

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm.**

**MINUTES**

**Present** : Parish Councillors : A J Thorne (AJT) Chairman  
P Edwards (PE)  
N Barter (NTB)  
Mrs A Smith (AS)  
S Williams (SW)  
Ms N Rigg (NR)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

**Also present:**

Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar  
Mrs C Ash

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no additional declarations of interest.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

PE proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by AS and agreed.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan.**

MRA said that the dead tree on the corner of The Styles had been removed and will be replaced in the next planting season.

The issue of the overgrown footpath at Bishopstone Hollow had proved difficult to pursue because of change of land ownership. It was likely that the land would become part of Croucheston Farm in the near future. He had discussed the matter of the need to keep footpaths open with Lady Cobham and the farm manager.

AJT said that he had investigated alternative sources of a new back board for the basketball court but this had proved fruitless. It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue the option considered at the last meeting.

An article had been included in STaB about littering in the Recreation Field.

Nothing further had been heard from Hugh Pelly about support for those in need in the valley.

The hedge at Brightside had been trimmed and the “cut out” enlarged to facilitate access to the water hydrant. MRA said that he had reported this to Wiltshire Council and they had agreed that the MyWilts case should be closed.

The licence had been acquired from Pandora Ltd to collect data on speeding vehicles from the SID. Implementation was being organized by Rob Pendleton.

Two “Road Obstructed” warning signs had been acquired and added to the emergency equipment store.

MRA said he had consulted Playsafety Ltd about the use of bird spikes on the swing frames in the Children’s Play Area. They had recommended the use of plastic spikes, attached to the frame with cable ties. It was agreed to give this a try.

## **5. Public Forum**

No matters were raised.

## **6. Report by Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar**

Cllr Najjar drew attention to the “Warm Spaces” initiative. A map is being creating of warm spaces and community food providers to direct people to if they were in need. There are also plans to introduce warm spaces in council-owned buildings such as libraries where it intends to provide additional support for users. Warm Spaces were being created in Wilton and Fovant.

If any local projects needed funding then grants were still available from the South West Area Board.

## **7. Chairman’s Items**

There were none.

## **8. Budget Update and Precept for 2023/24**

Paper BPC(07)22, copy attached to these minutes, had been circulated in advance of the meeting. MRA said that total spending in the current year (including capital expenditure) was likely to be about £8,000. Income was forecast at just under £13,000. Current expenditure in 2022/23 would be less than the agreed budget, mainly due to underspends on contingent items such as repairs and maintenance. He proposed a budget for 2023/24 of some £5,500 which included grants of £550 for churchyard maintenance and £350 to the Chalke Valley Sports Centre. There were no current proposals for significant capital expenditure in 2023/24, though it was suggested that consideration be given to the provision of an additional seating bench in the Recreation Field/Play Area. The parish precept for the current year was £10,000. However, in the light of underspends and the balance of the reserves, he proposed that the precept for 2023/24 be reduced to £5,000. As a result, the parish council’s share of the council tax paid by householders in the village would reduce from £35.79 in 2022/23 to £17.78 in 2023/24.

MRA recommended that the provisional budget for 2023/24 be as set out in the table in paper BPC(07)22 and that:

- (i) a grant of £550 be made to the PCC for churchyard maintenance; and
- (ii) a grant of £350 be made to the CVSC.

AS proposed that the budget and grant proposals be accepted, this was seconded by PE and approved.

MRA recommended that a Precept request for £5,000 in 2023/24 be submitted to Wiltshire Council. NTB proposed that this recommendation be accepted, this was seconded by NR and approved.

**9. Parish Clerk’s Report.**

MRA said that on two recent occasions volunteers had cleared trees that had fallen and blocked local roads. It was clear that many Ash trees in the village were being infected with Ash Die Back Disease. Other trees were in poor condition either due to age or lack of maintenance. He proposed to include an article in the next edition of STaB urging landowners to take action to deal with dead or dying trees before they fell and created a hazard to road users and others. However, the parish council needed to set an example and remove dead trees along the frontage of the Recreation Field. This was agreed.

He had been asked to consult Councillors on whether to support a local campaign to stop overflying of the Chalke Valley and surrounding area by trainer flights for potential RAF recruits. This was a long running campaign being waged by a resident in Wilton who thought the noise from these flights was an unwelcome intrusion into the peace of this rural area. MRA said that he had not received any complaints from Bishopstone residents on this matter. Councillors agreed not to join any campaign.

**10. Planning Matters**

There were none.

**11. Questions or statements from Councillors.**

Repairs needed to be undertaken to the fencing and gate on the pedestrian bridge over the river into Mill Lane. It was unclear as to responsibility for this matter. MRA undertook to investigate and to raise the matter with those concerned.

**Date, location and time of next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

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Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman	Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**ACTION PLAN**

<b>WHAT ACTION</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b> ✓
Quotes to be obtained for works to the basketball back board.	AT/MRA	✓
Request landowner to clear Bishopstone Hollow.	MRA	✓
Article to be included in STaB re litter on the Recreation Field.	MRA	✓
Letter to be sent to owners of Brightside re cutting of hedge.	MRA	✓
License to be obtained for SID data collection.	PE	✓
Two "Road Obstructed" warning signs to be acquired.	MRA	✓
Information to be sought on bird deterrence for Play Area.	MRA	✓
Dead trees to be removed in Recreation Field.	AJT	
Consideration to be given to provision and siting of additional bench in Recreation Field.	MRA	