**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL 636**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Hinton Parva Village Hall**

**on Monday 7th July, 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Those present:** Val Brodin (chair), Steve Bell, Julian Cooke, Karen Walker, Karen MacGregor, Ian Thomas, Gary Sumner (Borough councillor), Jaine Blackman (clerk).

1. **Public Question Time** Eight residents of Russley Park attended to discuss planning application S/25/0667. The residents requested that the parish council ask SBC for conditions to be imposed should the application be granted. Residents would welcome discussions with the applicant.
2. **Approved Apologies** Lucille McGrath, Gill May.
3. **Declarations of Interest** None.
4. **Minutes of Last Meeting 2nd June 2025** Proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr Cooke and agreed.
5. **Matters Arising** Covered by agenda items.
6. **Planning**

**S/25/0667** Construction of an equine manege at Oaktrees, Russley Park, **ACTION:** Cllr Thomas to draft a reply for clerk to send to SBC objecting to the proposal and asking for conditions that the manege is for personal use only and no trees are planted to obscure the view, should SBC be minded to approve the application.

**S/25/0666/REPPER** Land At Mount Pleasant Farm, Mount Pleasant Farm Lane, Horpit. Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground-mounted solar farm complete with landscaping, associated infrastructure and temporary access. Cllr Thomas proposed the parish council objected to the proposal, seconded by Cllr MacGregor passed with four votes and two abstentions. **ACTION:** Chair to draft a letter for clerk to inform SBC of the parish council’s objection to the proposal.

**S/OUT/22/1415** Redlands Phase 2 A Hybrid Planning Application for a residential development of 124 house with associated works. Revised documents. No objection.

**PENDING DETERMINATION**

**S/HOU/25/0046** Erection of gabion retaining wall (retrospective) at The Rails, Oxon Place, Bishopstone.

**S/HOU/24/1148** Erection of two storey rear extension and front porch at 2 Mount Pleasant Farm Cottages, Mount Pleasant Farm Lane, Horpit.

Redlands Eastern Villages applications numbers S/RES/21/0584/EDSN; S/RES/21/0607/EDSN; S/RES/21/0498/EDSN; S/RES/21/0867/EDSN; S/OUT/23/0456 Redlands Phase 2 S/OUT/22/1415; S/OUT/23/1514 Foxbridge S/OUT/20/0160; S/EIA/24/1403/MORGAP.

**GRANTED**

**S/HOU/25/0375** Installation of 20 x solar panels on the south and west facing roofs at 9 Whatleys Orchard, Bishopstone.

**S/HOU/25/0533 and S/LBC/25/0534** Erection of single-storey side extension and alterations to porch canopy and existing window at Poveys Cottage, Tuckers Lane, Hinton Parva.

**S/AGRI/25/0319** Demolition of existing agricultural rural worker's dwelling and outbuilding and the erection of a replacement dwelling, detached garage with ancillary accommodation, hard and soft landscaping works and new access at Starveall Farm Cottage, Track To Starveall Farm, Foxhill.

**APPEAL**

**S/LDP/24/1400** Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) for the removal of a retaining garden wall to create vehicle access at 2 Church Row, Hinton Parva.

**S/HOU/25/0027** Erection of a 1.8 metre high perimeter fence (retrospective) at The Rails, Oxon Place, Bishopstone**.**

1. **Report from Ward Cllr Gary Sumner**

Cllr Sumner said he was raising the issue of the downgrading of rural areas at a full Swindon Borough Council meeting. Cllr Sumner was asked to raise the lack of verge cutting and the issue of the septic tank at Hinton Parva with SBC. He was also asked to chase up enforcement issues at The Rails in Bishopstone and The Chalet in Hinton Parva.

1. **Parish Council vacancy** Two candidates attended the meeting.After discussion, Cllr Cooke proposed David Wilson was co-opted to the council, seconded by Cllr Bell and agreed by vote. **ACTION:** Clerk to collect relevant paperwork and inform SBC.
2. **Policies update** Cllr MacGregor gave an update: three policies had been updated and new ones were being considered. **ACTION:** Clerk to keep on the agenda. Cllr MacGregor to provide the clerk with copies to distribute to councillors before the next meeting.
3. **SBC response to safety and planning issues** The Chair ran through responses from SBC. She expressed her disappointment at lack of positive progress on issues raised by the parish council. Responses in italics:

**Dangerous road edge** **Road east of Badgerstown/Hill Manor**

*This has been passed to the Highways Supervisor to carry out a site visit and schedule in for any necessary repairs.*

**Speed limit reduction request not implemented at Body Horse Hill, Hinton Parva**

*We acknowledge the Parish's concerns, and I assure you that this is recorded on the list of highways issues in Ridgeway Ward. The Council's annual programme is approved by Cabinet each year and individual proposals are prioritised based on demonstrable road safety issues in the form of accident statistics and available budgets.*

**ACTION:** Chair to continue pushing for this to happen.

**White lining not renewed**

*There is currently a backlog of lining works across the Borough. We are now utilising an external contractor to assist with clearing these outstanding jobs. During the next 6 months our teams will be working through all areas of the Borough. With limited budgets we cannot refresh every area in full but will prioritise those of higher risk i.e. junction and speed roundels. We would encourage residents to log any areas of concern via the SBC website. Roads, footpaths and pavements maintenance and repair | Swindon Borough Council*

**ACTION:** Councillors and residents to be encouraged to report every traffic incident.

**Gullies inadequately cleaned resulting in flooding**

*Gullies in the areas highlighted are cleared on an annual cleaning programme. There are also some gullies which are cleaned on a 3- and 5-year cycle based on historic silt levels. The side entry gullies which are on an annual clean have had some ad hoc visits. These are generally as a result of Tractors etc. which carry mud from the fields onto the road surface. As with many areas of the Borough when there is torrential rain the network can take time to cope with the sudden volumes. Report an incident of flooding or standing water | Flooding | Swindon Borough Council*

**ACTION:** Chair to continue to pursue the matter.

**Grit and gravel on roads not cleared after flooding**

*There is only one Road Sweeper that covers the whole of the Borough with a focus on ensuring that gritting routes are swept twice a year. We would encourage farm machinery to where possible remove any debris from road wheels before travelling on the public highway, this in turn will assist in ensuring the drains remain clear of grit and gravel.*

**Village ‘gateway’ disappeared and not renewed**

*Please could the locations of any missing signage be logged via the SBC website. Street name and directional road signs | Swindon Borough Council*

**ACTION:** Councillors to report missing signs.

**School Safety Zone SSEZ agreed but not implemented**

*It is intended to combine these works with the works to implement a 20mph zone (below).*

**20mph zone agreed but not implemented**

*The proposals were subject to a number of objections and competing views within the village. Detailed assessment of the proposals also identified some potential engineering and compliance issues. As a result we have reverted to an alternative scheme that has wider support and will be more cost effective to implement. We understand that the Ward Councillor has recently shared these plans with the Parish. We are currently engaging with our contractors to agree a programme for implementation and will contact the Parish when we have clarity on this.*

**Overgrown verges reducing visibility at junctions**

*Verge cuts within the 30 MPH limits should be carried out by the Parish grounds teams. The roads into Bishopstone are very narrow and by virtue of the width of the roads they have natural blind spots. The Parks and Open Spaces Team are happy to discuss this with the Parish and would encourage them to make such contact.*

**ACTION:** Chair to inform SBC it is their statutory duty.

**Tree safety inspection/audit not carried out (Dingle, Bishopstone)**

*Trees on SBC land are inspected within a five-year window The trees in the Dingle are on private land so are the owners responsibility. There is a narrow area at the rear which is on SBC Housing land and we will raise this directly with them. Some pruning of the trees to the rear of number 3 was carried out in October 2023 at the request of the Housing Team.*

**ACTION:** The Chair to inform SBC that the trees in the Dingle are NOT on private land. It is unregistered land which Highways has taken responsibility for over many years. Evidence in emails from SBC dated 2012.

**Septic Tank at Hinton Parva**

*Please can the Parish confirm who confirmed the actions on 9th May and this will be investigated further.*

**ACTION:** Cllr Sumner to raise with SBC.

**Planning enforcement concerns**

*Turning to Planning matters, you have raised concern over both the time enforcement activity takes, and the application of the tests of expediency. The good news is that having operated with temporary enforcement staff for a number of years we now have a full time Planning Enforcement Lead Officer in post and a Planning Enforcement Officer is due to start with us in August this year. We are also out to recruit for a Graduate which will give us a team of three permanent staff.*

*The backlog of cases is already being reduced and the Council have initiated enforcement action on a number of cases where it is reasonable and expedient to do so. The service is moving from a reactive one to a proactive one and I hope that over the next 3-6 months you are able to detect a difference in approach.*

1. **Key Area updates**

**Finance** Nothing to report.

**Footpaths and Highways** Payment for additional work to the Dingle agreed**. ACTION:** RFO to contact lengthman regarding invoice. **ACTION:** Cllr Cooke to speak to resident regarding overgrowth on path in Hinton Parva.

**Pond & Island** **ACTION:** Cllr Thomas to examine willows on island after resident’s request for pollarding.

**Hinton Parva Village Hall** Nothing to report.

**Bishopstone Village Hall** There are issues with residents parking at the hall.

**Hinton Parva Charities** Nothing to report.

**Bishopstone United Charities** Nothing to report.

**Trees** Nothing to report.

**Planning** Nothing to report.

**Website/IT** Former councillor Gary Pass has offered to help with the website.

**Policies** Nothing further to report.

**School Liaison** Nothing to report.

**Russley Park** Nothing to report.

**Responsible Financial Officer** The PC doesn’t have sufficient funds in its current account to cover current bills. The RFO has transferred £5,000 from the savings account but the funds will not be available until 3/10/2025. She is reclaiming £1,277.97 in VAT for 2024-25. The financial records for the year so far were available for examination.

1. **Best Kept Village competition** Chair reported Hinton Parva was a very close fourth and Bishopstone came joint fourth as Best Newcomer in the small and medium village category respectively.
2. **Community Safety** Nothing to report.
3. **Accounts to be paid:** see Appendix 1.
4. **Parishioners Feedback/Complaints** Nothing to report.
5. The next meeting date is 4th August, 2025 at Bishopstone Village Hall at 7.30pm. Any changes will be posted on noticeboards, website and Facebook.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

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| **Accounts to be paid**  **SUPPLIER**  Jaine Blackman Clerk’s salary - no need for ratification agreed by Council  Allbuild Lengthman’s invoice - no need for ratification agreed by Council  1&1 Internet host services - no need for ratification agreed by Council  Allbuild Invoice 3264 - no need for ratification agreed by Council | **APPENDIX 1** | **Amount**  £511  £525 (£437.50 plus £87.50 VAT @ 20%)  £7.20 (£6 plus £1.20p VAT @ 20%)  £300 (£250 plus £50 VAT @ 20%) |