

## **Bishopton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7:00pm in Bishopton Village Hall**

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

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. N. Melaney. Cllrs. Brian Jones, Doris Jones & Steve York of DBC.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 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 Village for February – 85 percentile speed = 34.3mph; maximum speed 65mph [00:30am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.; Average speed = 26.0 mph; % over limit = 27-44%; Average speeder = up to 34.8 mph. These represented a return to the levels of previous concern.
- 4.2 Funds held for Young Persons of the Parish – play area - progress report. The Clerk had contacted DBC re parking concerns in the planning process and had been advised to submit a pre-application enquiry at a cost of £126.00. A proposal to support this expenditure was proposed by Cllr. McMahon, seconded by Cllr. Preston and agreed by the meeting. Accordingly the Clerk was asked to submit the enquiry. The Clerk had communicated with the landowner's agent and it had been confirmed that he still wished to proceed. Disappointingly there had been no response to the concept of a 'Friends of Bishopton Playground' group as put forward in the recent PC Newsletter [see 4.8 below] and it was agreed that without such a group the PC would have to proceed on the basis of a plain grassed playing field with equipment added as funds became available.
- 4.3 Village Green annual inspection 2016; Works to footpath 11-17, and garage access to 11, High Street & Condition of footpath Nos. 3 – 7 The Green – progress report. The Clerk reported that of the 5 interested contractors 2 had withdrawn, 1 had not submitted and 2 prices had been received – one from DBC and the other from AWG the latter being the cheaper. The Clerk stated that he would submit an application for a grant from the Banks Lambs Hill Community Fund in line with the proposed budget [ref item 10.5 below].
- 4.4 Parish Neighbourhood Plan – progress report. Cllr. Melaney had sent his first draft to the Clerk who had studied it and offered a number of comments and corrections. Cllr. Melaney was in the process of reviewing this information and on completion would meet with the Clerk to decide on the next steps. Both Cllr. Melaney and the Clerk were to attend a Neighbourhood Planning Event at Durham County Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. A vote of thanks to Cllr. Melaney for his work was agreed by the meeting.
- 4.5 Casual Vacancy – progress report - No volunteers had come forward.

- 4.6 Bus Service. The Clerk reported that there had been no reply to his letter to Stage Carriage.
- 4.7 VG Policy & New residents of properties fronting VG. The Clerk reported that the simple provision of previous letters on the matter was not appropriate in that all previous residents had been involved in a full public consultation exercise in the drafting of the current VG Policy. He indicated that he would need to produce correspondence which would be sufficient to appraise the new residents of all the relevant facts.
- 4.8 February Newsletter – progress report. Unfortunately the only response to the entire document had been from 2 residents wishing to be placed the email correspondence list.

## **5. Planning Applications:**

- 5.1 Grange Farm Livery. DBC had approved submissions covering original planning approval conditions.

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

- 6.1 Matters to be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting and arrangements to advertise the APM & AGM. Items to include: The Playground and 'Friends' thereof; Speedwatch; Wind Farms; Skip Provision; Bus Service; Dog Fouling; Neighbourhood Watch; Neighbourhood Plan; Councillor Needed. The Clerk was asked to enquire about the availability of the main hall for the meeting and to arrange an ad in the May issue of the Parish Magazine.

## **7. Village Green:**

- 7.1 Litter Pick Arrangements. The litter pick had been arranged for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Cllr. McMahon reported that the Village Hall Coffee Shop had offered to provide free bacon sandwiches for all attendees. She agreed to enquire whether the offer was still on the table and inform the Clerk so that he could produce a suitable flyer which would also include details of the APM and AGM.

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

- 8.1 Lambs Hill Liaison Committee. No meetings planned.
- 8.2 Moor House Liaison Committee. The PC's involvement had been accepted and the committee had been informed that the PC's representative would be Cllr. N. Melaney. The next meeting was planned for 30<sup>th</sup> March.

- 9. New Residents:** The Clerk was asked to deliver a welcome letter to 2 properties.

## **10. Financial:**

- 10.1 2016/17 Budget Monitoring & Current Financial Position. The Clerk handed out copies of his report indicating a current account balance of £5172.73 after deduction of payments to be agreed at the meeting.
- 10.2 Payment of Clerk's Salary and Income Tax. Payment was proposed by Cllr. Robins, seconded by Cllr. Headlam and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.3 Payment of Clerk's Expenses. Payment of £12.64 was proposed by Cllr. Robins, seconded by Cllr. Headlam and agreed by the meeting.
- 10.4 Future Insurance arrangements. The Clerk had been approached by the Chair of Great Stainton Parish Meeting who was interested in combined insurance arrangements. Discussion took place as to whether other parishes should be approached on the matter. The Clerk was asked to seek quotations for the PC with the possible addition of Great Stainton.tr
- 10.5 2017/18 Final Budget. The Clerk handed out copies of final budget proposals which

were agreed by the meeting.

## **11. Correspondence:**

### **INCOMING**

1. Letter from DBC re Listed Buildings – January 2017
2. Email from Cllr. B. Jones of DBC re Moor House Liaison Group – 16.02.17
3. Letter from Lewis Stokes of Banks Renewables re Moor House Liaison Committee – 21.02.17
4. Email from DBC re planning consent – 23.02.17
5. Email from resident re work to steps – 24.02.17
6. Email from Helen Crute re DAPC meeting agenda – 26.02.17
7. Email from Lewis Stokes of Banks Renewables re Moor House Liaison Committee Minutes – 27.02.17
8. Email from Stephen Ragg of CDALC re Neighbourhood Planning Regional Event – 08.03.17
9. Email from NALC re Tree Charter project – 13.03.17

### **OUTGOING**

1. Email to resident re vehicle parking on pavement – 16.02.17
2. Letter to Stage Carriage re bus service – 23.02.17
3. 2 Letters to new residents – 09.03.17

### **EMAIL CHAINS**

1. 3 emails to / from to Darlington Police re illegally parked vehicles – 16.02.17 to 18.02.17
2. 13 emails from / to CLCA re various matters – 21.02.17 to 15.03.17
3. 9 emails from / to groundworks contractors re VG minor works programme 2017 – 21.02.17 to 12.03.17
4. 3 emails to / from Adrian Hobbs & Lisa Hutchinson of DBC re playground car parking – 22.02.17 & 01.03.17
5. 2 emails to / from Joanne Baker of YoungsRPS re playground – 22.02.17 & 06.03.17
6. 5 emails to / from Lewis Stokes of Banks Renewables re Moor House Liaison Committee – 23.02.17 to 02.03.17

- 11.1 Email from resident re work to steps. The resident had informed the Clerk that the work was no longer required and had thanked the PC for their assistance on the matter.
- 11.2 Email from CALC re Revised LTN5 and LTN80. These documents now covered the fact that councillors in Council Tax arrears are not permitted to take part in discussions on, or vote on, Precept matters.
- 11.3 Email from NALC re Tree Charter Survey. The Clerk had submitted a questionnaire on this and the PC had been invited to register as Charter Branches. The Clerk was asked to register.

**12. Matters Dealt with During the Month:** None.

**13. Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017, at 7:00pm, in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.

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