

## **Bishopton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 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:** Cllrs. Brian Jones, Doris Jones & Steve York of DBC; 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 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 Meeting.

#### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

- 4.1 Traffic Control Equipment – progress report & statistics. The Clerk reported results from the west end of the Village for late December / early January. 85 percentile speed = 33.5mph; Max. 60mph [10:25am on Tuesday 3rd Jan]; Av = 25.4mph; %> = 22-36%; Av speeder = up to 34.4 mph. The Newsletter and Speedwatch poster were still to be distributed.
- 4.2 Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish – play area - progress report. The Clerk had written thanking the Village Hall Coffee Shop for their donation and to the School head regarding a meeting but without response. The Clerk had also researched grant availability. Tesco Community Award – max £4k; Asda £5 to £20K; Morrison's & Sainsbury only support charities; Awards for All – up to £10K; Landfill – need to be within 5 miles of a site therefore not applicable. There are others but generally below £10K. The best option seemed to be 'Big Lottery Reaching Communities' - £10K to £500k but it would be necessary to set up a community organisation e.g. 'Friends of Bishopton Play Area', as the fund is not open to Public Authorities. The Clerk was asked to request a response from the School head by the end of January failing which the PC would assume the school was not interested and would proceed with original plans. Assuming no response the Clerk agreed to move forward on the planning application and to re-establish contact with the landowner's agent. It was agreed that the Newsletter should invite volunteers to form a suitable community association to develop and manage the play area.
- 4.3 Village Green Annual Inspection 2016 – progress report. The Clerk confirmed that he would be seeking prices for a schedule of works covering items 4.3, 4.7 & 4.9 by the end of January.
- 4.4 Parish Neighbourhood Plan – progress report. The Clerk confirmed that he had emailed Steve Petch of DBC once again but he had been informed that the officer was on sick leave. Cllr. Melaney indicated that there had been no further progress over the Christmas period.
- 4.5 Casual Vacancy – progress report - No volunteers had come forward.
- 4.6 Leaning tree – progress report. Cllr. Melaney reported that the matter was on hold pending an improvement in weather conditions.
- 4.7 Works to footpath 11-17, and garage access to 11, High Street. See 4.3 above.

- 4.8 Request re stepped access to no. 12 The Green. One further quotation had been received but this was higher than the original. The Clerk had placed an order and informed the resident.
- 4.9 Condition of footpath nos. 3-7 The Green. See 4.3 above.
- 4.10 Bus Service. The Clerk had written to Stockton BC and had been informed that the authority had not influenced StageCarriage in reverting to their previous route, this being entirely a commercial decision by the company. The Clerk had subsequently written to StageCarriage asking for consideration to include Bishopton once again but there had been no response.
- 4.11 Village Hall Committee 'gathering' – progress report. The Clerk had written to the association Chair and had been informed that the matter would be discussed at a meeting in late February.

## **5. Planning Applications:**

- 5.1 Notification of Planning Application decisions. The Clerk had communicated with DBC who had indicated they had emailed all details to him. He had pointed out that nothing had been received and had asked for copies but without response.

## **6. Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:**

- 6.1 PACT Meeting. Cllr. Preston reported that a meeting of the 'North Villages Group' was scheduled for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at Sadberge.
- 6.2 Date of Annual Parish Meeting. This was agreed for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to precede the PC AGM and normal monthly meeting.

## **7. Village Green:**

- 7.1 VG Policy & New residents of properties fronting VG. It was agreed that the Clerk would produce a schedule of all appropriate residents and circulate it for agreement after which he would write to all concerned in a similar manner to the original communications on the matter.

## **8. Wind Farm Proposals:**

- 8.1 Lambs Hill Liaison Committee. Cllr. Melaney reported that the site was scheduled to go on line at midnight that night. Grant application documents were accessible online and Cllr. Melaney agreed to forward details to the Clerk. Residents living near to the wind farm had lodged complaints regarding loss of TV and phone reception and noise and flicker effect concerns.
- 8.2 Moor House Liaison Committee. The Clerk had written to Cllr. B. Jones of DBC setting out the PC's case for being on the committee. He was asked to seek a response and also provide additional information indicating the close proximity of the site to the parish.

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

## **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 £6511.37 allowing for the payments below.
- 10.2 Request to pay RD&HM Place for repairs to church clock. The Clerk had discussed and agreed the matter with the Church Warden and had requested the company to re invoice the church. Payment of a donation of £125.00 to Stockton Country Parish was proposed by Cllr. Robins, seconded by Cllr. Melaney and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.3 Payment for advert in Parish News. The Clerk had received a letter increasing the fee to

£70.00 but had been too late to prevent payment of the original £60.00 by standing order. He had informed the editor that a cheque for £10.00 would follow. Payment if this was proposed by Cllr. Robins, seconded by Cllr. Preston and agreed by the meeting.

- 10.4 Budget for 2017-18. The Clerk distributed copies of a further budget forecast. He pointed out that it did not include for the works required under items 4.3, 4.7 & 4.9 above which would cost some £4000 plus VAT. It was agreed that the policy of setting aside £600 per year [over 4 years] to cover possible election costs should cease and be replaced with a policy of ensuring that there was sufficient funds in reserve each election year to cover the eventuality. This would release £1200 which could go towards the above works with the balance covered by a grant application from the Lambs Hill Wind Farm community fund and, possibly, a reduction in planned reserves. The Clerk indicated he would process the grant application.
- 10.5 Revue of Clerk's Salary. Increases for 2016 and 2017 in line with current NJC scales were agreed.

## **11. Correspondence:**

- 11.1 Connecting the Tees Valley - Strategic Transport Plan Framework. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit comment on the need for rural bus services and Traffic Calming in villages.
- 11.2 Buckingham Palace Garden Party nominations. Correspondence noted

## **INCOMING**

1. 2 emails from Cllr. Lee of DBC re Big Spring Clean – 06.01.17

## **OUTGOING**

1. Email to Derek Dodwell of DAPC re notification of planning applications by DBC – 02.01.17
2. Email to Cllr. B. Jones of DBC re Moor House Wind Farm Liaison Committee – 23.12.16
3. Email to Mr. N Parker of Village School re children's play area – 23.12.16
4. Letter to Village Hall Coffee Shop re donation – 09.01.17
5. Letter to David Nassau Landscapes re work to steps – 09.01.17
6. Email & Letter to RD & HM Place re work to Church Clock – 09.07.16
7. Email to StageCarriage re bus service – 12.01.17
8. Email to Gwynn Dunne of Parish News re invoice payment – 18.01.17

## **EMAIL CHAINS**

1. 2 emails to / from resident re work to steps – 23.12.16 to 27.12.16
2. 5 emails to / from Church Warden re clock repair bill – 23.12.16
3. 2 emails to / from Steve Petch of DBC re Neighbourhood Plan – 23.12.16
4. 6 emails to / from Diane Hall of DBC re planning decision notifications – 23.12.16 to 13.01.17
5. 2 emails to / from Geoff Baines of Bishopton Village Hall Committee re event – 23.12.16
6. 2 emails to / from Karl Hume of DBC re Parish Precept – 23.12.16 & 04.01.17
7. 3 emails from / to CLCA re various matters – 05.01.17 to 17.01.17
8. 3 emails to / from Church Warden re church clock maintenance costs – 09.01.17
9. 2 emails to / from Jonathan Kibble of Stockton BC re bus service – 09.01.17 to 12.01.17
10. 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 Defective Street Light. The Clerk had reported the light adjacent the bus shelter to DBC.
- 12.2 Leaves. The Clerk had reported leaves on footpaths around the church yard to DBC.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017, at 7:00pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm. Signed: Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_