

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone
Monday 11th May 2024 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)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar PCSO Charlotte King
Mr R Colwill Mr I Smith
Mrs M Colwill Mrs M Smith
Mrs S Wylie Mrs D Walker
Mr T Clarke Mr M Walker
Mr R Stockton Mr J Thompson
Mrs Caroline Ash

1. Election of Chairman 2024/25

PE proposed that Cllr Thorne be re-elected as Chairman. This motion was seconded by NR and approved.

2. Election of Vice Chairman 2024/25

AJT proposed that Cllr Edwards be re-elected as Vice Chairman. This motion was seconded by AS and approved.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs M Tatner and N Rigg.

4. Declarations of interest

Cllr Thorne declared an interest in Agenda item 15 – planning application for Windwhistle Farm.

5. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 14th March 2024.

AS proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 14th March 2024 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by NTB and agreed.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan

There were none.

7. Public Forum

It was agreed to take Agenda Item 10 (Hooliganism in the Village) as part of the Public Forum discussion.

Cllr Ali Thorne said that the Parish Council were very grateful to PCSO King for attending. There had been a recent big increase in incidents of antisocial behaviour in the village, mostly by a small group of village children. She was given an inventory that had been compiled of thirteen recent incidents which involved disturbance, harassment, trespass and criminal damage, much of it affecting more elderly or infirm residents. PCSO King said that only one of these incidents had actually been reported to the Police, who had attended. She stressed the importance of each individual incident being reported. This can be done either by calling 999, whilst it is happening, or subsequently, either by phoning 101 or by going on-line to www.wiltshire.police.uk and clicking on the "Report" button followed by clicking on "Report Antisocial Behaviour". It is important to report each event separately, because this builds up a picture for the Police and is more likely to receive attention. One report covering several events is not likely to achieve that. The Neighbourhood Policing Team was being increased in size and that should free up more resources to deal with issues such as this. Hopefully, there would be a greater presence on the ground in rural villages. There followed a wide ranging discussion concerning who might be involved in these incidents and possible courses of action.

8. Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar

Cllr Najjar undertook to do all that he could to help with the antisocial behaviour issue. Relevant to which was that he was now the Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills. He reported on Wiltshire Council's sound financial position, unlike many local authorities, and talked about the initiatives the Council was now taking to support farmers through schemes such as "buy local". He was pressed about potholes and, in particular, the need for better quality control of work that was done so that repairs lasted longer.

9. Chairman's Items

There were none.

10. Hooliganism in the Village

See above (Item 7).

11. Speed Limit on the C12

MRA said that he had circulated a report to Councillors (BPC(05)24) setting out an update on the request for a lowering of the 40mph speed limit past the Recreation Field to 30mph. Applications to have the limit reduced had been made in the past without success. A fresh attempt was made last year because of indications from Wiltshire Council that they were prepared to give greater weight than previously to community concerns on this matter. Wiltshire Council had appointed consultants to undertake a Speed Limit Assessment along the length of the C12. The consultants had now reported and had recommended against any change to the speed limits in Bishopstone on the grounds that the criteria set in national guidance had not been met. These were exactly the same grounds on which change had been rejected in the past. Bishopstone's request had not disputed that the criteria were not met, but had asked that Wiltshire Council should exercise the

discretion it is allowed by the guidance to reduce the speed limit to 30mph taking account of the additional factors set out in the submission. It was agreed to write to the Wiltshire Cabinet Member for Highways asking him to reject the consultant's findings and exercise the Council's discretion to lower the limit and make good on the undertaking to listen to community concerns. Similar action was being taken by Broad Chalke Parish Council over their request for changes on the eastern approach to the 20mph zone.

12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return

MRA said that he had circulated a paper (BPC(03)24 – copy attached to these minutes) setting out a draft Annual Accountability Return. The Council's internal auditors had approved the accounts for the year and that, as both income and expenditure for the year 2023/24 was below the threshold of £25,000, the Council could submit a Certificate of Exemption from audit by external auditors.

Separate resolutions for approval were put forward (with proposer and seconder) as follows:

		Proposer	Seconder	Decision
(a)	Certificate of Exemption from submitting an Annual Return for an assurance review by external auditors	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Williams	Approved
(b)	Annual Governance Statement 2022/23	Cllr Barter	Cllr Smith	Approved
(c)	Accounting Statements 2022/23	Cllr Smith	Cllr Barter	Approved
(d)	Documents for publication under the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities	Cllr Barter	Cllr Smith	Approved
(e)	Atkinsons be re-appointed as the Council's internal auditors	Cllr Edwards	Cllr Williams	Approved

13. Budget 2024/25 and CIL Report

MRA said that he had circulated a paper (BPC(04)24 – copy attached to these minutes) summarizing the current position as regards the budget for 2024/25 and expected income and expenditure. The budget had provisionally been agreed at the meeting in November 2023. There is a history of underspends against the budget and MRA asked whether any adjustment should be made. After discussion PE proposed that the budget remain as proposed, this was seconded by AS and agreed.

The budget provided for the Parish Council's share of the costs of legal processes and signage if the speed limit in the village is lowered. If that does not happen (see above) there will be space in the budget for other initiatives in the village so ideas for new projects the Parish Council might undertake were always welcome. Mr Stockton suggested clearance of vegetation by the bridge/footpath in Mill Lane.

MRA explained that during 2023/24 the Council received a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment in respect of the re-development of Sanclive in Chapel Lane. This amounted to £2,741.68. The CIL regulations state that the funds must be used to support the development of the local area. The Parish Council is required to prepare and publish an annual report detailing CIL funds received and spent. He had circulated a completed report for approval. SW proposed that that the report be approved, this was seconded by PE and agreed.

14. Parish Clerk’s Report.

PE reported on a discussion that he and the Clerk had with the Wiltshire and Swindon Local Resilience Team. They had asked that the Village Hall become the Emergency Contact Hub for the village. This would be a place where those in the village affected by an emergency could gather and where the Emergency Services would go to in order to liaise with the local emergency team. This was a role the Village Hall was already playing in the Village Emergency Plan. Formal approval needed to be given by the Village Hall Management Committee. NTB indicated that this should not be a problem.

MRA sought approval to the following expenditure items:

- Clerk’s expenses £40 (Information Commissioner Registration)
- WALC subscription 2024/25 £262.06
- Insurance 2024/25

NTB proposed that each of these items of expenditure be approved, this were seconded by AS and agreed.

15. Planning Matters

Consideration was given to the retrospective approval of a building at Windwhistle Farm and for approval of a Potting Shed at Little Bridge House, Bridge Road. No objections were raised,

16. Questions or statements from Councillors.

There were none.

Date, location and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 11th July 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING****Monday 11th May 2024****ACTION PLAN**

WHAT ACTION	BY WHOM	COMPLETED ✓
Repairs to gate to footbridge in Mill Lane to be investigated.	AJT	
Drainage ditches in Flamstone Street to be cleared.	MRA	
Letter to be written to Wiltshire Cabinet Member for Highways re 30mph speed limit.	MRA/AJT	