

**BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Village Hall Bishopstone
Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7.30pm.**

MINUTES

Present : Parish Councillors : P Edwards (PE) – Vice Chairman
N Barter (NTB)
Mrs A Smith (AS)
Ms Nicky Rigg (NR)

Parish Clerk: M R Ash (MRA)

Also present: Mr M Pratt
Mr R Stockton
Mrs Margaret Barter

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs A Thorne, Cllr M Tatner, Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar and PCSO Charlotte King.

2. Declarations of interest

There were none.

3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting on 11th July 2024.

AS proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 11th July 2024 be approved as a correct record, this was seconded by NR and agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes, including Action Plan

MRA said that he had written to the Police asking them to maintain their presence in the village. This they had done, regularly attending the Community Coffee Mornings and being seen around the village. Older residents had been much reassured by their presence. It was agreed to send them thanks.

All other matters arising were covered by later Agenda items.

5. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

6. Chairman's Items

There were none.

7. C12 Speed Limit Reduction (Update)

MRA reported the welcome news that it now appeared that Wiltshire Council is prepared to extend the existing 30mph speed limit on Broad Chalke Road to the section past the Recreation Field, Play Area and the White Hart. As previously reported, consultants appointed by Wiltshire Council had recommended against any change to the existing 40mph limit. However, the matter had now been reconsidered by the Wiltshire Cabinet Member for Highways following the letter from the Chairman of 14 May 2024. He has indicated that he now supports the proposal to reduce the limit to 30mph. Wiltshire are unwilling to issue a formal decision on this matter until decisions have been taken on speed limits in Broad Chalke. Once a formal decision has been taken the next step will be the necessary legal steps under Traffic Regulation Order procedures and consideration of funding for the work involved.

MRA said that he had also raised with Wiltshire Council Highways the need to improve safety at the junction of Portfield Road and the High Road. In August a car had come down Portfield Road, failed to stop at the junction and been buried in the front room of a cottage on the opposite side of the road. Luckily the occupants of the house were elsewhere and the driver, though taken to hospital, was not badly hurt. However, there had been extensive damage to the property. He said that it is unlikely that Wiltshire will agree to any change to the speed limit on Portfield Road, but there is a need to improve the warning signs relating to the junction. It was agreed to submit proposals to Wiltshire's Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group.

8. Community Orchard

Michael Pratt reported that he had submitted a grant application on behalf of the Parish Council for a "Coronation Living Heritage Orchard". This is a Wiltshire Council initiative to encourage the planting of community orchards to mark the coronation of King Charles III. It is proposed to plant 12 trees (a mixture of apples, pears and plums). Following discussions with Cllr Thorne it is proposed to site these in an area beside the Children's Play Area. Any fruit produced once the trees have matured will be free to be picked by anyone in the village. The work of establishing the orchard will be led by the village's Tree Wardens (Michael Pratt and Georgie Phillips) but it will be important for others to volunteer to help with planting and future maintenance. It might also be possible to engage local schools in this project.

Roger Stockton suggested that a Crab Apple tree might be included for its blossom. It was agreed that a Palette Water Tank should be sited in the hedge to provide a water supply to support the trees. MRA said that the costs of this project (approx. £2,000) will be met by Wiltshire Council. However, this would be paid as a retrospective grant, the Parish Council will need to pay the up-front costs. Michael Pratt was thanked for all the work he had done on this project.

9. Parish Clerk's Report.

MRA said there were a number of small works needing to be done around the village. Cllr Thorne had undertaken to re-seat a loose stone on the clapper bridge in Church Lane. He had also cleared the graffiti from the tower in the Children's Play Area. Wiltshire Council had indicated that clearing the graffiti from the river bridge in Faulston Lane was not a priority so Cllr Thorne will see whether he can tackle that problem as well. Arrangements need to be made to clear the ditches in Flamstone Street, Cllrs Barter and Thorne would discuss. It was agreed to write to the owners of the field in Netton Street asking for the ditch to be cleared.

Michael Pratt said that there are a number of dead trees, mainly Ash trees, in need of clearance. He would speak to John Gibbon about some in Church Lane. Roger Stockton said that there are Beech trees in a poor state up on Faulston Drove. A reminder should be included in STaB of the need for landowners to clear drainage ditches and dead trees.

MRA sought approval to annual grants of £800 to the PCC and of £350 to the Chalke Valley Sports Centre, together with a payment of £96 for the internal audit in 2023/24. NT proposed that these payments be made, this was seconded by NR and agreed.

10. Planning Matters

There were none.

11. 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 14th November 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed as an accurate record:

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Chairman

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Date

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday 12th September 2024**

ACTION PLAN

| WHAT ACTION | BY WHOM | COMPLETED ✓ |
|--|----------------|------------------------|
| Drainage ditches in Flamstone Street to be cleared. | MRA | |
| Letter of thanks to be sent to the Police. | MRA | |
| Proposals for safety improvements to the Portfield Road/High Road junction to be sent to the LHFIG. | MRA | |
| Minor works to be completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clapper bridge - Graffiti in Faulston Lane - Drains in Flamstone Street - Letter to owners of Netton St field. | | |