

Bishopton Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 15th June at 7.00pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: MacMahon (Chair), Moses, Robins, Baines, Fieldhouse.
Cllr. B Jones of Darlington Borough Council.
D. Thorman - Incoming Parish Clerk, M. Smith – outgoing Parish Clerk.

Apologies for Absence received from:- None

1. Visitors Janet Robson & Adam Thomas

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr G Baines declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 Town Farm Close

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. With reference to item 4.5 Cllr M. Moses expressed concern that it was perhaps inappropriate for a Public Body [BPC] to accept free provision of a skip from a local company. After discussion it was agreed that this was in order and that the minutes were acceptable as written. They were duly signed by the Chairperson as a true record of the 18th May 2011 meeting.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

- 4.1 Traffic control equipment from Andrew Casey of DBC
A letter had been received from Mr. Casey earlier in the day. He pointed out that the installation would create a policy precedent which would require legal analysis and consideration by the Cabinet Member for transport. The Council would also need to consider whether the installation would be appropriate for the location. Adequate public liability insurance would be required and the PC would be responsible for providing appropriate risk assessments and method statements to ensure highway safety. Old and therefore potentially unreliable equipment could be provided free of charge but the PC would be responsible for ongoing maintenance. Cllr. B Jones pointed out that consultation with Durham Police would be necessary and their agreement obtained. The clerk was instructed to reply indicating that the PC wished to pursue the matter further.
- 4.2 Parking outside Bishopton School
There being no progress Cllr. B Jones agreed to contact N Butler [Sustainable Transport Officer] on this matter.
- 4.3 Redundant Bus Shelters
Nothing to report on redundant shelters - still awaiting action by DBC. Cllr. B Jones agreed to contact Urban Blitz regarding refurbishment of the central bus shelter.
- 4.4 Co-opted Councillors
J. Robson and A. Thomas had attended the meeting to further their interest in becoming councillors. Both asked questions on the duties required and made short presentations. J. Robson was subsequently co-opted and joined the meeting but A. Thomas expressed the wish to think over the matter and contact the clerk with his decision within 24 hours.

- 4.5 Quotation for works outside No. 10 High Street
A quotation of £1580 plus VAT From AWG Ltd. for refurbishment of the tarmac area had been received. The clerk pointed out his experience of highway maintenance and agreed to examine the area and approach AWG seeking a more cost effective solution.
- 4.6 Tree quote and inspection by Phil Haynes
Cllr. B. Jones stated that P. Haynes would make contact very soon. It was noted that a tree outside the Old Vicarage was in poor condition and would need to be included in the inspection.

5. Planning applications

None

6. Matters raised by Councillors

None

7. Village Green

- 7.1 Manor Farm entrance.
No reply had been received to the letter sent to Thoroughbred Homes and Mr. Craig Robinson regarding the substandard topsoil. The clerk was instructed to write to Roy Merritt of DBC, with a copy to Mr. Nigel Tutty of Thoroughbred Homes, pointing out the PC's dissatisfaction with the standard of reinstatement to the Green and that there had been no response to the original letter.
- 7.2 Large stones outside nos. 6/8 The Green and No. 3A The Green
It was reported that a stone protecting the Village Green had been disturbed by a skip wagon and subsequently completely removed by the resident of No. 4 The Green. The clerk was instructed to write to the household involved expressing sympathy with their access problems but pointing out the PC had a duty to protect the Village Green and that the stone had been placed there to prevent damage. The PC was willing to accept the situation for the time being but if further damage does occur then the householders concerned would be responsible for providing a replacement and repairing the damage to the Village Green. The stone outside No. 3A had caused access problems for an ambulance. Cllrs. R Fieldhouse and G. Baines agreed to look at the problem to see if the stone could be replaced with a rounded one set into the surface or, alternatively, set the existing stone into the surface.
- 7.3 Watering of Tubs and Trees
Volunteers were required for this activity. Cllr. G. Baines agreed to ask a resident who he thought would be willing to help and Cllr. L. McMahon stated she would leaflet drop a section of The Green seeking volunteers.
- 7.4 Tree outside No. 7 The Green
This tree caused light to be excluded from the adjacent property and some years ago a planning application to prune it had been refused. Ref. item 4.6, The clerk was instructed to write to P. Haynes asking for pruning to be considered and also for him to look at similar problems outside No. 8 Anesty Court. All these matters will be included when Mr Haynes does his inspection with Parish Councillors in attendance. Cllr G. Baines noted that the DBC Footpath Officer had complained about the low level of overhanging trees at the footpath behind Town Farm Close/Church View he suggested that those outside the churchyard

overhanging the footpath should be inspected at the same time.

Cllr. B. Jones left the meeting at 8:05pm

8. Wind Farm proposals

8.1 Newbiggin

Cllr. McMahon went through the content of a letter she was proposing to submit objecting to this proposal. It was agreed the letter should be submitted. It was also agreed that a flyer and sample letters would be distributed to encourage residents to object.

9. New Residents

None.

10. Financial

10.1 Bank signatories.

Cllr G Baines and the new clerk David Thorman signed documentation to include them on the list of signatories.

10.2 A cheque was proposed by Cllr R Fieldhouse and seconded by Cllr J Robins for the payment of £164.30 to DBC to cover insurance premiums.

10.3 The withdrawal of £100 cash to cover two payments of £50 to F. Wall for strimming and kerbing was proposed by Cllr J Robins and seconded by Cllr R Fieldhouse.

10.4 It was noted that there was £5273.42 in the Current Account and £956.14 in the Reserve Account. £5369.38 was held for Bishopton Youth Club.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Incoming

Two letters from the Land Registry re land at Town Farm Close.

Letter of thanks from Durham Police Authority re participation in consultation on Policing Priorities for 2011-12.

Letter from AWG providing quote for tarmac repairs – see item 4.5 above.

Letter from J. Stephenson of DBC re Group Insurance for Parish Councils – see item 10.2 above.

Letter from A. Casey of DBC re traffic control issues – see item 4.1 above.

Letter from DBC Legal Services re PC's complaint re former Cllr. P. Bence.

11.2 Outgoing

Further letter to A. Casey re traffic control issues - see item 4.1 above.

Further letter to P. Haynes of DBC re tree – see item 4.6 above.

Letter to AWG requesting quotation for tarmac works – see item 4.5 above.

Letter of thanks to Ian Ridley re retirement.

Letter of thanks to Peter Wood re retirement.

12. Meetings

12.1 Date of Next Meeting

Village Hall at 7.00pm on 20th July 2011. D. Thorman noted that he was going on holiday on this day and it was agreed that he would prepare information for the meeting and that M. Smith would attend to take the minutes.

12.2 Bishopton Community Group
It was agreed to propose a meeting in September to discuss the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and D. Thorman was instructed to email the PCC and the Village Hall committee on this.

12.3 Six Parishes Meeting
Cllr. M. Moses was to attend.

1. Darlington Association of Parish Councils Meeting
Cllrs. L. McMahon and M. Moses to attend- 28th June 6.30pm As agreed previously a donation of £25 to be made.

Cllr. G. Baines left the meeting at 8:35pm and then remained as a resident for item 13.

13. Town Farm Close

13.1 Land at TFC
2 letters had been received from the Land Registry but it was agreed that the PC had nothing further to add on the matter.

14. Filing Cabinet for PC Records

14.1 It was agreed that D. Thorman should source a suitable second hand filing cabinet for PC records to be kept in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8:45pm

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting for the business of co-opting a seventh Parish Councillor held on Thursday 23rd June at 6:30pm in Bishopton Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: MacMahon (Chair), Moses, Robins, Robson, Baines, Fieldhouse.
D. Thorman - Parish Clerk.

Apologies for Absence received from:- None

1. Visitors Ian Robins

2. Co-opted Councillors

Following the meeting held on 15th June 2011 Mr. A. Thomas had contacted the Clerk to confirm that he was unable to take up the position of Parish Councillor. I. Robins had attended the meeting to express his interest in the position and gave a short presentation on his background. The meeting agreed unanimously to his co-option.

Meeting closed 6:50pm

Signed: Chair _____ Date _____