent to the Church car park. If the track was to be removed the parishioner would object, as this acts as a buffer between his property and the development. Councillors felt the track was there and the buffer was safe until someone comes in to build on it and at that time the Council would react.

Action: Cllr Stevens is to brief the parishioner.

Rats on White Hill

It was believed that Cllr Cooke had tried baiting, which has been unsuccessful.

Action: The Chair is to contact Cllr Cooke to check whether he did put bait down.

Minutes on Noticeboard

A Councillor asked whether the Clerk had put the February minutes on the Hinton Parva board, as they were not currently displayed. The Clerk informed him that she had and that they must have been removed by whoever keeps the notice board clear.

[Post Meeting Note: The March minutes have been added to the notice board.]

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting, will take place on Monday 13 May 2013 at Hinton Parva Village Hall, starting at **18:30 pm**.

Action: Apologies to the Clerk before the meeting.