

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 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:**

Mrs C Ash

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Tatner.

**2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Rigg signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

**3. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Barter declared an interest in Agenda item 11.

**4. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

SW proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by AS and agreed.

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

MRA said that the deep gullies on the side of the road up to the Racecourse had now been more permanently filled by Wiltshire Council. The task of repairing and replacing the street name boards in The Styles, in Harvest Lane and at the Harvest Lane entrance to The Croft had been completed by Lee Curtis. Similarly, Wiltshire Council had completed the replacement of the fence by the bridge in The Alley. Wiltshire Council had also undertaken to replace the dead tree on the corner of The Styles in the next planting season.

MRA reported that he had pursued the issue of the overgrown footpath at Bishopstone Hollow. It had proved difficult to track down the landowner concerned. However, he had now written to the landowner about both this path and the one between Croucheston Mill and Stoke Farthing.

However, it would seem that the land ownership might be changing and action may have to wait until this process is completed.

Following a suggestion at the last meeting he had asked Outdoor Play South West if they could manufacture a replacement basketball back board from the same material as used for the Springers. Unfortunately, they had now indicated that this would not be possible. The purchase of a standard, marine ply, board was discussed and it was felt that a plastics based material would be more likely to stand up to the weather. The Chairman undertook to investigate one other potential source.

## **6. Public Question Time**

No matters were raised.

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

Unfortunately, Cllr Najjar was unable to attend this meeting.

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

The Chairman suggested that an item be included in the next edition of STaB regarding littering on the Recreation Field/Play Area. This had significantly increased recently and it made maintenance of the field more difficult. This was agreed.

The Chairman said he had been contacted by Hugh Pelly from Ebbesbourne Wake who wished to hold a meeting involving all parish councils in the valley to discuss support for those in need as a result of the energy and economic crisis. NTB pointed out that Bishopstone already had a fund to provide support for those in need; previously known as the Montgomery Coal Charity fund this was now administered by the PCC. It was unclear what Mr Pelly might have in mind and the Chairman undertook to find out more.

## **9. Hedge at Brightside, The Alley**

MRA said that Wiltshire Council had received a complaint, via the MyWilts reporting system, about the extent to which the hedge at the front of the cottage known as "Brightside" in The Alley extends into the road and obscures access to a water hydrant. It had asked the Parish Council to write to the owners asking for it to be substantially cut back. A copy of the Wiltshire report had been circulated. Councillors felt that the problem had been much exaggerated given the width of the road at this point and that cutting back the hedge to the extent suggested would damage the hedge and create an eyesore. Any problem concerning access to a water hydrant under the hedge could be solved by a limited cut out at that point. It was agreed to limit the letter to the owners to the need to maintain access to the hydrant.

## **10. Parish Clerk's Report.**

### **(i) Data collection from the SID**

PE said that other parishes were collecting data on speeding by drivers via their Speed Indicator Device. Currently Bishopstone's device did not do this. However, it could be done with the acquisition of a license from Pandora Ltd, the manufacturers, at a cost of £250. The question was whether this expenditure was worthwhile. In discussion it was felt that the campaign to tackle

speeding in the valley, being led by Cllr Najjar, would be undermined if Bishopstone did not contribute relevant data. MRA said that there was sufficient scope in the budget to meet the proposed cost. AS proposed that this expenditure be incurred. This was seconded by SW and agreed.

#### (ii) Road Warning Signs

MRA said that Mill Lane had recently been blocked when a tree came down. The tree had been quickly removed by the Emergency Team (in particular Michael Pratt) and this had caused the minimum delay to vehicles using the lane. The Parish Council did not have the powers to close the road whilst the work was carried out. It was clear from consultations with Wiltshire Council Highways that any request to them to close the road and remove an obstruction, such as a fallen tree, would take considerably longer than action by the Parish Council. Whilst it would not be possible for the Parish Council to put out "Road Closed" signs, it would be possible to deploy temporary information signs to drivers, such as "Road Obstructed". MRA said that two such signs would cost £143. These could be stored with the Council's flood warning signs. PE proposed that the signs be purchased. This proposal was seconded by NTB and agreed.

#### (iii) Bird Spikes

MRA said that there was a problem of birds fouling the children's swings in the Play Area. Birds sit on the top bar of the frame. It had been confirmed that the use of "bird spikes", the conventional means of deterring birds on buildings, would not be appropriate in this location. No suitable alternative had presented itself and he would consult the company undertaking the safety inspection to see if they had any suggestions, or knowledge of what was done elsewhere.

#### (iv) Emergency Plan

MRA said that Cllr Edwards had completed a revision and update of the village Emergency Plan and that this was now available on the Village Website.

#### (v) Approval of Expenditure

MRA said that following the death of Queen Elizabeth II the Parish Council had made available a Book of Condolence for Bishopstone residents to record their feelings and messages of support for the royal family. The book, which was leather bound with loose leaf archive quality paper, had been acquired earlier in the Summer with the agreement of Councillors. The cost had been £73.15 and he now sought retrospective approval to this expenditure. NTB proposed that this expenditure be approved. This was seconded by SW and agreed. MRA also sought approval for the book to be sent to the Wiltshire Archive in Chippenham, with photo copies kept of the completed pages. This was agreed.

#### Other Matters

MRA also reported that the implementation of the Fibre To The Premises broadband project had been delayed by Openreach. The revised completion date for the extended network was now the end of December.

Finally, MRA said that he had successfully reclaimed £2737 in VAT payments. The balance of the Council's accounts therefore stood at nearly £24,000. A discussion of future expenditure priorities, and of the precept for next year, would be on the agenda for the meeting in November.

**11. Planning Matters**

Consideration was given to the application for works to trees at Vella House, Butt Lane and in Bridge Road. It was agreed to raise no objection.

**12. 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

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Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 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	