

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone
Thursday 13th July 2023 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : A J Thorne (AJT) Chairman
P Edwards (PE)
N Barter (NTB)
Mrs M Tatner (MT)
Ms N Rigg (NR)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Cllr N Najjar (Wiltshire Council)
Mrs Caroline Ash

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs A Smith and S Williams.

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Tatner declared an interest in items related to expenditure on works in Pitts Lane.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 4th May 2023.

PE proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 4th May 2023 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by NR and agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan

MRA reported that Wiltshire Council Drainage Engineers are continuing to examine what can be done to prevent flooding in Faulston Lane. They have now decided to replace the existing culvert under the road, which connects the ditch on the south side with that which runs north towards the river, with a larger diameter pipe. This project is programmed for September and will require the closure of Faulston Lane for five days

5. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

6. Chairman's Items

AJT asked Cllr Najjar if he would investigate Wiltshire Council's policy as regards the letting of Council owned homes in the village. These always seemed to go to people from other areas, rather than to those in housing need in the village. Cllr Najjar said that he would look into the matter.

7. Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar

Councillor Najjar drew attention to the Wiltshire Local Plan review. Full Council would be considering the outcome of the review at its meeting on 18th July. The plan sets out how the housing requirements of the county will be met for the period up to 2036. Most new development will be in the main settlements, such as Salisbury. In the rural areas new housing will be limited to what is required to meet local needs and will be based on assessments requested by Parish Councils.

Councillor Najjar was asked to take up the matter of the management of road closures in the village. A further closure of Broad Chalke Road between the Butt Lane and Flamstone Street junctions, for works by Openreach, will take place on 22nd August. It was likely that traffic will ignore the long official diversion route and try to use Butt Lane/The Alley and Flamstone Street in the same way as recently occurred in Mill Lane and Faulston Lane, with resulting traffic chaos. The matter had been taken up with Wiltshire Council officials but their response had not been reassuring. It was pointed out that the works proposed by Openreach (the replacement of overhead line poles) could be managed with stop/go boards or traffic lights thus keeping the main road open. Cllr Najjar undertook to speak to officers about this.

8. Speed Limits on Broad Chalke Road

MRA said that he had circulated a paper (BPC(03)23 – copy attached to these minutes) on speed limits along the Broad Chalke Road. He said that a meeting had taken place on 20th June with Wiltshire's Director of Highways and the Strategic Planning Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), together with the Clerk from Broad Chalke Council, to discuss concerns about speeding along the length of the C12. It was likely that Wiltshire would be undertaking a road safety review along the whole corridor in due course, but it had been indicated that there might be scope for one or two minor improvements in the interim. Broad Chalke's top priority is the entrance to the village from the east, where the speed limit goes from 60mph to 20mph in one jump. They want a "step down" limit of 30mph before the 20mph section is reached. It was agreed that Bishopstone Council's priorities are a reduction from 40mph to 30mph in the speed limit on the section of the road past the Recreation Field, Children's Play Area and the pub, and the extension of the 40mph limit past the junction with Flamstone Street.

The reduced speed limit in Bishopstone had been rejected by Wiltshire Council in the past and there was no certainty that any application to that effect would succeed now. However, it was considered that it is worth a further try, given the strong support from Cllr Najjar. The matter would be considered initially by Wiltshire Council's Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (part of the Area Board). It was agreed to submit a joint request with Broad Chalke Council (which had agreed a reciprocal proposal at its July meeting). If taken forward the next step would be an assessment by consultants. Both Bishopstone and Broad Chalke Councils would need to contribute to the cost. If the proposals pass that hurdle they could form part of the programme for 2024/25 but inclusion then would depend on other priorities.

Parish councils are expected to meet 25% of the cost of any speed limit assessment (£725). If that is shared with Broad Chalke PC the cost will be £362.50. Approval of this level of expenditure, if required, was proposed by MT, seconded by NTB and agreed.

9. Speed Indicator Device

MRA said that he had circulated a paper (BPC(04)23 – copy attached to these minutes) which was largely for information. It reported the comments from John Derryman of the PCC's office at the meeting on 20th June. He was anxious to ensure that as much data as possible on speeding is collected centrally from SIDs. A pilot project has successfully been conducted from January to June 2023. The pilot group was made up of 11 SIDs and data has been extracted by volunteers on a monthly basis. This data has been emailed by the volunteers to Wiltshire Police. This process enables the police to assess speeds on an hourly /daily/weekly and monthly basis at all locations covered by the SIDs. During the pilot, c1.8million vehicles have been recorded. The police use such data to decide where to deploy speed cameras and a recent session in Coombe Bisset resulted in 43 drivers being sent to speed awareness courses and 6 receiving fines/penalty points.

MRA said that unfortunately, whilst the Bishopstone SID was capable of collecting data on vehicle speeds, this was incompatible with the current police system. John Derryman has asked for technicians to consider what needs to be done to overcome this problem. Mr Derryman was also keen for the parish council to consider resurrecting its Community Speed Watch. However, it was agreed that every effort had been made to do this in the past and that there was currently little prospect of finding a new team of volunteers.

10. Parish Clerk's Report.

MRA said that Cllr Edwards had raised a matter concerning dogs being taken onto the Recreation Field. PE said that the notice on the gate by the Children's Play Area indicating that use of the field by dogs was not permitted was being ignored both by people from within the village and by passing visitors. It was important to prevent fouling of the Play Area and the wider field. It was agreed to improve the signage and to include a reminder message in STaB.

MRA said that it had been agreed at the meeting in May to make a contribution of 50% of the cost of resurfacing the first part of Pitts Lane. An updated quotation for the work meant that this contribution would be £1929. Given the earlier approval in principle, that contribution had now been made. He now sought retrospective approval to the final figure. This was proposed by PE, seconded by NR and agreed.

11. Planning Matters

Consideration was given to proposed works to Woodside, The Alley. It was agreed to make no objection.

12. Questions or statements from Councillors.

MT raised the problems being caused by the reduced maintenance of roadside verges by Wiltshire Council. Bus drivers were missing people standing at the bus stop opposite Pitts Lane because they could not see them as they approached. Other problems included visibility at the junctions of Flamstone Street and Whitlock Rise. It was agreed to take the matter up with Wiltshire Highways.

Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 7th September 2023** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 13th July 2023

ACTION PLAN

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
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.	PE	
Article in STaB re need to clear dead trees.	MRA	
Wiltshire Council to be contacted about traffic management arrangements with road closures.	MRA	✓
Possibility of installing a defibrillator near Church Lane to be investigated.	MRA	
Estimates to be obtained for works to the footpath by the river.	MRA	