# BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held at 7:30 p.m.**

**on Tuesday 6 January 2020**

**at Hinton Parva Village Hall**

**Those Present:** Val Brodin (Chair), Lesley Drewett (Clerk), Ian Thomas (Vice Chair), Julian Cooke, Nigel Crisp, Douglas Stevens, Stuart McGuigan, Tom Green, Gill May, Cllr Gary Sumner.

1. **Public Question Time**

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Approved Apologies**

Andy Greenhalgh.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Chair asked for a proposal that the December meeting be accepted as a true record. The proposal was made by Cllr Thomas and unanimously agreed. The minutes were then signed by the Chair.

1. **Matters Arising**

All actions from the previous meeting had been completed except:

**Report from Ward Councillor**

Cllr Sumner had contacted BT and had been informed that no cable had been laid in the Parish. The Clerk is to contact the Ashbury Clerk to ask whether they have entered into a private arrangement to have connection to fibre.

**Action: The Clerk is to liaise with the Clerk of Ashbury Parish Council. (Complete)**

**West End Lane Junction**

The parishioner had cut back the hedge before Cllr Stevens spoke to him.

**GDPR**

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

**Lengthman Works**

Cllr Sumner had chased progress re The City on several occasions and was still awaiting a response.

**Action: Cllr Sumner is to chase progress with Paul Page.**

Churchyard Maintenance

Cllr Stevens is still waiting for 2 other quotes to arrive. He is to chase these.

**Action: Cllr Stevens is to obtain 2 quotes in time for the February meeting.**

**Planning**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **PENDING DETERMINATION** | |

* **S/LBC/19/1234** ­– Demolition of cavity wall to previous extension & erection of replacement wall – The Old Mill, Hockerbench, Bishopstone

A Cllr had reported that the work applied for above has been completed and a different type of brickwork appeared to have been used. Cllr Thomas had checked the documentation on the website and found that there were some inconsistencies in the approved application. As there was not enough information on the website to determine whether the correct bricks had been used, he felt that the planning officer should be asked to confirm this.

**Action: The Clerk is to write to the Planning Officer. (Complete)**

**Precept**

This item was carried forward.

**Action: Councillor Crisp is to write an article for the Parish Times. (Complete)**

**West End Lane Junction**

The mirror has been installed and the Chair gave her thanks to Cllr Thomas & Cllr Stevens for their help. She informed those present that parishioners were delighted that this was in place.

**Pond & Island**

An article had been put into the newsletter.

1. **Planning**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **PENDING DETERMINATION** | |

* **S/OUT/17/1990** – **REVISED** - Outline planning application (with means of access to the A420 not reserved) for up to 1,700 homes; education provision including a 10 form entry secondary school and a 3 form entry primary school with attendant sports pitches; a sports hub and open space; a park and ride; a local centre up to 1,000sqm including classes A1,A2,A3,A4,A5 and D1 uses; public open space/green infrastructure; new informal and formal recreation spaces and the formation of two new accesses from the A420 – Great Stall East – Land South of the A420, South Marston, Swindon

Cllr Sumner explained that they had met with the applicants and there was a lot of detail about the site that is not satisfactory. A meeting is due to take place with the Planning Officers in January to talk about changes. These will then go out for further consultation. They hope to work together to get it before the planning committee in a few months time.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to remove this application from the agenda.**

* **S/OUT/19/0582 REVISED–** Outline Planning application (means of access off Wanborough Road not reserved) for demolition and/or conversion of existing buildings and redevelopment to provide up to 2,500 homes (Use Class C3); up to 1,780 sqm of community/retail uses (Use Class D1/D2/A1/A3/A4); up to 2,500 sqm of employment use (Use Class B1); sports hub; playing pitches; 2no. 2 Form Entry primary schools; green infrastructure; indicative primary access road corridors to A420; improvements to Wanborough Road and associated works – Lotmead Site Eastern Villages, Wanborough

Cllr Sumner explained that this would end up at planning in the next couple of months.

**Action: The Clerk was asked to remove this application from the agenda.**

**APPEAL**

* **APP/U3935/W/19/3240061 –** Demolition of The Chalet & erection of 1no dwelling & associated works – The Chalet, Church Row, Hinton Parva

The Clerk had responded to the planning inspectorate to reiterate Cllrs views.

**OTHER ISSUES**

The following application arrived after the agenda had been issued:

* **S/HOU/19/1706 – REVISED** - Erection of two storey/single storey side and first floor rear extensions. - 5 High Street, Bishopstone

Cllrs viewed the revised plans. The Clerk is to write to SBC to say that Cllrs had no objections to the revised application subject to the Conservation Officers views.

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

**GRANTED**

* **S/LBC/19/1365 –** Demolition of lean to, and replacement with wall with thatched top and replacement of 2 no windows – Sarsens, High Street, Bishopstone
* **S/HOU/19/1651 –** Erection of a two-storey side extension – 13 The Wyncies, Bishopstone
* **S/19/0703 – REVISED -** The construction of a new road to link the A419 Commonhead Roundabout to the proposed New Eastern Villages (NEV) development including improvements to the existing Commonhead Roundabout & Pack Hill, new junctions with Pack Hill, The Marsh & Wanborough Road, new footway/cycleway & associated earthworks, drainage works & landscaping – Land East of the A419, Between Commonhead Roundabout & Land North of Wanborough Road, Swindon

**REFUSAL**

**NONE**

**WITHDRAWN**

* **S/LBC/19/1234** ­– Demolition of cavity wall to previous extension & erection of replacement wall – The Old Mill, Hockerbench, Bishopstone

A Cllr queried why the Clerk had not received any communication from Enforcement with regard to Swedish House. Cllr Sumner explained that there were still problems with limited resources in the Enforcement team. Cllrs felt this service was not satisfactory. They felt if conditions were set and not adhered to it set a dangerous precedent.

**Action: Cllr Sumner is to chase progress.**

A Cllr reported that the wooden stable on the 90º bend on the Bourton Road was being lived in.

**Action: The Cllr is to email Cllr Sumner with location details and photographs for him to follow up.**

1. **Reports from Borough Council**

**Local Plan Review**

Councillors were reminded of the deadline for responses which is 31st January 2020. Cllr Sumner advised that the PC should encourage individual responses from parishioners and not to do the same as had been done following the drop-in event last autumn. The Chair explained that it would have been more helpful if this had been recommended up front as she felt the pressure from the Ward Councillor had been to call a drop-in event to gather data and send it through as a Parish. The Chair reiterated that the PC’s consultation revealed that generally speaking parishioners were in favour of a limited amount of controlled and appropriate development. Cllr Sumner highlighted some of the questionnaire results and advised Cllrs they should not rely on sustainability as their final objection. Cllr Thomas noted that the Borough Council appeared to be promoting Bishopstone as being a sustainable location for development with the proposed allocations representing a 28% increase in the number of dwellings in the village. He reminded the Ward Councillor that when the Prebendal application was being considered the Borough’s own Policy officers asked for the application to be reduced from 7 dwellings to 5 on the grounds of proportionality and on balance a 2½% increase in the number of dwellings had been considered to be acceptable. The Parish Council has undertaken a detailed consultation in the village and considered residents’ feedback and for that reason Cllrs have supported the smaller site on New Town Lane for 9 dwellings which, plus the Prebendal Farm site, makes 14 in total which is considered to be sufficient development for a village of Bishopstone’s size. An additional 30 dwellings on a single site in one hit, on land which does not even adjoin the settlement boundary would be completely disproportionate. Cllr Thomas added that there was a risk that the Local Plan will be found unsound as such a large and disproportionate allocation would breach the Plan’s own spatial strategy policies. Cllr Sumner thought this was debatable. A long discussion then took place around issues of sustainability and where growth in the village should be sited.

Cllrs asked if they could rely on Cllr Sumner’s support after hearing Cllrs views regarding the Forty site. He explained that he could say that there is a strength of feeling, but he would not expect any Cllr to be able to interfere in terms of an argument it will be down to the planning balance across the Borough. Cllr Thomas expressed the view that the proposed development will seriously harm what is known as “The Jewel in the Crown”, Bishopstone’s conservation village, and 30 houses could easily be found elsewhere in the Borough. Cllr Sumner asked that Cllrs encourage residents to submit as many different comments as they can with regard to their local knowledge regarding Highways access and density. Cllr Green considered that Highways issues would not be the key factor that could prevent large development in the area, it was more about the percentage of dwellings and the affect such growth would have upon the Conservation village.

**Action: The Chair is to provide a weekly reminder on Facebook encouraging parishioners to respond to SBC.**

**Action: The Chair is to provide an article for the Parish Times. (Complete)**

**Phone Box in Hinton Parva**

Cllr Sumner informed Cllrs that SBC had submitted a response to BT recommending they keep the phone box in Hinton Parva. The Clerk was informed that the electricity is not working in the phone box.

**Action: The Clerk is to contact BT regarding to the lack of electricity in the phone box. (Complete)**

A Cllr asked about progress on the motorway junction. Cllr Sumner explained that it is complicated as it is a Highways England scheme to deliver, but he is still hopeful work will start in the Spring.

**Mirror at West End Lane**

The Chair informed Cllr Sumner that the mirror has been installed and parishioners are delighted. However, the promised white lining still needs to be done.

**Action: Cllr Sumner is to follow up on progress with Suzanne Coles.**

**Christmas Rubbish Collection**

Cllr Stevens explained that the message regarding the arrangements for the collection of rubbish was disastrous. Collections were made but it did not do any favours for SBC. Cllr Sumner had spoken with Maureen Penny, the cabinet member for waste and highways and she had said it would be dealt with in a mid January review. Double the expected amount of waste was collected.

**Action: Cllr Sumner is to share this information with SBC.**

**Key Point Incinerator**

A Cllr asked for a progress report and was informed that things had gone quiet as the planned technology for the site is not available.

**Science Park**

The “Science Park” has had an extension until the end of February.

1. **Key Responsibility Area Updates**

Finance – The precept had been agreed at the December meeting. There was no other report to make.

Footpaths & Highways - Eastbrook’s cows had escaped and churned up the Dingle footpath and other parts of the village. The Chair thanked the Cllrs that had helped with tidying the area and making it safer. The Clerk has raised the issue with Helen Browning on behalf of the Parish Council.

Pond & Island Management Committee – The tidying of the island on 26th January 2020 has been advertised in the newsletter. Cllr Thomas and Cllr Stevens are to take the lead on the day.

Hinton Parva Village Hall

The Hinton Parva annual New Year Supper will take place on Saturday 18th January 2020 at a cost of £12.50 per head. Parishioners have been asked to generate ideas to increase usage of the village hall.

Bishopstone Village Hall - No report to make.

Hinton Parva Charities - No meeting had taken place.

Bishopstone United Charities - No meeting had taken place.

Trees – Work on the trees in the church car park will be carried out over the next few days.

Russley Park Liaison - No report to make.

Planning - No report to make.

Website/IT

Cllr Crisp will soon be uploading the photographs provided by a parishioner for the website.

Responsible Financial Officer – The Chair informed those present that the Clerk has handed her notice in, she will stay to finalise the Year End accounts and induct a new Clerk.

**Action: The Clerk will provide a recruitment article for the newsletter. (Complete)**

1. **75th Anniversary of V E Day on 8 May 2020**

Wanborough have organised an event for V E day on 8th May 2020 and had approached the Chair to ask whether Bishopstone and Hinton would be doing anything. The events Wanborough PC has organised are:

* 9am to 11am bell ringing at St Andrew's Church
* 11.15am - 11.45am - Church Service
* Displays in the Church displaying information about locals who served in the war, how the village looked during the war and any stories etc residents have to share.
* 12 noon - picnic in the park - Church Meadow with entertainment
* 12.30pm entertainment to start including - bands, jazz, two lady singers (WW2 themed songs)
* 3pm - toast
* 3.15pm to 6.45pm - entertainment
* 7pm - bell ringing

Plus other activities.

Councillors thought that it would be a good idea to encourage our parishioners to support the Wanborough activities. Cllr Brodin suggested asking parishioners for memoirs and photographs and mounting a display in Hinton Village Hall as a focus for our villages. She offered to coordinate this.

**Action: The Chair is to liaise with the village hall committee.**

1. **West End Lane Junction**

This item had been discussed at items 5.2 and 5.8. The Chair thanked Cllr Thomas and Cllr Stevens for installing the mirror. They confirmed that it had been installed more than 1 metre from the road as advised by Cllr Green. A parishioner had offered to keep the mirror clean.

1. **Grant – Ridgeway Link**

The Clerk had received a letter asking for the grant provided by the Parish Council to be increased. The Chair read the letter to those present and a discussion took place. The letter had been forwarded to the Chair of the Finance Committee who queried the large telephone bill. It was decided to increase the grant but to write to The Ridgeway Link notifying them of the increase but querying the reason for the large telephone expenses. A proposal to increase the donation to £125 was made by Cllr Brodin, this was seconded by Cllr May and unanimously agreed by all present.

**Action: The Clerk is to send the AGM minutes and letter from The Ridgeway Link to Cllrs. (Complete)**

**Action: Cllr Crisp to draft a letter for The Ridgeway Link. (Complete)**

1. **Hinton Parva Red Phone Box**

This item had been discussed at item 7.2.

1. **Local Plan**

A long discussion took place regarding the Local Plan and the support Cllrs would have liked to see from the Ward Cllr. Cllrs were disappointed with Cllr Sumner’s feedback and lack of support regarding the developments proposed.

**Action: The Chair is to draft an email to send to the Borough Councillor. (Complete)**

**Action: Cllr Thomas is to revise the wording of his response to the Local Plan for the Parish Council to send. (Complete)**

1. **Pond & Island**

The Island tidying Event had been discussed at item 8.3.

1. **GDPR**

The Chair reminded everyone that they should delete anything that identifies an individual when the work has been completed.

1. **Community Safety**

No meeting had taken place.

1. **Lengthman Works**

Cllr Cooke reported that the bin at Charlbury Tump needs emptying and there was much litter surrounding it. Cllr Stevens reminded those present that the Lengthman needed to be notified about the 2 new dog bins.

**Action: Cllr Thomas is to ask the Lengthman to clear the rubbish as ‘ad hoc work’ and notify him of the new dog bins, copying in the Clerk. (Complete)**

Dog Excrement

The Clerk had received a complaint regarding dog excrement on the footpath from Icknield Way to the Church, near Greystones Cottage. Cllrs asked the Clerk to respond informing the parishioner that Cllrs would monitor the situation.

**Action: The Clerk is to respond to the parishioner. (Complete)**

1. **Accounts to be paid:**

* See Appendix 1

The amounts 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 Lengthman had presented his invoice after the meeting but this has already been agreed by Cllrs as a monthly payment.

Cllr Cooke proposed that the accounts were paid, this was seconded by Cllr Stevens and agreed unanimously by those present.

1. **Correspondence**

The Chair asked Cllrs if they wished to view any correspondence; none did.

1. **Parishioners Feedback/Complaints**

The Mission

Cllr Crisp informed the meeting that the drain at the Mission was blocked again.

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

Village Clean Up

Councillors decided that a village clean up should take place on 1st March 2020 meeting at the village halls at 10:30 am.

**Action: The Chair is to provide an article for the Parish Times. (Complete)**

**Action: The Clerk is to contact the parishioner who holds some of the equipment.**

**Action: The Clerk is to contact SBC regarding collection of the rubbish.**

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is due to take place on Monday 3rd February 2020 at Bishopstone Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.