

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 16th. February 2011 at 7.00pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs MacMahon (Chair), Wood, Moses, Ridley, Fieldhouse, Baines
Cllr B Jones of Darlington Borough Council.
R M Smith - Parish Clerk

Resignation from the council

A letter from Cllr. P Bence dated 16th February, 2011, was received. As some members of the council had not had sight of the letter until it was tabled, it was agreed to discuss the contents later in the meeting.

1. Visitors Mrs P Bence

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 19^h January 2011 meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

4.1 Tree felling and Tree Preservation Order

Cllr P Wood will liaise with "Any Tree Problems" re dead sycamore tree to be felled.

4.2 Grit Bins

DBC will contact BPC to discuss.

4.3 Content of Website

Cllr G Baines to liaise with D Wells re website info on Village Hall.

4.4 Traffic Control Equipment

Cllr B Jones will contact A Casey of DBC for further info.

4.5 Parking outside Bishopton School

Meeting between Cllr B Jones of DBC, DBC Highways representative and head teacher of school was cancelled, rearranged for 1st. March 2011. Cllr B Jones will visit to assess situation at busy time. Cllr G Baines reported that a new traffic sign had been erected outside the school.

5. Planning applications

5.1 None received. All new applications now viewable on DBC website with paperwork. The weekly email notification to BPC of all planning applications has ceased, but BPC will still receive a comments request plus a paper copy of planning applications for Bishopton Parish.

6. Matters raised by Councillors

6.1 Spring tidy and litterpick.

10th April 2011 is the date for the village spring tidy and litterpick, with a flyer being distributed at the beginning of April to all Bishopton residents inviting participation. Clerk instructed to contact DBC StreetScene for equipment– Bags, jackets and litterpickers.

6.2 Tub Summer Planting

BPC intend to plant the tubs in June. Cllr L McMahon will approach DBC StreetScene for assistance with obtaining suitable plants, and Cllr R Fieldhouse has kindly agreed to supply geraniums.

6.3 Redundant Bus Shelters

It was already agreed to remove the west end bus shelter at the crossroads, and BPC will also request the removal of the bus shelter opposite The Talbot.

6.4 Sheds behind Town Farm Close.

Complaints by residents of TFC relating to the doubling in size of an existing shed, and ongoing work being conducted on the site, were discussed by BPC. The clerk was instructed to re-contact DBC regarding planning enforcement.

6.5 May elections for councillors

Cllr MacMahon tabled a letter from Cllr P Wood indicating that he would be retiring after more than nine years service to the Council. Cllr MacMahon expressed much appreciation for all the work that Cllr Wood has done whilst on the Council including Treasurer, Chairman, leading work parties, Christmas lights, pensioners logs to name a few. Other Councillors also expressed their appreciation.

All parish council members must be elected or re-elected on 5th May 2011, and the existing parish council encourages all residents of Bishopton to consider applying for these

positions. At least two new members are needed to fill vacant positions, including that of treasurer to the council as Cllr P Wood is retiring after more than nine years service to the council. Any residents interested can obtain the necessary forms from the clerk (Mike Smith, Ford House, St. Peters Wynd) on or after 25th March 2011, which must be returned to the clerk **before** 4th April 2011. Applicants must be nominated and seconded by Bishopton residents. Advice and guidance on applying for the positions, and what is entailed in being a councillor, are available from existing councillors, the clerk, and Darlington Borough Council, as well as government information websites. Cllr L McMahon was instructed to format a flyer to be distributed to all residents including the above information.

6.6 Parish Clerk retirement

The position of parish clerk will become vacant in the next few months. A flyer will be distributed to Bishopton residents, and an advert will be placed in the Parish News, to enlist a new clerk. Extensive assistance in taking on the work will be available from the existing clerk if required.

7. Village Green

7.1 Clutter and consultation with residents.

Following a complaint by a resident, the subject was discussed. The village green is occupied by necessary street furniture as required by law, by parking signs as agreed with residents of The Green, by the Millennium Obelisk (erected with approval of residents to commemorate not only the millennium but also other notable future events), a bus shelter scheduled to be removed, by a small number of flower tubs as desired by a majority of residents, and mature trees plus new replacement trees. The Parish Council have the mature trees inspected regularly by the DBC arboriculturalist (one already pending) but cannot take any action unless it is sanctioned by DBC and often through the planning process. The Council has instructed Cllr L McMahon to draft a letter to the complainant explaining the

situation.

7.2 **Damage caused by bad weather**

A work party has been arranged for 10th. April 2011 to repair damage to green and reseed some areas. Grass seed has been ordered.

7.3 **Manor Farm Update**

The contractors have agreed to carry out some work on the village green such as supplying topsoil and leveling low-lying areas, covering site of old pump, etc..whilst completing the access road . The Parish Council will be seeding the areas when weather permits.

8. Wind Farm proposals

- 8.1 Current proposals for wind farms have been amended, including the reduction in number from 10 to 6 at Moorhouse ((site “corner” ones removed), but height increased to 125 metres, and at Newbiggin the removal of the turbine closest to Bishopton. The “A1” proposal has been drastically increased and is now incorporated in a new proposal (The Isles) by Eon which extends the site Northwards as far as the A689 and Westwards to Rushyford. The new proposal is of such size (25-45 turbines) that it will come under the jurisdiction of the secretary of state (section 36) rather than local authorities. An impact on all existing local proposals for wind farms is expected.

9. New Residents

New residents have moved into 19, Town Farm Close. Cllr R Fieldhouse will provide a welcome pack for them.

10. Financial

AWG invoice received, cheque for £2304 sanctioned.

Invoice from Wilkinsons for trees paid, cheque for £394.76 sanctioned.

Invoice from F Fabi for Xmas tree paid, invoice for £99.87 sanctioned.

Cllr L McMahon reimbursed for purchase of grass seed, cheque for £89 sanctioned.

Clerks salary for 2010-2011 paid, cheque for £750 sanctioned.

11. PACT meeting

A meeting will take place in Bishopton Village Hall at 6.30pm on 15th. March, 2011.

12. Correspondence

Letters received and sent were detailed by the clerk, including a resignation letter from Cllr P Bence, and a letter from Cllr P Wood stating he would not be standing for re-election to the council in 2011.

13. Resignation from Council

The letter from Cllr P Bence indicating her wish to resign as a member of the council, with immediate effect, was received and accepted. It was

Resolved That a letter be sent expressing the Council's thanks and appreciation for her service as a member since 2005.

14. Date of Next meeting

Village Hall at 7.00pm on 16th March, 2011..

Meeting closed 8.21pm.

Signed: Chair _____ Date _____