

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 6:30pm in**  
**Bishopton Village Hall**

**Present:** 15 Residents

**1. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report:**

The Parish Council {PC} Chairman, Cllr. L. MacMahon, read through key elements of her report and handed out copies to attendees. The report is available from any Councillor, and is displayed in the village notice board and on the village website.

**2. Parish Council Financial Report:**

The Parish Clerk handed out copies of an Annual Income & Expenditure Account [also available for all residents] and talked through its content. A Query was raised regarding DBC's withdrawal of the Parish Council Tax Support Grant and the Clerk explained the background of this.

**3. Topics to be covered:**

- 3.1 Proposed Children's Play Area & 'Friends' group.  
It was noted that there was only sufficient funds available to set up and maintain a fenced off and gated grassed field. The purchase of play equipment was dependent on obtaining a grant and to achieve that a 'Friends of Bishopton Children's Playground' group needed to be set up. Although this had been advertised no volunteers had stepped forward. It was suggested that the PC should request to set up a table at the forthcoming Primary School Fair to promote this.
- 3.2 Speedwatch  
This is a system whereby training is given to residents to monitor equipment [set up and removed by the police] and to report findings. The police would write to all speeding motorists on the first occasion and could then impose penalties if there was a repeat offence. Again details of this had been circulated to residents but no volunteers had come forward. 6 residents at the meeting indicated a willingness to be involved and the Parish Clerk agreed to set up the necessary training.
- 3.3 Wind Farms  
Progress on the 2 local wind farms was discussed as was the availability of community grant funding when operational.
- 3.4 Skip Provision  
It was explained that the PC had been forced to withdraw this service due to overloading and deposition of inappropriate materials by some individuals. This had caused additional expense to the PC and urgent action to remedy the situation on the part of some councillors and volunteers.
- 3.5 Bus Services  
The Parish Clerk had emailed and written to Staged Carriage regarding the discontinued service into Stockton but had received no replies. Letters had been sent to the 4 candidates for the Tess Valley Mayoral post but only one, unsuccessful, candidate had replied. It was intended to write to the successful candidate again. It was note that the bus company had, in November 2015, indicated a willingness to operate the service subject to the provision of a subsidy of approx. £27 per day.
- 3.6 Dog Fouling  
Continued problems of this type were noted and the importance was stressed of reporting all witnessed occurrences to the DBC Dog Warden.
- 3.7 Neighbourhood Watch  
PC Cllr. Geoff Preston outlined the demise of the local PACT meeting, handed out a leaflet on

Neighbourhood Watch and described the process and advantages of involvement. He stated that locally based volunteer coordinator would be needed to whom he would provide his support and assistance.

3.8 Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Clerk explained that the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan would give strong legal support to the management of future development in the Parish. The process was time consuming and complex and would need the support and involvement of the local community. PC Cllr. Norman Melaney was working on producing the necessary documentation and the Clerk was in the process of registering the Parish as a 'designated area' and obtaining grant aid for what would be an expensive exercise necessitating the employment of professional advice at some stage.

3.9 Parish Councillor Needed

The meeting was reminded that the PC had operated without one councillor for much of the last financial year and that a volunteer for the post would be most welcome.

3.10 'Battles Over' National Tribute – 11.11.2018

It was noted that there is to be a national tribute at 7:00pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in commemoration and remembrance of the end of WW1. Beacons were to be lit nationwide and it was suggested that the one available to the PC could be utilised if permission could be obtained to mount it on the church roof as previously. It was thought that the involvement of the local primary school would be appropriate.

It was noted that the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust were offering the free installation of a granite plaque to commemorate Bishopton's WW1 Airfield. This was considered to be a good idea.

**4. Topics raised by Public [Visitors]:**

No points were raised and the meeting closed at 7:28pm

**5. Next Meeting:** Wednesday 16.05.2018 at 6:30pm in the Village Hall.