

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st December 2016 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: L. MacMahon [Chair], N. Melaney, J. Robins, C. Headlam & G. Preston;
D. Thorman [Parish Clerk].

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Brian Jones of Darlington Borough Council; Cllr. M. Moses.

2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda: None.

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 16th November 2016 Meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- 4.1 Traffic Control Equipment – progress report & statistics. The Clerk reported results from the East end of the Villager for November. 85 percentile speed = 33.7mph; Max. 55mph [2:35pm on a Saturday]; Av = 24.5mph; % over limit = 18-40%; Av speeder = up to 34.5 mph. For the West end in October – 85 percentile speed = 32.4mph; Max. 55mph [0:35am on a Sunday]; Av = 26mph; % over limit = 21-28%; Av speeder = up to 33.8 mph. Overall these were considered the best figures ever. The Speedwatch flyer had been approved and would be delivered in January along with other news information.
- 4.2 Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish – play area - progress report. The outstanding 2 designs had been received with Image Playgrounds by far the best – and cheapest at around £25000 + VAT. The School head has responded. There had been some major changes including a change of governors and he had asked for more time although he had offered to host the meeting at the school. It was agreed that progress needed to be made and that the Clerk should contact the headmaster again indicating there was pressure from villagers and requesting that the meeting take place in January. Cllr. MacMahon handed over £400 in cash to the Clerk being a donation towards the play area from the Village Hall Coffee Shop in memory of Sam Tunney. The Clerk was asked to write thanking all those involved.
- 4.3 Village Green Annual Inspection 2016 – progress report. The Clerk indicated he would be seeking prices in January for a schedule of works covering items 4.3, 4.9 & 4.12.
- 4.4 Parish Neighbourhood Plan – progress report. The Clerk indicated that he had emailed Steve Petch of DBC but with no response. He stated he would chase the matter up. Cllr. Melaney indicated that he had commenced a draft outline plan which he would forward to the Clerk for comment in due course.
- 4.5 Casual Vacancy – progress report - No volunteers had come forward. Matter to be included in January newsletter
- 4.6 Update re dedicated bench for the late Sam Tunney. The bench had been installed by the Clerk and Geoff Baines and Mrs. Tunney had expressed her satisfaction at the end result. Approval to pay the £606.00 bill was proposed by Cllr. Melaney, seconded by Cllr. Preston and agreed by the meeting. A donation invoice had been sent to Mrs. Tunney.

- 4.7 Notification of Planning Applications – NALC LTN59 – progress report. The Clerk had contacted Derek Dodwell of DAPC and had received a copy of legal advice that confirmed that DBC were acting within the law.
- 4.8 Leaning tree – progress report. Cllr. Melaney indicated that he had arranged for appropriate equipment to do this work between Christmas and New Year.
- 4.9 Works to footpath 11-17, and garage access to 11, High Street. See 4.3 above.
- 4.10 Autumn leaf collection – progress report. This work had been completed and had been well coordinated by all involved.
- 4.11 Request re stepped access to no. 12 The Green. The Clerk indicated that the resident had obtained an estimate from a trusted contractor for £790. The Clerk had requested 2 further quotations but without response. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase up the missing quotes and, failing any satisfactory response, inform the resident and place an order with the above.
- 4.12 Condition of footpath nos. 3-7 The Green. See 4.3 above.
- 4.13 Bus Service. The Clerk had written to both Stage Carriage and TVRCC but with no response. After discussion it was agreed that he would look at designing a possible alternative route to include Bishopton and to put the matter to Stockton BC and Stage Carriage.

5. Planning Applications:

- 5.1 Planning Application Consents. It was noted that the usual copy consent notices were not being received from DBC. The Clerk was asked to chase this up.

6. Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:

- 6.1 PACT Meeting. Cllr. Preston reported that a meeting had taken place on 24th November to discuss setting up a 'North Villages Group' [title to be agreed] in order to try to ensure a voice for the rural community which would not, it was believed, be the case in the proposed 'Mega PACT'.
- 6.2 Removal of Telephone Box. The Clerk reported that there was an A4 size notice in the telephone box indicating that it is to be removed due to poor usage. The 2 month appeal period for the removal had expired at the end of October.

7. Village Green:

- 7.1 Vehicle parking damage to The Green. This was occurring due to the activities of a local resident. The Clerk was asked to prepare a notice to be fixed to the vehicles windscreen should any further offences occur.

8. Wind Farm Proposals:

- 8.1 Lambs Hill Liaison Committee. Cllr. Melaney reported no change from the previous meeting with the next scheduled for January 2017. Documents regarding grant application process had not been issued.
- 8.2 Moor House Liaison Committee. The Clerk had received an email from Cllr. B. Jones of DBC asking for an explanation as to how the residents of Bishopton would be affected by the Moor House site on the basis that the Liaison Committee had been established for the purpose of discussing any relevant issues that arise out of the development of the site that may have an effect on people living or working in nearby property or enjoying nearby land. The Clerk was asked to point out that the PC had been involved from the outset in consultation and that

outlying farms in the parish, which the PC represents, would be affected in a similar manner to properties in Little Stainton. Also villagers commuting to Darlington would be affected by any traffic related issues.

9. New Residents: The Clerk was asked to deliver a welcome letter to 1 property.

The clerk had discussed the issue of the proposed 'new and old resident' cheese, biscuits & wine gathering with the VH Committee treasurer and it had transpired that they wished the PC to pay for the event with organisational assistance from the VH Committee. The Clerk was asked to inform the committee that the PC was happy to support the venture but that spending public funds on it would not be appropriate.

The Clerk was asked to place an item on the next meeting agenda regarding informing residents of properties adjoining The Green who had moved to the village since the issue of the letters regarding the revised Village Green Policy.

10. Financial:

- 10.1 2016/17 Budget Monitoring & Current Financial Position. A budget report was circulated for information and comment demonstrating a current account balance of £6201.37 allowing for the payments below.
- 10.2 Request to pay RD&HM Place for repairs to church clock. Contact had been established with the Church Warden and, subsequently, the Clerk had been contacted by telephone by Mr. Place [horological engineer] who had cast new light on the arrangements originally made with him and which were clearly a matter for the Church Council. The Clerk indicated that he would research minutes to see what record existed of the PC's involvement in the matter. In recognition of the fact that there had been a prior agreement by the PC he was asked to speak with the Church Warden offering to pay half of the current bill and indicating that, thereafter, maintenance bills must go to the Church Council with any donation from the PC being the subject of annual review.
- 10.3 Payment for Christmas tree. Payment of £186.00 to Croft Christmas Trees was proposed by Cllr. Headlam, seconded by Cllr. Preston and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.4 Payment Christmas Lights. Payment of £134.98 to P. Wood was proposed by Cllr. Robins, seconded by Cllr. Melaney and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.5 Payment for VG leaf collection. Payment of £384.00 to E & M Leighton was proposed by Cllr. Melaney, seconded by Cllr. Headlam and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.6 Payment of Clerks Expenses [including website fee]
Payment of £119.70 to D. Thorman was proposed by Cllr. Robins, seconded by Cllr. Preston and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.7 Payment for socket & timer for Christmas Lights. Payment of £32.81 to P. Wood was proposed by Cllr. Melaney, seconded by Cllr. Headlam and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.8 Northern Powergrid – wayleave payment. The sum of £72.45 had been received. Since preparing the agenda the sum of £527.72 had also been received from BT Openreach.
- 10.9 Budget & agreement of precept for 2017-18. The Clerk distributed copies of a budget forecast. It was agreed to leave the precept unchanged at £5868.00 with the Clerk to inform DBC. Some changes were discussed to the budget forecast and the Clerk agreed to revise it for discussion at the next meeting.

11. Correspondence:

- 11.1 Email from CALC re request to complete & promote Dependent Carers' Survey. Answers to the survey were discussed for the Clerk to submit.

INCOMING

1. Invoice from Marmax Recycled Products – 16.11.16
2. Wayleave payment advice from Northern Powergrid – rec'd 24.11.16
3. Email from Durham CC re County Durham Plan – 05.12.16
4. Email from Geoff Preston re future of PACT – 05.12.16
5. Email from Cllr. B. Jones of DBC re Moor House Wind Farm Liaison Committee – 16.12.16
6. Email from RM & HD Place re clock repair bill – 19.12.16

OUTGOING

1. Email to Rod Hepplewhite of Prism Planning re planning application Cobby Castle Lane – 18.11.16
2. Email to Steve Petch of DBC re Parish Neighbourhood Plan – 18.11.16
3. Letter to StageCarriage re bus service – 28.11.16
4. Email to Mary McDermott of TVRCC re bus service – 28.11.16
5. Email [from Chair] to Sandra Innes / Brian Graham of DBC re fly-tipping – 21.12.16

EMAIL CHAINS

1. 8 emails to / from Carrie Hodgson of Marmax Products re memorial seat – 17.11.16 to 24.11.16
2. 2 emails to / from Christine Briscoe of Church Council re donation – 17.11.16 & 18.11.16
3. 2 emails to / from Christine Briscoe of Church Council re clock repair bill – 17.11.16 & 18.11.16
4. 3 emails to / from resident re work to steps – 18.11.16 to 04.12.16
5. 11 emails from / to CLCA re various matters – 21.11.16 to 15.12.16
6. 7 emails to / from playground equipment manufacturers re quotations – 23.11.16 to 01.12.16
7. 4 emails from / to Mark Leighton re leaf collection – 20.11.16 to 28.11.16
8. 2 emails to / from Sandra Innes / Brian Graham of DBC re autumn leaf collection – 25.11.16
9. 2 emails to / from Derek Dodwell of DAPC re notification of planning applications by DBC – 28.11.16 & 11.12.16
10. 2 emails from / to Gareth Rees of Grindon PC re Cenotaph area fencing – 01.12.16
11. 8 emails to / from contractors re work to steps – 04.12.16 to 14.12.16
12. 3 emails to / from resident re memorial seat – 09.12.16 & 12.12.16
13. 4 emails to / from Church Warden re clock repair bill – 13.12.16 to 20.12.16
14. 5 emails to / from Mr. N Parker re children's play area – 13.12.16 & 14.12.16

12. Matters Dealt with During the Month:

- 12.1 Repair to Cenotaph Fencing. The Clerk had repaired damage caused by children.
- 12.2 Fly Tipping. Cllr. MacMahon had reported substantial fly tipping near the entrance to Gilly Flats Lane.

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

The meeting closed at 9:05pm. Signed: Chairperson: _____ Date _____