

# The Parish Times

March 2020

## VACANCY

Bishopstone Parish Council are looking for a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to replace our existing clerk who has served the Parish for the past 21 years.

The council wishes to appoint an energetic and self-motivated individual to manage its business and to carry out all aspects of its financial administration. The ideal candidate will have good organisational, numeracy and computer skills, be a good communicator and have the ability to work independently.

The role is part-time up to 35 hours per month including holidays. There is some flexibility in the management of the hours and additional hours may be necessary to manage the administration during busy times. These will be paid at the normal hourly rate.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month unless there is a Bank Holiday when it is postponed until the following Monday. The Clerk is responsible for organising the meetings with an agenda which must be issued 1 week before the meeting, with minutes being completed within 1 week. Emails should be checked daily. A monthly newsletter is produced by the Clerk with input from a variety of sources. The Clerk is also the main contact for Swindon Borough Council and the Borough Councillor. There are meetings for Clerks which it would be advantageous, but not mandatory to attend and these take place in nearby villages or Swindon.

The role of Responsible Financial Officer involves maintaining a set of accounts, organising the annual audit in a timely manner, dealing with all income and expenditure.

Interested parties should be able to use a computer, the internet and have good people skills. They will need to be dedicated in supporting Councillors in their work in the Parish and helping Parishioners with any queries or problems.

The successful candidate will need their own computer and connection to the internet. The Council does not have an office so the Clerk will be expected to work from home and provide some document storage.

**To commence on 1st April 2020 with an overlap with the present Clerk.  
To apply, please email [clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](mailto:clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org) with a letter of application and cv.**

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

Elections for Bishopstone Parish Council are scheduled for Thursday 7 May. There are nine seats on the Council to fill, and the election will be contested if ten or more candidates stand for election. Nomination forms for prospective candidates will be available from 4 March from the Parish Clerk and need to be submitted by hand to the Returning Officer at Swindon Borough Council by 4pm on Wednesday 8 April.

## ODDS and ENDS

### IMPORTANT ADVICE

Swindon Borough Council often notify us of important consultations and drop in events with timescales that make it not worth inserting in the Parish Times as the deadlines will have passed before it is read. It is therefore important to keep an eye on the village noticeboards and website for up-to-date news.

### DOG EXCREMENT

It has been reported to Councillors that there is a lot of dog excrement being left on the roads and paths in the Parish and also hung in bags from the trees.

The Parish Council has funded several dog bins which are situated in various locations throughout the Parish and are emptied by our Lengthman regularly.

**PLEASE USE THE DOG BINS AND DO NOT LEAVE BAGS WITH EXCREMENT HANGING FROM TREES AROUND THE VILLAGES.**

Help keep the villages clean and tidy. Your help is very much appreciated.

### OUTSIDE LIGHTS

One of the things that makes the Parish so unique and wonderful is the lack of street lighting to blight the villages. Sadly more and more people are now erecting high wattage outside lights and leaving them on permanently. Please consider your neighbours who may not wish their rooms lit throughout the night especially bedrooms where sleep can be seriously disturbed.

Emma Marrington, CPRE's Rural Policy Campaigner said: *"Many lives are affected by light pollution. It can disturb sleep, disfigure the countryside and make the stars at night invisible to huge numbers of people."*

Discrete and considerate outside lighting that only comes on when needed is the best type to mount if lighting is considered necessary. Everyone is becoming more aware how energy wastage is resulting in the earth's resources being diminished. Every light that is on when no one needs to use the light it casts is adding to this wastage. So please look at your lighting needs and think of your neighbours as well as the planet and only light when needed.

### PARISH BUSINESS

The Parish Council's monthly meeting is a very effective and immediate forum for discussion of matters of concern to villagers. Every Parish Council meeting starts with a 'public question time' and all residents are welcome to attend and ask questions. Dates for the year ahead are shown below. Meetings usually start at 7.30pm, alternating between Bishopstone and Hinton Parva. Residents can also contact the Clerk to raise any issue, and councillors will respond as quickly and fully as possible.

Agendas and minutes are published online at <https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parishcouncil/> and paper copies are posted on the village hall noticeboards for all to read.

**For problems with Waste Collections call Streetsmart on:**

Tel: 01793 445501 - Monday to Friday 8.00am-8.00pm; 01793 466453 at all other times

INFORMATION

INTEGRITY

PERSPECTIVE

ISSUES

INFORMATION

## BT'S PROPOSED REMOVAL OF HINTON PARVA RED HERITAGE PHONE BOX

Following the first round of required consultations, Swindon Borough Council agrees with the Parish Council's recommendations and intends to object to the removal of this phone because of the poor mobile service and need for a means of emergency communication in this locality. SBC is required by law to consult again on its plan to object.

If you wish to make any comments please write before 26th February 2020 to Alice Bates, Planning Policy, Swindon Borough Council, Wat Tyler House, Beckhampton Street, Swindon SN1 2JH or email [abates@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:abates@swindon.gov.uk)

If you agree this phone should be retained, please comment and copy your response to the Parish Council (email [clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org](mailto:clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org)).



## SPRING CLEAN OUR VILLAGES 1ST MARCH

The annual village spring clean will take place on Sunday 1st March 2020.

Please volunteer and help get our villages ship-shape before the spring plant growth starts. Meet at 10.00am at the village halls in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone, where litter picking tools, Hi-Viz vests and black bags will be available.



## Come and meet our Police and Crime Commissioner

Angus Macpherson will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April in Bishopstone Village Hall. Come and hear what his priorities are and also ask any questions you have about policing in our area. He is the chap that sets the priorities for Wiltshire and Swindon police, so if you have a view, this would be a good opportunity to express it.

## BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

### Lesley Drewett (Clerk)

Phone: 01488 71828

Fax: None

Email: Clerk@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mr Julian Cooke

Councillor-jc@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mr Nigel Crisp

Councillor-nc@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mr Andrew Greenhalgh

Councillor-ag@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Dr Stuart McGuigan

Councillor-sm@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mr Doug Stevens

Councillor-ds@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mr Ian Thomas (Vice Chair)

Councillor-it@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mrs Val Brodin (Chair)

Councillor-vb@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mr Tom Green

Councillor-tg@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

### Mrs Gill May

Councillor-gm@bishopstoneandhintonparva.org

Please note the Clerk and Councillors new email addresses. The Parish Council agreed a new privacy policy in May 2018 which is available from the website.

## Useful Information

### SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

### Civic Offices

01793 463668

### Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

### General enquiries to Streetsmart 01793 445501

### Borough Councillor

Gary Sumner - GSumner2@swindon.gov.uk

Key Responsibility	Representative Hinton Parva	Representative Bishopstone
Finance	Nigel Crisp (Chair) Julian Cooke	
Footpaths and Highways	Julian Cooke	Stuart McGuigan Ian Thomas
Pond & Island		Doug Stevens Andy Greenhalgh
Hinton Parva Village Hall	Valerie Brodin	
Bishopstone Village Hall		Andy Greenhalgh
Hinton Parva Charities	Peter Cooke	
Bishopstone United Charities		Karolyn Tapper (Ex Cllr) Lesley Drewett (Clerk) Laurie Manktelow (Ex Cllr)
Trees	Julian Cooke	Ian Thomas
Russley Park Liaison		Andy Greenhalgh
Responsible Financial Officer		Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
Planning		Ian Thomas/Tom Green
Website/IT	Nigel Crisp	

## PLANNING UPDATE

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can be viewed at:

[www.swindon.gov.uk/planning](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/planning)

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councillors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S/19/1891 – Erection of storage or distribution building (use class B8), ancillary buildings, offices, landscaping, vehicular parking, bus depot, creation 2no passenger vehicle accesses and associated works – Symmetry Park (Phase 6), Shrivenham Road, South Marston, Swindon

### GRANTED

S/HOU/19/1706 - Erection of two storey/single storey side and first floor rear extensions. - 5 High Street, Bishopstone - Charlotte Hopkins—01793 466280 Before 16.01.20

### REFUSED

### NONE

### APPEAL—DISMISSED

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

## SMALL PRINT

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community. The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the

North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed. Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page. We do hope you will be very happy here.

### Obscured Road Signs, your help is requested

Keeping our village roads safe is a priority for all of us. Ensuring road signs are visible and clear of vegetation is an important contribution to this effort. If you have a road sign on your property or even one near you, please could you ensure that it is clearly visible and not obscured by vegetation. THANK YOU for your efforts.

### Reporting Problems to Swindon Borough Council

For the last several years the Parish Council has advocated the use of a third party website [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) to report and track issues such as fly-tipping or pot-holes to SBC. There is now a service on SBC's website at [www.swindon.gov.uk/my\\_account](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/my_account) where residents can report these issues directly. Recent experience has shown there is a faster response to those issues reported directly.

### Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council. Documents of particular importance are also stored on the parish website and may be viewed by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

### Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

The Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is clearly signed on the wall of the hall.

Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall. Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated.

The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

The Village Hall Management Committee asks that residents remember that *'Skips should not be positioned in close proximity to the Hall structure'*.

### Trees in conservation areas

The whole of Bishopstone and most of Hinton Parva lies within a Conservation Area and as such the legislation is similar to that relating to a Tree Preservation Order, including the financial penalties and tree replacement. If you want to carry out works to a tree you will need to submit a 'notice of intent' to Swindon Borough Council. If you have not heard back from them by the time the six weeks has expired then you may proceed with the works described in your letter. You can complete the Swindon Borough Council Notification for Works on Protected Trees in a Conservation Area form online: [https://www.swindon.gov.uk/forms/form/252/en/applicationnotification\\_for\\_works\\_on\\_protected\\_trees](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/forms/form/252/en/applicationnotification_for_works_on_protected_trees)

You are not required to submit a notice for the cutting down, topping or lopping or uprooting of a tree whose diameter does not exceed 75 millimetres; or the cutting down or uprooting of a tree, whose diameter does not exceed 100 millimetres, for the sole purpose of improving the growth of other trees (eg thinning as part of forestry operations). In either case, the diameter of the tree is to be measured over the bark of the tree at 1.5 metres above ground level. These exemptions do not apply in circumstances where a tree has more than one stem at a point 1.5 metres above the natural ground level if any stem when measured over its bark at that point exceeds the relevant minimum.

And remember—anyone who cuts down, uproots, tops, lops, wilfully destroys or wilfully damages a tree in a conservation area or causes or permits such work, without giving notice is guilty of an offence, unless one of the exceptions above applies.

## PLANNING

### Pre-Application Advice

The Parish Council encourages prospective applicants for planning permission to seek pre-application advice from Swindon Borough Council. Not only does this assist the Parish Council when commenting on applications but going through this process has many benefits for the applicant:-

- It can help applicants understand how relevant planning policies and guidance will be applied to their proposal.
- It can improve the quality of planning application submissions by identifying areas that need to be addressed at an early stage you where you might need specialist advice, such as ecology or high-ways, before you submit.
- It can help applications be registered more speedily and can improve the likelihood of a successful outcome.
- It can save you time and money by identifying if a proposal is unacceptable in principle at an early stage.

Further information can be found at:-

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20030/planning\\_and\\_regeneration/492/apply\\_for\\_planning\\_permission/2](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20030/planning_and_regeneration/492/apply_for_planning_permission/2)

### Foxhill Motocross 2019/20 Calendar

TBC

### PC Meetings

2019/2020

2 March Hinton Parva  
6 April Bishopstone

11 May Bishopstone—Parish Assembly & AGM

All meetings begin at 7.30pm except the Parish Assembly which starts at 7:00pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <https://bishopstoneandhintonparva.org/parishcouncil/> and on the notice boards.

INFORMATION	INTEGRITY	PERSPECTIVE	ISSUES	INFORMATION
-------------	-----------	-------------	--------	-------------