

## **Bishopton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall**

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:** . Cllrs. D. Jones, B. Jones & S. York of Darlington Borough Council

**Visitors:** None

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

#### **3. Previous Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and, following discussions, approved on a majority vote and were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Meeting.

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

4.1 Traffic Control Equipment – progress report & statistics

The Clerk had reported results from the west end of village. 85% speed 33.2mph; max 55mph; Average 25.8mph; vehicles over the limit 18 to 35%; Average speeder 34.2 mph. Shelly Batham, Police Support Volunteer, was to attend the September meeting to discuss resident's speeding concerns.

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

With reference to a suggestion by a resident at the previous meeting it was agreed that the area to the north of the village [adjacent to the sewage treatment plant] was unsuitable due to its small size, health considerations and the dangerous road approach for pedestrians. In addition researches indicated that Cobby Castle Lane, beyond the adopted length, had no registered owner. YoungsRPS had confirmed that the farmer had used the disputed gated access for a great many years and that a prescriptive right of access existed therefore. The Clerk reported that TVRCC would arrange an independent survey of resident's with a programme of some 3-4 weeks. A draft questionnaire was discussed and amendments agreed with the Clerk to circulate for final approval before submitting to TVRCC for their input. It was also agreed that the Clerk should inform TVRCC that a target return of 35% should apply and that the PC would contribute up to £100 towards the costs involved in the survey.

Cllr. Robins reported on discussions with Stockton BC's Asset Manager who had indicated that no problems with anti-social behaviour were experienced at the Carlton children's play area. He had agreed to provide advice on appropriate asset management.

4.3 BT Openreach wayleave application – progress report.

The Clerk stated that he had obtained an additional wayleave payment of £1.60 per annum.

4.4 Village Green Annual Inspection 2016 – progress report

Minor repair works outstanding – to be organised by Clerk

4.5 Dog Bins – Progress report

DBC Streetscene had reported that they have not got the finance to install and maintain additional bins but indicated that they would replace the defective one reported. It was noted that this bin had been cleaned satisfactorily and now only needed a new sticker – Clerk to inform DBC.

4.6 Update re dedicated bench for the late Sam Tunney

Cllr. Robins briefed the meeting on her further discussions with the family during which they had expressed pleasure at the assistance provided by the PC. It was agreed that the matter should be removed from the agenda pending a further approach from the family.

- 4.7 Update re request from ex-resident re memorial tree  
The planting of a tree in Town Farm Close had been discounted due to legal, insurance & precedence issues. It was agreed that there was currently no suitable location in the Village Green and the Clerk was asked to inform the ex-resident that, regretfully, the request could not be met.
- 4.8 Parish Neighbourhood Plan – progress report  
An informal meeting had been held involving some Councillors, the Clerk, Cllr. Steve York of DBC and David Sheen, Middleton St George NDP Chair. The main outcome had been the advice that DBC required all such plans to integrate with their own plan which was not expected to be in being until 2019 at the earliest. The recommendation given was not to commence the plan until DBC had finalised theirs. However it was decided that the PC should pay close attention to any proposals put forward by DBC and that the Clerk should investigate plan preparation further and report back to the next meeting.

## **5. Planning Applications:**

- 5.1 15 Town Farm Close [rear extension]  
No comment had been made.
- 5.2 Decision Notice – Stable block on Redmarshall Road  
Planning permission had been refused.
- 5.3 Decision Notice – Hill Top  
Planning permission had been given subject to a number of conditions.

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

- 6.1 PACT Meeting  
Cllr. Preston reported that the most recent PACT meeting had been on 14.07.16. Referring back to item 4.1 he noted that the police had confirmed that there would be no intervention by them until the 85 percentile speed exceeded 35mph. The police representative would be attending the next meeting to discuss running a 'Speedwatch' with interested members of the community.
- 6.2 Request from resident re memorial tree  
A resident who had recently donated a memorial tree had requested permission to have it replaced by a silver birch. Cllr. MacMahon reported that the tree in question was suffering from 'Coral Spot' a disease brought on by wet weather. The only treatment was to cut back affected growth to the trunk and this had been done albeit the top needed similar treatment [Clerk to arrange]. It was agreed that the PC could not condone the removal of a living young tree and the Clerk was asked to inform the resident of this but point out that there is a problem with it and that the matter would be readdressed if the tree needed to be felled.
- 6.3 Provision of skip for August Bank Holiday  
The Clerk was asked to order this asking if a larger skip could be provided.
- 6.4 Website editing  
The Clerk read through some website content regarding waste collection and buses and amendments were agreed.
- 6.5 Casual Vacancy  
Unfortunately the new member, Ben Lock had resigned due to family commitments. The Clerk reported the matter to DBC and an election notice had been prepared and put on display from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July for 2 weeks. If there was insufficient response from residents the PC could then seek to co-opt. The Clerk was asked to make appropriate arrangements.

## **7. Village Green:**

- 7.1 Building Bag on Village Green  
A blue bag containing sand had been on the VG outside of No. 17 High Street for some time. Enquiries had been unable to determine ownership and it was agreed to have the bag removed and reinstate the area in the autumn.

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

- 8.1 Lambs Hill Liaison Committee

Cllr. Melaney reported that Banks required the PC to submit ideas for projects requiring grant aid together with the name of the person who would sit upon the appropriate liaison committee. It was agreed that Cllr. Melaney would take on the latter role and that 2 projects – equipment for the children’s play area and refurbishment of the footpath at 13-17 High Street – should be put forward. The Clerk to report to Banks accordingly.

**9. New Residents:** None.

**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 £8549.05 allowing for the payments below.
- 10.2 Annual Audit – update  
BDO’s report still awaited.
- 10.3 Insurance - update  
DBC had reported that they would no longer be able to arrange joint insurance for parishes and that the PC would need to make its own arrangements from next year. The Clerk had noted that some parishes did not take out the All Risks element of insurance and that this would have saved a considerable sum. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations at the appropriate time and to seek advice from NALC.
- 10.4 Payment to E & M Leighton for VG strimming  
Payment of £54.00 was proposed by Cllr. Melaney, seconded by Cllr. Headlam, and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.5 Payment of grant to Village Hall Association  
Payment of £1150.00 was proposed by Cllr. Robins, seconded by Cllr. Melaney, and agreed by the meeting.

**11. Correspondence:**

**INCOMING**

1. Letter from DBC re planning application for 15 Town Farm Close – 14.07.16
2. Email from BT Openreach re Wayleave payment – 16.06.16
3. Email from Geoff Preston re PACT minutes – 16.06.17
4. Email from BT Openreach re Wayleave payment – 17.06.16
5. Email from DCC re County Durham Plan – 22.06.15
6. Letter from DBC re group insurance – rec’d 24.06.16
7. Letter from DBC re providing plans with planning application details – 24.06.16
8. Letter from YoungsRPS re play area – 27.06.16
9. Letter from DBC re group insurance – 28.06.16
10. Email from DBC re Darlington development plan – 05.07.16
11. 2 Emails from DBC re planning application decision notices – 07.07.16
12. Email from DBC re planning application decision notices – 08.07.16
13. Letter from Stockton BC re Local Plan – 11.07.16
14. Letter from BT Openreach re wayleave payment - 12.07.16
15. Email from Gwynn Dunn re Parish News email contact – 13.07.16
16. Email from TVRCC re VONNE News Bulletin – 15.07.16
17. Email from Geoff Preston re PACT Minutes – 19.07.16

**OUTGOING**

1. Letter to residents re possible gifting of land for playground – 22.06.16
2. Letter to YoungsRPS re proposed play area – 22.06.16
3. Email to Adrian Hobbs of DBC re planning application response – 28.06.16
4. Email to YoungsRPS re field access – 05.07.16

## EMAIL CHAINS

1. 2 emails from / to resident re replacement memorial tree in VG – 16.06.17 & 17.06.17
  2. 15 emails from CLCA re various matters – 17.06.16 to 20.07.16
  3. 3 emails to / from Sandra Innes of DBC re dog bins – 18.06.16 to 21.06.16
  4. 7 emails to / from Mary McDermott & Sue Naylor of TVRCC re bus service and play area consultation survey – 18.06.16 to 01.07.16
  5. 2 emails from / to former resident re memorial tree – 18.06.16 & 19.06.16
  6. 3 emails to / from Gwynn Dunn re notice in Parish News re bus service – 19.06.16 to 21.06.16
  7. 3 emails from / to Steve Brannan of DBC re unadopted footpath – 21.06.16
  8. 9 emails to / from Linda Todd & Paul Dalton of DBC re new councillor & vacancy – 21.06.16 to 13.07.16
  9. 2 emails to / from Cllr. Ben Lock re resignation – 23.06.16
  10. 2 emails to Mark Leighton re VG strimming – 23.06.16
  11. 4 emails from / to Jeffrey Knight of BT Openreach re wayleave agreement – 30.06.16 to 11.07.16
  12. 2 emails to / from resident re builders sack on VG – 01.07.16
  13. 2 emails to / from Sandra Innes of DBC re fly tipping [from Chair] – 05.07.16
  14. 3 emails from / to Cllr. Steve York of DBC re Neighbourhood Plan meeting – 07.07.16
  15. 2 emails to / from Adrian Hobbs / Dave Coates of DBC re planning application decision notice – 07.07.16 & 08.07.16
  16. 2 emails from / to Shelly Batham of Darlington Police re PC meeting – 17.07.16
- 11.1 Email CALC re Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth in 2107  
It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the cost of a flagpole for the VG.

## 12. Matters Dealt with During the Month:

- 12.1 Fly tipping in Layby  
This had been reported to DBC and removed.

## 13. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016, at 7:00pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:54pm

Signed: Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_