

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm.**

**MINUTES**

<b><u>Present</u> :</b>	Parish Councillors :	A J Thorne (AJT) Chairman P Edwards (PE) N Barter (NTB) Mrs A Smith (AS) Mrs M Tatner (MT) S Williams (SW) Ms N Rigg (NR)
	Parish Clerk:	M R Ash (MRA)

**Also present:**

Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar  
Chris Rothwell  
Ian Smith  
Mrs Marilyn Smith  
Nick Legh  
Mrs Margaret Barter  
Mrs Caroline 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

PE proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by SW and agreed.

**4. Chalke Valley Summer Fete – presentation by Chris Rothwell, Clerk Broad Chalke Parish Council.**

Chris Rothwell, Chair of the Chalke Valley Sports Centre and Treasurer to the Chalke Valley Fete and Show Committee, attended the meeting and gave a short presentation on the plans for the Fete in 2023. The 2022 event was attended by about 600 people and raised around £2,000 which had been used to benefit organisations up and down the Chalke Valley, including in Bishopstone. The next event will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and the Committee are keen to ensure the involvement of all the communities in the valley. The event relied on volunteers to help with set up, run the event on the day and clear up afterwards. It was hoped to attract volunteers from other villages. It

was agreed that the Parish Council would support this event. Ian Smith volunteered to edit details for inclusion in the February edition of STaB.

## **5. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan.**

MRA said that a replacement basketball backboard for the Recreation Field had been purchased. AJT said he would install once the weather improved.

A total of 15 dead elm trees had been removed from the road frontage of the Recreation Field, together with the damaged tree by the bus stop.

Investigations had been carried out as to who might be responsible for repair of the gate across the footbridge over the river in Mill Lane. This matter had not yet been resolved, but AJT said he would have a look and see whether a simple repair could be carried out.

## **6. Public Forum**

The issue of flooding in the village was discussed under this item. PE said that recent heavy rain had resulted in increased ground water and river flows. The Ebbles was at its highest level for several years. MRA said that he was in close touch with Wiltshire Council's drainage team about the local situation. He had already asked Councillor Najjar to pursue two long running flooding issues in the village – Faulston Lane, where there was a dispute between the adjacent landowner and Wiltshire Council about responsibility for the clearance of drainage ditches, and Netton Street, which was flooded after every heavy rain shower and where a request for clearance of gullies had been in place since August 2022. Mr Nick Legh said that he spent much of his time clearing blocked drains in Netton Street and it was time that the problems there were sorted out. MRA said he had now received a notification that a gully tanker was being sent to clear the drains in Netton Street.

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

Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar said that the annual budget setting process for Wiltshire Council was now well underway against a very challenging background of inflation, high energy costs etc. It was inevitable that some services would be cut back and that Council Tax would rise. Nevertheless, the Council continued to provide support for the vulnerable and for those badly affected by the cost-of-living crisis. More than £50,000 had been spent by the South West Area Board over the last 18 months on local projects. Mrs M Smith asked about progress with the project to rationalise and lower speed limits along the C12. Cllr Najjar said that there had been recent changes to both the Cabinet lead on highways and the head officer. He had therefore been forced to start over again the process of pressing for changes. He hoped to be able to report progress in this matter over the next couple of months.

He reported that the MyWilts App had been updated and should now work better for reporting problems and the need for action to Wiltshire Council. The Ringway contract for the Parish Stewards programme would end in April and a new contractor would be taking over with new performance targets.

## **8. Chairman's Items**

There were none.

## **9. Play Area Safety Inspection**

MRA said that the recent Play Area Safety Inspection had raised only three real issues: the need to tighten handles on the “springers”; the height off the ground of the group swing and the need for the gate to be self-closing. PE said he had tightened up the springer handles. It was agreed to ask the installer to adjust the height of the group swing. The need for the gate to be self-closing was a long-standing issue. Conventional spring closers were unlikely to work. Further consideration would be given to this matter.

## **10. Financial Regulations – Amendments**

MRA said he had circulated proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations to increase the cost limit for single tender action from £500 to £1000. This reflected the fact that many smaller works items now cost in excess of £500 and the requirement for three tenders to be submitted was creating delays and was unnecessary to ensure value for money. He had also inserted a requirement that a proposal to accept a single tender would be approved by the Chairman. AS proposed that the changes be made, this was seconded by MT and approved.

## **11. Parish Clerk’s Report.**

MRA said he had circulated details of proposed work to trees along Faulston Lane to stop damage being caused to overhead lines. This would also assist with the implementation of the fibre network. He proposed to accept a tender of £900 from John Thorne under the new single tender limit. This expenditure required formal approval. MT proposed that the expenditure be approved, this was seconded by AT and agreed.

## **12. Planning Matters**

An application had been received for work to trees in the Conservation Area. This was at Faulston House and was part of the works referred to under Item 11 above. There were no objections.

MRA reported that a letter had been received setting out concerns about the siting of a mobile home in Flamstone Street which had a detrimental effect on the Conservation Area. The letter asked the Parish Council to press Wiltshire Council to require a retrospective application for planning permission. However, the position on this was not straightforward and it was decided to seek further information from those concerned with the development before taking a final decision on how to proceed.

## **13. Questions or statements from Councillors.**

There were none.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Village Hall. The meeting will begin after completion of the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**ACTION PLAN**

<b>WHAT ACTION</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b> ✓
Dead trees to be removed in Recreation Field.	AJT	✓
Consideration to be given to provision and siting of additional bench in Recreation Field.	MRA	
Repairs to gate to footbridge in Mill Lane to be investigated.	AJT	
Further consideration to be given to mechanisms to close gate to Play Area.	All	
Discussions re mobile home in Flamstone St.	MRA	