

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00pm.**

**MINUTES**

<b><u>Present</u> :</b>	Parish Councillors :	A J Thorne (AJT) Chairman N Barter (NTB) Mrs A Smith (AS) P Edwards (PE) S Williams (SW) (from Item 7)
	Parish Clerk:	M R Ash (MRA)

**Also present:**

Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar  
Ms Nicky Rigg  
Mrs M Barter  
Mrs C Ash

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

NTB proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 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 there were two matters arising from the minutes. He had been in contact with Wiltshire Highways Engineer about the deep gullies at the side of the road up to the Racecourse. The loose material that had been used to fill them was already started to erode and were spread across the highway. The Highways Engineer had explained that these gullies cannot be filled as if they were part of the highway because there is no foundation. However, a specialist team could make a more permanent repair which would reinstate these strips to the verge. This had been requested but there was a waiting list for this type of work across the county.

MRA said that he had taken forward the task of repairing and replacing the street name boards in The Styles and at the Harvest Lane entrance to The Croft. To these had been added the sign for Harvest Lane itself that had been demolished by a vehicle. He had received a quote for £221.20 for this work which he had accepted under the Minor Works Programme arrangements.

## **5. Public Question Time**

No matters were raised.

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

Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar gave a brief update on Wiltshire Council affairs. He said that the budget for the year (£480m) was tight given the effects of inflation but should be enough to protect essential services and there was slightly increased provision for work to repair and maintain rural roads. However, there was slightly less money for the Area Board and any bids for project funding should be submitted as soon as possible.

## **7. Chairman's Items**

The Chairman welcomed Nicky Rigg to the meeting. She had volunteered to fill the place on the Council vacated by the retirement of John Gibbon. The vacancy had been referred to Wiltshire Council and advertised and the Parish Council was now free to co-opt. A decision on co-option was left until the end of the meeting.

## **8. Speed Limits in the Village**

Consideration was given to paper BPC(05)22 (copy attached to these minutes) which concerned speeding along the main High Road/Broadchalke Road. MRA said that the Parish Council had made several attempts in the past to get the speed limit for the section of Broadchalke Road past the Recreation Field and the White Hart reduced from 40mph to 30mph. The section past Whitlock Rise and the Pitts Lane junction already has a 30mph limit and it has always seemed an anomaly that the section where there is most pedestrian use of the road (with the designated crossing point to the Recreation Field, Children's Play Area and bus stop and access to the pub) should have a 40mph limit. The last attempt to get the limit reduced was in 2017 and, despite strong backing from John Glen MP, this was refused by Wiltshire Council.

At the last election the incoming administration in Wiltshire made road safety and tackling speeding a priority. Cllr Nabil Najjar had previously indicated that the authority may be more open to proposals for reducing speed limits in villages than in the past if there was strong community support. He said that, in his view, the best case for reducing the limit can be made if it is combined with a similar request for reduced limits in Broad Chalke parish, thus securing an integrated approach and greater consistency to speed limits along the C12. He said that he would be taking this matter up with the Cabinet member for Highways. The Parish Council decided to make this issue a priority and to provide Cllr Najjar with such support material as was necessary to make the case for change.

## **9. 20mph Speed Limits**

The meeting considered paper BPC(06)22 (copy attached to these minutes) which reviewed the case for submitting a request to Wiltshire Council for 20mph limits to be introduced on the local roads. MRA said that public consultation on this matter had been carried out in last December's edition of STaB. Further consideration had been delayed whilst an additional metro count was undertaken in Mill Lane in order to provide a comprehensive picture in the village.

The complete metro count results were as follows:

Location	Total vehicle movements (both directions combined).	Average speed of vehicles (both directions) - MPH	85 <sup>th</sup> percentile (both directions) - MPH
Flamstone St	530	15.7	21.1
Butt Lane	2390	18.2	23.0
Harvest Lane	1786	20.7	26.0
Church Lane	962	18.6	23.9
Faulston Lane	897	16.0	20.8
Mill Lane	175	18.3	26.55

These counts show that average speeds at the survey locations are already less than 20mph. Even at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile level, apart from Harvest Lane and Mill Lane, they are only marginally above. Both national and local research indicates that the imposition of 20mph limits reduces traffic speed at the average level by 1-2mph. At the level of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile the reduction is only about 0.5mph. In other words those who are already travelling at speeds in excess of 20mph will continue to do so despite the imposition of any limit. The police do not generally enforce within 20mph areas.

MRA said that just over 20 responses were received to the public consultation. 12 of these were in favour of introducing speed limits, even if the effect was very limited. 11 responses were against the proposal, citing the fact that average speeds are already below 20mph, that there was a lack of enforcement and considerable cost, both financial (over £9,000 overall) and environmental, with the proliferation of speed limit repeater signs throughout the village. All the responses to the consultation were summarized in the paper.

Following discussion it was concluded that this mixed response to the 20mph limits proposal hardly amounted to the "strong community support" mentioned by Councillor Najjar and that much more was to be gained in terms of improved road safety in the village by concentrating on the reduction of speed limits along Broadchalke Road. It was therefore decided not to pursue the case for the introduction of 20mph speed limits at this time.

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

MRA reported that discussions had taken place with various departments of Wiltshire Council to get the repairs to the fence by the pedestrian bridge in The Alley completed and the dead tree on the corner of The Styles removed and, hopefully, replaced. He had asked whether, if Wiltshire Council were unwilling to replace the tree, the Parish Council might be allowed to do so. The semi-demolished tree by the Recreation Field bus shelter will be removed once the harvest is completed in the adjoining field. He had raised with Wiltshire Council the need to re-surface the footpath leading from The Croft to the Village Hall.

## **11. Planning Matters**

Consideration was given to the planning application for the replacement of the bungalow known as Sanclive in Chapel Lane by a five bedroomed detached house. Councillors welcomed the fact that it was only proposed to put one new dwelling on the site, though regretted the loss of a smaller, relatively affordable, housing unit in the village. It was agreed not to object to the proposal but to submit comments covering, amongst other things, the need to safeguard against any further

development of the site and to support comments already submitted by Wiltshire Council's Land Drainage Team regarding the need to submit a proper flood risk/drainage assessment.

**12. Questions or statements from Councillors.**

CLLr Williams said that the footpath along Bishopstone Hollow towards Knighton Hill was severely overgrown and needed clearance. MRA said he would take the matter up with the landowner concerned.

**Additional Item:** PE proposed that Nicky Rigg be co-opted to the Council. This was seconded by AJT and unanimously approved.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 [**Post Meeting Note: it has since been decided to start the meeting at 7.30pm**].

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

-----

Signed as an accurate record:

.....

.....

Chairman

Date

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL****PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 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 and swing frames.	MRA	
Quotes to be obtained for repairs to street name boards at The Styles and The Croft.	MRA	✓
Request landowner to clear Bishopstone Hollow.	MRA	