

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20th. April 2011 at 7.00pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs MacMahon (Chair), Moses, Ridley, Baines, Fieldhouse
R M Smith - Parish Clerk

Apologies for Absence received from:- Cllrs Wood,
Cllr B Jones of Darlington Borough Council.

1. Visitors Mrs J Robins

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr G Baines declared a prejudicial interest in item 4.9 Land at Town Farm Close

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 16th March 2011 meeting.

The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of the 7th April 2011 were read and signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the meeting. It was unanimously resolved that 20 copies of these minutes would be printed and distributed to households in Town Farm Close.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

4.1 Tree felling and Tree Preservation Order

The tree was felled and removed, suitable logs for domestic fires were delivered to Cllr P Wood for use of villagers. "Any Tree Problems" presented invoice. Notice of logs available for pensioners to be placed in Parish News.

4.2 Grit Bins

No contact from DBC as yet re possible locations, item now deferred until Autumn.

4.3 Traffic Control Equipment

Cllr B Jones contacting A Casey of DBC today.

4.4 Parking outside Bishopton School

N Butler, DBC Sustainable Transport Officer, is contacting school to see if follow up letters written to parents.

4.5 Spring tidy and litterpick.

Successful litterpick of 60 black rubbish bags plus car tyres, mudguards, timbers, etc. 22 residents took part. General tidy-up of village and work on the green were performed. BPC expressed thanks to all concerned.

4.6 Redundant Bus Shelters

Removal of redundant bus shelters scheduled for May. Remaining bus shelter to be repainted by "Urban Blitz" following meeting with Peter Burn on 26th. April.

4.7 Sheds behind Town Farm Close.

Inspections by DBC planners indicated that the sheds were removable and did not require planning permission. Mr. Robinson, the land-owner, expressed his willingness to accommodate reasonable requests from residents of TFC during the EGM on 7th. April.

4.8 May elections for councillors

The five nominated councillors were appointed uncontested. They are L. McMahon, M. Moses, R. Fieldhouse, G. Baines, and J. Robins. A further two councillors will be co-opted in May.

4.9 Land at Town Farm Close

Cllr G Baines left the room during this topic. The Durham Land registry is issuing new forms on 21st. April to initiate the application by the Association of Residents of TFC to register the land in their name. They have distributed a letter explaining their proposal to all

households of TFC. Cllr MacMahon spoke to Land Registry today assuring them that the land in question does not appear on the map of Registered Village Green. BPC await further contact from Land Registry

5. Planning applications

5.1 Blue Bell Signage

A new planning application was submitted 11/00206/ADV to which BPC did not object. However, the accompanying map showed incorrectly the land immediately in front of the Blue Bell as part of its' site . The Registered Village Green extends up to the front door of the Blue Bell, the red line outlining the Blue Bell land is spurious as it extends over village green. Our comments will point this out.

5.2 Pitched Canopy above 13 Church View

BPC raised no objection to application 11/00170/FUL

6. Matters raised by Councillors

6.1 Reply to Mr. H Bence, resident.

Following responses from DBC to questions raised, a draft letter of reply was tabled and accepted by BPC which will be delivered as soon as practicable. Cllr B Jones' kind offer of assistance at the last meeting was not needed.

6.2 Replacement Tree for Cenotaph.

Due to the currently unsuitable time of year for planting new trees, this project is deferred until Autumn.

6.3 Village Website

Enquiries to be made of Daniel Wells as to whether his future plans (i.e possible departure for University) would mean that someone else will be needed to administer the website. Discussions would be necessary with new Clerk to see if that is a role that they would undertake.

6.4 Skip Hire

BPC instructed the clerk to request a skip to be available for the last bank holiday weekend in May.

6.5 Bank account and future DBC payments by BACS

After discussions, it was decided that the letter from DBC was not relevant to BPC.

7. Village Green

7.1 Letter from resident re parking on village green

Inconsiderate parking by visitors to houses on the village green has caused distress to other residents. BPC will produce a flyer for distribution to all residents pointing out that all parking on the village green must be done with consideration for others. Cllr Baines to draft flyer. Clerk instructed to reply to residents letter.

7.2 Summer village green maintenance

The first grass cutting was carried out today by StreetScene. BPC requested Cllr L McMahon to send a compliment to StreetScene on the excellent work done, and commended the strimming carried out promptly by Mr. F Wall. StreetScene plan to cut the grass every 13 working days during the growing period. Cllr McMahon has a bag of fertilizer stored for use on Green.

7.3 Manor Farm entrance.

On completion of the entrance to Manor farm development across the village green, BPC notice that subsoil rather than topsoil has been used to cover the damaged area, and that a barrier still needs to be placed at the end of the track across the front of manor farm to prevent vehicular access. Cllrs to inspect Village Green and if necessary a letter will be sent to Thoroughbred Homes and Mr Craig Robinson.

7.4 Repairs to village green

A letter received by Cllr R Fieldhouse from a resident points out the need to repair tarmac in

front of 10 High Street, and the replacement of damaged kerbstones. BPC councillors will inspect the site and make recommendations.

8. Wind Farm proposals

8.1 Moorhouse

Councillor P Wood will respond to this planning application on behalf of BPC.

Newbiggin

BPC have longer to respond to this application. – to be placed on May agenda

9. New Residents

New residents have arrived at 1, Anesty Court. Cllr R Fieldhouse will provide a “Welcome Pack”.

10. Financial

- 10.1 A cheque was proposed by Cllr R Fieldhouse and seconded by Cllr G Baines for the payment of £260 to O. Douglas Tree Surgeon (“Any Tree Problems”) for the felling of the cenotaph sycamore tree.
- 10.2 A letter from S Pilkington of Bishopton Youth Club enclosing a cheque for the sum of £5,369.38, which BPC have agreed to hold for future youth provision within the village
- 10.3 A cheque was proposed by Cllr I Ridley and seconded by Cllr R Fieldhouse for the payment of £40 to Bishopton Village Hall for the hire of the hall.
- 10.4 A VAT repayment claim for Y/E 31/3/2011 was lodged to generate a repayment of £736.73 to BPC
- 10.5 Annual Audit Return for Y/E 31/3/2011
 - a) The accounting statements contained therein were approved by BPC and signed as such by the chairperson, Cllr L McMahon.
 - b) The Annual Governance Statement was approved by BPC and signed by the chairperson Cllr L McMahon and the parish Clerk, R M Smith.

11. Correspondence

Letters received and sent were detailed by the clerk, including:-

Letter from Durham Land Registry re land at Town farm Close.

Letter from David Thorman applying for post of parish clerk

Letter from DBC , Notice of Uncontested Election for BPC

Letter to Cllr P Wood from S Pilkington re Youth Club Funds to be held by BPC

Letter and copy of application by TFC residents to register land with Land Registry.

Letter to M Probee at Durham Land Registry re land at TFC

Letter from Cllr P Wood to S Pilkington confirming receipt of letter and cheque for £5,369.38 to be held by BPC on behalf of Village Youth Club.

Letter to Mr. H Bence acknowledging receipt of letter of complaints against BPC.

Letter replying to Mrs. G Lee concerning tree outside Manor Farm etc.

12. Date of Next meeting

Village Hall at 7.15pm on 18th May, 2011 following AGM at 7.00pm.

13. Appointment of new clerk

Following discussions it was unanimously agreed that the post of clerk be offered to Mr. David Thorman of Town FarmClose.

Meeting closed 8.45pm.

Signed: Chair _____ Date _____