

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20th September 2017 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: L. MacMahon [Chair], N. Melaney, M. Moses, J. Robins [Minute Taker], C. G. Preston, D. Latham and Cllr B Jones of Darlington Borough Council

1. Apologies for Absence: D Thorman [Parish Clerk]

Visitors: None

2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda: Cllr. Robins declared a non-fiscal interest in item 4.3

3. Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 19th July 2017 Meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

4.1 Traffic Control Equipment – progress report & statistics

Agreed equipment should be removed for 1-month to alleviate potential disregard to monitoring of speed by motorists, following which, Cllr Preston will arrange for battery to be re-charged and equipment re-erected.

Cllr Jones confirmed he would circulate information in relation to the 'Volunteer Neighbourhood Community Speed Watch' scheme for information and discussion at next meeting.

4.2 Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish – play area – progress report

Information previously circulated. It was confirmed planning consent has been granted and that DBC's Legal Section and the landowner's solicitors are in communication. Tenders received and evaluated for the fencing & gates and groundworks – successful companies have been contacted and advised that orders will be placed once the legal matters are complete.

Cllr Moses raised a concern regarding the safety of children on bikes around the Cobby Castle Lane area and asked whether consideration had been given to children being permitted to cycle in the grounds of the proposed play area. Agreed this was a matter for discussion by the 'Friends' Committee once established.

4.3 Village Green annual inspection 2016; Works to footpath 11-17, and garage access to 11 High Street and condition of footpath Nos. 3 – 7 The Green – progress report

No progress to report at this stage, and the resident of No. 11 had to-date not responded to correspondence regarding donation to works. The Chair referred Cllrs to previous financial considerations and permutations regarding available funds and a discussion took place regarding the condition of footpaths. Agreed Chair would discuss most appropriate course of action with Clerk and arrange for a further letter to be sent to the resident of No. 11 to seek acknowledgement and clarity on their position then commission the work asap.

4.4 Parish Neighbourhood Plan – progress report

Chair reported she had now contacted East and West Newbiggin Parish (Lorraine Tostevine) who had asked her to let her know what was involved. Contact had previously been made with Great Stainton (Ian Ridley) and Little Stainton (Stewart Chapman) who had yet to respond, regarding them being included in a joint 'designated area'. Cllr Jones said that he would contact Little Stainton for us. Agreed representative from each of the parishes would be required at meetings relating to the Neighbourhood Plan and possibly residents would need to be involved in questionnaires etc. This will be communicated to the Parish Meetings.

Cllr Jones clarified that the proposed designated area would need to be agreed and approved by DBC.

- 4.5 Casual Vacancy – progress report
New vacancy has been reported to DBC and notification place in the Parish noticeboard.
- 4.6 Bus Service – progress report
No response received from Tees Valley Mayor – Agreed, despite all attempts, it was unlikely a bus service would be resurrected for the Village.
- The Coffee Shop minibus, provided for patrons of the shop on alternative Fridays, are well organised and received. Details of the service have been advertised in the Parish News and on the Village Hall door. It was discussed that trips have been arranged to take their customers to Yarm and Teesside Park and it is anticipated that a trip to Northallerton near Christmas time will take place.
- Cllr Jones confirmed he had been in discussions with Age UK (Pauline Whitehouse) regarding prices for minibus hire/use by local organisations, which he was happy to share. He understood, however, that the current arrangement the Coffee Shop had with their minibus supplier was cheaper.
- 4.7 'Battles Over' – progress report
No further progress to report at this stage.
- 4.8 Bishopton Airfield – progress report
Further discussion took place regarding the location for the plaque i.e. parapet wall of Bishopton Bridge or the Cenotaph area. Agreed the Cenotaph area may be more central/appropriate. It was acknowledged that a resident, Ray Wallace, had kindly offered to collect a stone plinth on behalf of the Parish. Agreed that Cllr Melaney would research the quality/size of stone required and source appropriate supplier. The website of the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust would also be viewed to ascertain the actual size of the plaque.
- 4.9 Flag Pole Purchase – progress report
The purchase of the flagpole from 'Coopers of Stortford' had not been undertaken as yet, however, it was agreed that Cllr Robins would research other potential suppliers and report back at the next meeting.
- 4.10 Works to Cenotaph – progress report
Cllr Melaney confirmed he had treated the cenotaph and surrounding hard surface twice with an approved algae and mould remover. Treatment was proving successful and he intended to treat the surface again soon.

5. Planning Applications:

- 5.1 Planning Consent for Playground
Approved

6. Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

- 6.1 NALC LO4-17 on Data Protection
Document had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. Document was accepted and agreed that it was a good source of reference.

7. Village Green:

- 7.1 Autumn planting of tubs
Cllr MacMahon requested permission to purchase plants for Village tubs. Proposed by Cllr Melaney, seconded by Cllr Preston and agreed by all at the meeting.

Cllr Latham requested permission to plant spring bulbs in the area of Village Green close to 1 Church View. Agreed by all at the meeting. Cllr Preston confirmed he may have a surplus of bulbs for use throughout the Village.

8. Wind Farm Proposals:

- 8.1 Lambs Hill Liaison Committee
Cllr Melaney to circulate the minutes from the last meeting.

- 8.2 Moor House Liaison Committee
Cllr Preston, who had attended the meeting on behalf of Cllr Melaney, circulated the minutes, which also included an overview of dates of turbine installation. Cllr Preston confirmed that Cllr Melaney had been voted to sit on the Finance Committee.
Cllr Jones confirmed that Bishopton was eligible to apply for financial assistance from the Moor House Community Fund.

9. New Residents: 39 The Green – Welcome letter to be sent.

10. Financial:

- 10.1 2017/18 budget monitoring & current financial position
Budget reports circulated for information and comment.
- 10.2 Transparency Fund application – progress report
No progress to report at this stage – Chair to discuss with Clerk and update at the next meeting.
- 10.3 Annual Audit – approval and acceptance
The BDO LLP 'issues arising report' was presented fully by the Chair to all Cllrs for review. The annual return, including certificate and notice was approved and accepted by all Members.
- The annual return, including certificate and notice of conclusion of audit to be published for a minimum of 14 days on the website and Parish noticeboard.

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 Cllr Lee email regarding new scheme for litter collection.
Letter previously circulated – Nominated volunteer litter pickers are provided with bags and equipment and are able to have any full bags collected as part of/in addition to their normal refuse collection.

INCOMING

OUTGOING

EMAIL CHAINS

12. Matters dealt with since last Meeting

- 12.1 Working party from Community Services
A resident's concern, which was dealt with by Cllr MacMahon, regarding anti-social behaviour by operatives from Community Services whilst carrying out recent edging work on the Village Green were noted. It was agreed BPC should have been notified of works prior to commencement.
- 12.2 New lamp posts and sockets at Cenotaph for Christmas lights
Replacement lamp post now in place - Socket for the connection of Christmas lights at appropriate level.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th October 2017, at 7:00pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:14pm

Signed: Chairperson: _____ Date: _____